

Elementary Principal's Report - April 2026

Community Involvement and Awareness

- Second grade students attended their annual field trip to Gibson City Hospital on 4/16. This experience has a connection to the new Arts and Letters curriculum whose final unit focuses on "Good Eating" and healthy bodies as well as different body systems with special attention to the digestive system..
- We ran the Read-A-Thon fundraiser again in an effort to raise money for our student activity account, which pays for all things student related, including activities for field day, awards and celebrations related to FastBridge growth, and anything else we can think of. This year we were able to raise over \$3500! Thanks to the generosity of our families!

Curriculum & Program Development/Staff Collaboration

- We'll hold our last Problem Solving Team meeting on Thursday, April 16th. This will be our final day to evaluate our interventions, consider the students we are supporting, and move things around. I appreciate all of the work that our teachers and interventionists do to support our students.
- Hailey Pocic-Burt from ROE 17 was here on April 15 to provide math coaching related to Illustrative Mathematics for our 3rd grade and kindergarten teachers. She focused on lesson planning and engaging intervention activities for students.
- As part of a positive culture initiative Mr. Young and Mrs. Jamison introduced a program called Alpaca, allowing staff to enter information about how they're feeling and share thoughts related to what they need. They are also able to provide shout outs to other staff members to recognize them for their amazing support and accomplishments. After several months of being on the platform, Ridgeview Elementary was recognized as being in the Top 5 schools using the platform related to shoutouts and recognition.

Students and Staff

- STANGS organized a GLOW Olympics for our elementary school boys on April 6th. We had over 30 families in attendance. Students enjoyed a variety of games and activities with their parent and even earned medals at the end of the event. Thanks to STANGS for organizing this activity. Stangs is a small, but mighty group that organizes awesome activities for our students. Please consider supporting our students by joining STANGS.
- We conducted our second tornado drill of the year to try new methods for entering the basement more efficiently. Overall it was a success and students were in the basement in less than 6 minutes.
- Student Council will be attending a celebratory field trip on Monday April 27th. They will be attending an Impossible Science presentation. Students will get to experience crazy experiments, witness a live stage presentation, and lots more! Thanks to Mrs. Beck, Mrs. Brinkman, and Miss Johnson for organizing activities for students.
- Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) testing began on April 6th for all 3rd - 5th grade students. Thank you to Ms. Boettcher who organized the testing with support from Mrs. Jamison and Mrs. McCormick. Students prepared with their teachers, completing sample test items and familiarizing themselves with the assessment. Overall, the assessment went smoothly and we completed make ups the following week.

- PreK attended their final field trip of the year to Miller Park Zoo on Friday, April 17th. Students attended this event with their parents. I'm hoping the weather was beautiful and the students and their families enjoyed the experience.
- We are planning our Elementary School Field Day for the last day of school, May 22. We'll continue to have our Rock Climbing Wall, dunk tank, foam blower, and bounce house along with several other events. Thanks to our teachers who organize the event and our generous donors, including our families, STANGS, Gibson Area Hospital, and the Colfax Fire Department.