



# Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

January 5, 2024



Ms. Natasha Hernandez, Principal  
Email: [nhernandez@rpschools.net](mailto:nhernandez@rpschools.net)  
104 Henry Street  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660  
201-641-0441  
fax (201) 440-9579

Visit our website at:  
<https://grant.rpps.net/>

 Follow us on Instagram:  
[rpgrantbulldogs](https://www.instagram.com/rpgrantbulldogs)

Character Theme:

**PERSEVERANCE**

is pushing yourself  
to work through challenges  
and obstacles

RIPPSKILL  
Kerfuffle

A cooperative school & home newsletter for the  
Grant School community.

**Art: Mrs. Conversano**

Happy New Year! In December, Kindergarten artists had fun using the elements of art to draw and paint. First and second grade students made reindeer collages with cut paper, choosing to create a realistic reindeer or Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Third and fourth graders learned about Carl Barnes' Glass Gem Corn and used oil pastels to draw colorful corn. Fifth and sixth grade artists learned about Wycinanki and created a Polish Folk Art flower collage. The December art bulletin board featured reindeer collages created by first and second grade students and snowflakes folded and cut by third grade students.

**Music: Ms. Mir**

After our fantastic Winter Concerts in December, Grant School students are ready to ring in the new year with new challenges and new songs! Students in the lower grades are working on reading and writing rhythms and pitches, and our third graders are very excited knowing that they will be taking home recorders to play by the end of the month. Students in the upper grades are working on their music reading skills by playing and singing new songs and activities together. Band members are reminded to continue practicing their instruments at home (four or more days each week!) in order to be prepared for their weekly lessons.



# Grant School



# PTA

everychild.onevoice.®

**We now have a website!  
Visit it today for all PTA  
activities, events, and more!**

<https://linktr.ee/rpgrantpta>

## PTA officers

Dennise Santana Morales -  
President

Candee Romba - Vice President

Cassandra Fenton - Vice  
President

Acee Maschang - Treasurer

Joann Ley - Recording Secretary

Dawn Dwyer - Corresponding  
Secretary

Joshua Ley - Marketing Chair

## Board of Education of the Village of Ridgfield Park MEMBERS

Dr. Ricardo Martinez, President

Mrs. Michelle Orth, Vice-President

Mr. Dave Cathcart

Mr. Brian Cooney

Mrs. Jodie Craft

Mr. Nick Fytros

Mr. Bernard Gomes

Mrs. Diane MacNeil

Mrs. Berlinda Rodriguez

Mrs. Carolina Velez

## Ridgfield Park Public Schools ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Joseph P. Vespignani

Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Carmela Triglia

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Scott Bisig, Interim Business

Administrator/Board Secretary

## G&T: Ms Morris

After hearing, Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree, by Robert Barry, kindergarten classes had an absolute blast using large green cups to stack in the "Tallest Tree Challenge!" Grade one students made paper chains and had fun reviewing different patterns. Grade two students heard *The Gingerbread Man is Loose at Christmas* by Laura Murray. In this story, the Gingerbread man faces a problem, his feet are crumbling off in the snow! Students designed and built models of their ideas! Third grade G&T students are planning and building marble mazes that must follow specific building criteria requirements and building constraints. Fourth grade students are having fun creating their own learning board games and we look forward to playing them in class. The fifth graders completed their forensic science unit, "Who Stole the Chocolate," and were able to reclaim their chocolate! Students in grade 6 are completing a STEAM project called "Trap a mythical creature." Students will use works of art and literacy to study the characteristics of a selected mythical creature and build a model of a trap.



## Spanish: Ms. Molina

¡Hola! - Hello! Kindergarten had fun identifying the colors in Spanish through various stories and games they played in class. They also enjoyed reading the book, La Tortilla Corredora - The Runaway Tortilla, which was similar to the story of the gingerbread boy but with the plot having more of a Spanish twist and a tortilla running away instead. First grade students had fun practicing "los mandatos" - the classroom commands. They sang and played, "Simón dice..." when practicing them. They are presently learning about "los dias de la semana" - the days of the week and how to say what day it is in Spanish. While learning the names of various fruits and vegetables, second grade students also got to learn a bit about "maize," corn, a grain that traces its roots as far back as 5,000 years ago and helped build the new world. They were quite impressed with the various uses of corn in our everyday lives. Fifth grade students have been having fun learning the nationalities and languages spoken by some of the many people around the world. Lastly, all students learned a little bit about Christmas in Spain and worked on a holiday project. ¡Felices fiestas a todos! - Happy holidays to all!

## **ESL: Mrs. Smith**

ESL classes have been working very diligently this year so far. As the holidays approach, please enjoy spending time with your family and practice speaking English a little bit each day to improve your child's English language skills. Starting in February, all ESL students and those students whose parents refused ESL services will be required to take the ACCESS for ELL assessments as mandated by the state of New Jersey. More information on these assessments will follow as the testing date comes closer. Wishing you and your family a very happy, healthy and joyous holiday season.

## **Counselor's Corner: Mrs. Mastroianni**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing break and enjoyed time with family. Our Character Theme of the Month for January is Perseverance. The New Year is a great time to reset and refocus in order to persevere through challenges. Trimester 2 may present new academic challenges for your child(ren). Encourage them to persevere and continue to work hard toward their goals! As always, their teachers and I are here to support them along the way :)

## **Technology: Mr. Lenart**

As we have become more comfortable with the procedural differences between Chromebook and Desktops, the students are able to work more efficiently. The younger students continue to work on computer programming. They have been tasked with writing code to complete puzzles and accomplish a variety of tasks. Older students have been working on creating spreadsheets. With the use of formulas imbedded in the sheets, they are able to track information easier and more efficiently.

## **PE/Health: Mr. Garcia**

I hope everyone had a fantastic holidays along with your loved ones. Students in Phys. Ed officially completed their hockey unit and did a terrific job. They will now utilize those skills and take it in to a game which has many similarities. Students will begin to learn how to play soccer and along with soccer, the skills learned will be dribbling, passing, teamwork, scoring and positive sportsmanship. In health, students will learn about new topics such as how harmful bullying can be. Students will get to engage and speak in class about how to maintain a positive environment in and outside of the classroom.

## **Spanish: Ms. Baeza**

¡Feliz año nuevo! Third graders are learning how to say different pets in Spanish by reading and writing sentences about pets. Fourth graders have been reading books in Spanish on RAZ-Plus having to do with places in the community. Fifth graders are learning how to say the nationalities of people that come from the 21 Spanish speaking countries. Sixth graders are working on how to say school supplies in Spanish and writing sentences describing the school supplies. ¡Adiós!

## **Dance News: Ms. LoBue**

Dance at Grant School has been off to an amazing start! Students in the lower grades have been exploring imagination and creativity through movement, as well as beginning to dive into learning beginner level choreography. This will help them as they advance towards learning about various types of dance in the upcoming year! The upper grades have been exploring how to tell a story through movement by collaborating with each other. They are building their choreographic skills to further their knowledge of how to build and create movement. This will help them as they soon will begin to dive into how to choreograph their own dances in the upcoming year! I cannot wait to see what the future holds for the students here at Grant School!