

# RTR Knightly Newsletter

## Mr. Houck, Superintendent

RTR Elementary Nominated by Minnesota Department of Education

### Special points of interest:

- Updates from Mr. Houck, Mrs. Christensen, and Mrs. Bush
- "If I were President..."
- Sunny D Book Donation
- Llama Llama Read-A-Rama
- Middle School December Students of the Month
- RTR HS Math Department Update
- Importance of Learning a Foreign Language



RTR Elementary has been nominated by the Minnesota Department of Education for the Blue Ribbon Award. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and non-public elementary, middle, and high schools where students achieve at very high levels and/or where the achievement gap in narrowing. The Program sets a standard of excellence for all schools striving for the highest

level of achievement. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is part of a larger U. S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds.

The staff at the elementary deserve the recognition of the great work they have been achieving with our



students. This nomination is a real honor for the staff, students, administration and prior school boards. The hard work from all stakeholders and keeping the students first is the key for all involved.

Please take the time to thank them for all the hard work!

## RTR School District Mission Statement

Educational excellence, enhanced student achievement, fiscal stability, and life-long learning are the four pillars of the RTR School. We are a community dedicated to providing a safe, friendly environment challenging students to be productive citizens in an ever-changing world.



### Inside this issue:

Elementary School	2-5
Middle School News	6
High School News	6-7
Calendar	8
FCCLA News	9

## Mrs. Amy Christensen, Elementary Principal



We have some very exciting news here at RTR Elementary!

Our school has been nominated as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School! There were 8 schools out of all elementary, middle, and high schools in the state of Minnesota nominated for this award!

A school is nominated by its Chief State School

Officers based on one of two criteria: Exemplary High Performing—which means being a school that performs among the state’s highest performing schools as measured on state assessments or Exemplary Improving — which is a school that has reduced its achievement gap as measured on state assessments.

*“Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence.” - Eric Fromm*

RTR Elementary has been nominated as an Exemplary

High Performing school!

The intent of the National Blue Ribbon Schools is “to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.”

This nomination is a true honor and wonderful recognition for all the hard work that we do every day here at RTR Elementary School!

## RTR Elementary Vision Statement

RTR Elementary strives to provide a safe and respectful environment where everyone can learn to their full potential.



## If I were President of the United States I would...

The second graders in Mrs. Van Keulen and Mrs. Larson's classrooms having been learning about the United States and its government in social studies.

The students were asked to finish this thought:

### If I were President of the United States I would...

help people with their jobs and help children learn how to read. I would swim in my pool. I would plant a garden with lots of flowers. I would ride in a limo to a playground and play with the children. Isabelle

buy my own library. I would read all the books in the library because I like to read. Sam

have world peace. One thing I certainly would involve would be a new library. It would be nice if people would clean parks and any place. Cari

pass better laws, let my family live with me, not order people around and help people in my country. I would go to schools and teach them about our country's laws. Julia

send some money to the schools and start a fund for the sick people. Jacob

help people all over the world. I would donate food to people who need food. I would have my very own library, theater and private jet. Makenna

help save our country. I would donate money to hungry people. Madie

make fair laws and give the schools more money. Give people who do not have a home, one. Give people who do not have money, some. Tell people no more wars. Katie

help our army and our states and schools. Taylor

help donate money to the poor. I would go on a limo ride to an arcade and an ice cream shop. I would help people. Riley

give money to the ones who need it. I would help the people who are sick. Saje

be kind to everyone. I would do what is right. Caleb

have more books. I would help homeless children find homes. I would buy a company to help the people who are hungry and thirsty. Kaytlin

make the world a better place, solve problems and make life easier. Maisie

go to Los Angeles and play baseball. I would go to New York to play football. I would go on a trip to Alaska and do a lot of things. Harleigh

make sure all schools have enough money and all the people get along. And have fun. Casey

stop the war. Why? Because it hurts a lot of people. And pay money to people that need money. Dylan

send people to help other people who have lost their homes in storms. I would send money to poor people. I would send toys to kids. Abby

Abby



## If I were President of the United States cont.

build a new playground. Joshua

give schools more money. Give people without homes, homes. And give people without money, money. Ashlyn

take a limo to an arcade. Then I would send the Navy to Cuba to set the people free and then I would take a nap. Ring, ring... I would answer the phone and be asked to think of a solution to save the people. I would send the Army and it would work!  
Garret

make sure there would be no more wars. Dylan

help people who do not have homes. I would have a special dinner. Anthony

save the United States. I would go to Arizona. I would see the Vikings. I would see the National Museum. I would give things to poor people. Hayden

give speeches and entertain the Army. David



go on a limo ride to an arcade. I would go to the Navy. I would swim in a pool. I would eat lunch with someone who works with me.  
Samantha

make sure that people get along. I would like it if schools would get more kids.  
Kassidy

tell people what happened in the Civil War. I would help S.W.A.T. keep people safe and help hungry animals. Kegan

get money to give and the more I give the more I get. Carter

buy a monster truck for my brother and me. I would give money to the poor who need it. I would let my family live with me. Hunter

build a bowling alley and a swimming pool. A President is the leader of the United States. Ragan

go to an ice cream shop and give my money away. Jonah

stop the war. Why? Because so people don't get killed. And give farmers money so they can fix their crops. Logan

alert people if there was a war and see the Queen. Rion

give money to the poor, help the army, share the White House with others and make peace for everyone in the world. Rebecca

help people who were sick. Noah

give people money if they need it. I would make sure that nobody breaks the laws. Dalton

let people watch movies for \$7.14 and I would let everyone have a swimming pool. Chance

do jobs for our country. I would help our country. Triston

get a jet, 100 dollars and a car. I want to be the 53<sup>rd</sup> President. I would have lots of friends. Jackson

do speeches and go bowling. Then I would go swimming in the White House. Contessa

be good and help other people and kids. I would be nice. I would listen. Katelynn

## Mrs. Smidt's 4th grade class received books from "Sunny D"

We received correspondence that "Sunny D" would donate 20 books to classrooms by redeeming 20 "Sunny D" labels. The students in our classroom brought in labels from home until we received enough labels to qualify for the 20 books. The books that we received are AWESOME!

Mrs. Smidt's class read about orangutans from our reading book during reading class. The non-fiction story tells about raising orphan orangutans and how important the work is to help save the endangered species. As a project the class decided to send a donation to Camp Leakey, the orangutan orphanage in Borneo. The students brought in a total of \$21.19 to donate. The class knows that the donations that they gave will help the orphaned orangu-

tans and the volunteers that help them to return to the jungle.



## Join us for the 2012 Llama Llama Read-a-Rama



A costumed llama will be present!

Remember to bring your camera and your llama books for photo opportunities and book signings!



### February

Monday, February 6, 2012   Russell School Cafeteria   6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy reading and activities with your child!  
Everyone is encouraged to wear their pajamas!

QUESTIONS? Call 507-929-2273 or go to our website - [www.unitedwayswmn.org](http://www.unitedwayswmn.org)

Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney, illustration copyright © Anna Dewdney, 2005. Published by VIKING, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group.



# Talk. Read. Play. Every Day.

United Way of Southwest Minnesota

## RTR Middle School December Students of the Month



6th Grade—Mya Christensen, 7th Grade—Lucas Erickson,  
8th Grade—Dustin Williams

### WANTED

The After Prom Committee is looking to borrow Texas Hold ‘Em Kits. If you have one and would be willing to let us borrow it, please contact Sara Vogt at 247-4250.



## Brief Bits from Mrs. Bush



Accelerated Reader is an element of our English classes in grades 9-10-11. In this program, books are

assigned a number of points based on their reading level and length. After a student reads a book, he takes a 10 point multiple choice quiz on the book and earns points based on the number of correct answers.

To earn an “A” in AR, a student has to earn 50 points each quarter. That is not an easy goal, but

earning an “A” should not be easy. An “A” means that the student has done considerably over and above what is average. Some students choose not to spend that much time reading and others feel they don’t have the time to earn 50 points, but that is an individual choice. To accomplish this goal means that a student makes a real commitment to reading. This goal is easier for some students to accomplish than others, but that is true of every assignment any teacher gives.

Research tells us that many jobs today require increasing amounts of reading—emails, new regulations, and completing paper-

work. Educational research also shows us that teachers are requiring students to read less than ever before. Just like a sport, you improve reading skill by reading and you lose reading skill by not reading. I believe that AR helps students keep their reading skill “honed,” and for some students can help create a life-long interest.

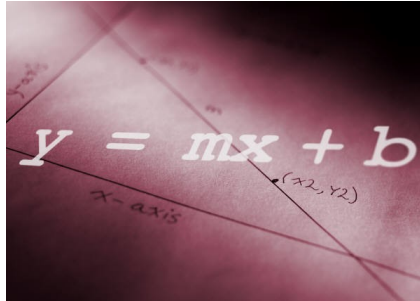
Enjoy a book today!



## Greetings from the RTR High School Math Department! Submitted by Nate Beich

With the first semester officially over, let's take a look back at all of the things that we have learned! Students in a variety of different math classes have been busy engaging their minds and developing upper level thinking.

In Algebra 2, the students learned a lot about equations, functions and inequalities as well as systems of equations, matrices and polynomials! It is fun to see the



growth and mastery of complicated math concepts! In the upcoming semester we will continue to dive into advanced mathematics properties including radical expressions, quadratics, and logarithmic relations!  
In Algebra 1, we have also been mastering various equations and inequalities while working towards solving systems of equations, factoring and quadratics!

The students are working hard and are seeing the benefits through their grades! To give an update on a lesson we looked at earlier in the school year with proportions and NFL football statistics. We had calculated that a handful of quarterbacks were on pace to break Dan Marino's single season passing record and with the conclusion of the season saw that indeed two players, Drew Brees and Tom Brady, broke the record with a few players just behind! It has been a great semester at RTR and we're looking forward to 2012! Keep up the good work everyone.

## Why is learning a foreign language important in today's world? By Janet Gustafson

As we continue the current trend toward globalization, the world is becoming a smaller place, and new language skills are becoming extremely beneficial in today's tough job market.

Any kind of upper hand helps in this economy, and one of the most sought-after and respected skills is knowing a foreign language. Having knowledge in another language can only open up more doors

and opportunities – and can offer more pay, benefits or perks at these jobs.



In a tough economy, being successful in finding work is often about having skills others don't. With a foreign language you will be qualified to fill positions the majority of jobseekers will not, so you will have less competition to face. You will have a better chance at getting a job as a translator, teacher,

copywriter or any other number of jobs that require the knowledge of a foreign language. And, if your company needs someone to deal with clients in a foreign country, but no one speaks the language well except you, the chance of your company paying for places you want to visit is very high!

---

*“Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end.” - Author Unknown*

---



# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 FCCLA STAR Event Competition @ Midwinter Meeting	2 After School Reading @ Elem.  GBB @ Canby 5:00	3 BBB vs Minneota 5:00	4 Section One Act Plays
5	6 After School Reading @ Elem. Llama Llama Read- a-Rama—Russell  GBB vs Echo 6:00 BBB @ MCC 5:00	7 After School Math, Student Council & Comm. Ed. Class @ Elem.  Family Fitness Night @ Elem.	8	9 After School Reading @ Elem. GBB vs Pipestone 6:15 BBB @ Canby 5:00 State One Act Plays	10 GBB @ RCW 5:00  State One Act Plays	11 G & BBB vs Fulda @ SMSU 1:00  Speech @ Redwood Falls
12	13 After School Reading @ Elem.  GBB vs HBC 6:15 FCCLA Beef Sandwich Feed	14 After School Math & Comm. Ed. Class @ Elem.  Bloodmobile @ high school	15	16 After School Reading @ Elem.  GBB @ Lincoln HI 6:15	17 12:30 Early Dismissal  BBB @ RCW 5:00	18 Speech @ Pipestone
19	20 No School  Play Tryouts—2:30 Play Practice @ Elem. (M-F) 3:30- 8:00	21 After School Math & Comm. Ed. Class @ Elem.  N/S GBB BBB @ Pipestone 6:00	22	23 After School Reading @ Elem.  Sub-section GBB Pigtail BBB @ Lincoln HI 5:00	24 N/S BBB	25 Sub-section GBB QF @ Windom Speech @ Minneota  Play Performances 2:00 & 4:30
26	27 After School Reading @ Elem.	28 After School Math & 4H @ Elem. FCCLA Legislative Shadow Day Sub-section GBB Semifinal@ Luverne	29			

## RTR FCCLA to Host RED OUT to Fight Heart Disease February 13 at the RTR vs. Hills Beaver Creek Game

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of Americans, responsible for one of every three deaths. In addition, congenital heart defects are the leading cause of death of children under age 1.

The RTR FCCLA Senior Chapter has helped with the Jump Rope for Heart program at the Elementary for several years. It's just one way to give back to the school and community, through service. This year the chapter has decided to take it a step further by rallying the community together for a RED OUT event on Monday, February 13. With the help and support of dedicated community members, the chapter will be conducting several opportunities for people to support this worthwhile cause, while learning a little about preventing heart disease too. Watch for the information about where to buy RED OUT shirts prior to the event and how to participate.



# Family Fitness Night

Ages Birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade & family

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

RTR Elementary

**GAMES**

**ACTIVITIES**

**FUN**

Activities for the Whole Family on  
Being Fit

Eating Right

Making Healthy Choices



# RTR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PO Box 659  
Tyler MN 56178-0659

---

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
TYLER, MN 56178  
PERMIT NO. 48

---

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## BOXHOLDER

### **RTR KNIGHTS!**

