

THE *Eagle Eye*



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Eagle Ridge Academy

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Activities Update

JASON ULBRICH
Executive Director

APRIL GRABANSKI
Chair, Board of Directors

In May of 2014, the Board voted to expand the school from a little over 800 students to 1,400-1,600 students. One of the goals for that expansion was to “provide a robust program of activities outside the classroom and promote a culture that exemplifies the school pillars, that supports the overall academic program, and that encourages student retention.” We have now settled into our new facilities and are excited about the opportunity to expand and develop our activities programming. Extracurricular activities like the arts and athletics are an integral part of being a well-rounded student. Participation in sports, theatre, and clubs teaches students excellence, teamwork, and perseverance and opens them up to new worlds of possibility.

With this in mind, the goals of the Board and Administration over the next year are to:

- Increase the **number and quality** of extracurricular offerings
- Increase **student participation** in extracurricular activities
- Better **mature our existing clubs** in grades K-12
- **Host our own K-6 sports and activities**

In order to offer more activities to our families, we have worked closely with the International School of Minnesota (ISM) in an activities cooperative over the years. Over the past six months, we have continued discussions with ISM about how to best meet these goals and better define our future partnership. We are currently working on a two-year memorandum of understanding to be approved by the Board in February 2018. We continue to appreciate the camaraderie and opportunities this partnership has offered us and are excited about the future of our activities programs.

Our next step in this endeavor is to hire a full-time activities director to better support the students in clubs, youth activities, and varsity activities. Eagle Ridge Academy has already begun the search for a full-time Activities Director.



School Board Invites You to Listening Session 1/9

MATEEN ASHTIANI
Member, Board of Directors

The Eagle Ridge Academy Board of Directors Governance Working Group has been reviewing the Academy's bylaws for the past several months. Some of the recommended topics are general powers, Board composition, and Board member duties, status changes, qualifications, and disqualifications. The Governance Working Group would like to invite the Eagle Ridge Academy community to a listening session on Tuesday, Jan. 9 in the Library to discuss and receive feedback on these changes from our community. For a more comprehensive list of recommended changes, please refer to the documents in [BoardDocs](#).



As the cold weather has now settled in, there will be times when outdoor recess is not available. **The Playground Committee** has, for the past six years, provided the Academy with needed equipment and resources to provide active play both outdoors and indoors. As you finish your holiday shopping or start cleaning out your closets, please consider making a donation of **new or gently used games** (favorites include Q-Bitz, HyperDash, Skippity, Jenga, Operation, Polarity, Bananagrams, Logic Linz, Mancala, Chess, Pictionary, Qwirkel, Scrabble, Mad Libs, and Charades), as well as **easy/non-messy craft supplies** (such as pipe cleaners, origami, coloring books, etc.). These will be greatly appreciated. Donation boxes will be available the first week of January at school entrances. Any questions may be directed to EagleRidgeAcademyPlayground@gmail.com.

Community Updates



The Spirit of Giving & the Greatness of Gratitude

KELLY SCHIFFMAN
Director of Development

In the spirit of the season, I wish to share my gratitude with the friends and families of Eagle Ridge Academy. The Academy has greatly benefited from the kind support of many this year, for which I cannot express my appreciation enough. From volunteering one's time, to passing on words of inspiration, to donating an item or service, or contributing financial support, each and every gift made to the Academy, no matter the size or frequency, is impactful and meaningful. For evidence, just take a walk around the halls of Eagle Ridge Academy...the impact is apparent in everything you see.

The spirit of giving is not just seasonal. If you truly want to teach your children something about charity and having a heart for service and philanthropy, there are 365 days of the year to be generous with your time, talent, or treasure. Of this, I've seen many selfless acts of kindness with our families—inspirational and thoughtful.

And, in the busyness of life, we should always have and show gratitude—for a gift, a helping hand, a kind word, a word of counsel or comfort, or an ear in time of need. This is an essential part of living a happy and healthy life.

So, what have you done for someone else this week and how have you shown your gratitude?

Happy holidays and warm wishes for a safe and happy winter break!



College Corner

WENDY KLUTE
Academic Counselor

PSAT Results for Juniors

PSAT results are available and a hard copy will be given to your junior along with interpretive information during their Humanities class.

College Rep Visits Continue

College admissions representatives continue to visit the Academy's Academic Center. Pictured below, Gabby C. interviewed NDSU rep, Matthew Henry, while Lilly B. listened. Bemidji rep, Kim Fisher, met with students Maddi H., Maya O., Edil H., Lilly B., and Ava H. to answer questions.



Schools of Logic & Rhetoric

December Pillar Award Winners

Teachers nominate students for Pillar Awards each month to recognize outstanding embodiment of the school's values.

6th Grade (Team Eagle)

Citizenship: Emma S.
Integrity: Veronika O.
Perseverance: Charlotte E.
Honor: Ava M.
Excellence: Divyesh T.
Respect: Ming Wei Y.

6th Grade (Team Lion)

Citizenship: Bona G.
Integrity: Benjamin J.
Perseverance: Salma T.
Honor: Kate J.
Excellence: Shruti S.
Respect: Walter L.

7th Grade

Citizenship: Elsie D.
Integrity: Alexa R.
Perseverance: Abdi H.
Honor: Malakai G.
Excellence: Niyathi B.
Respect: Maryam H.

8th Grade

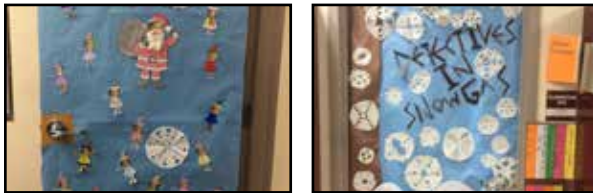
Citizenship: Maneeya L.
Integrity: Eimaan H.
Perseverance: Cade L.
Honor: Micah B.
Excellence: Luc W.
Respect: Karin S.

9th Grade: Henry L.
10th Grade: Melanie P.

11th Grade: Shamis M.
12th Grade: Pavel K.

Community Updates

Winter Door Decorating Contest: Grades K-12



All classrooms have been invited to participate in this year's door decorating contest. The theme is "**The Beauty of Words.**" We are looking forward to seeing the creativity on display throughout the school.



THRIVENT CHOICE®
ENROLLED
ORGANIZATION

[Learn More](#)

Friend of Eagle Ridge Academy has partnered with **Thrivent Financial**. One way eligible Thrivent Financial members can show their thanks is by directing Choice Dollars to Friend of Eagle Ridge Academy. If you're a Thrivent member who has Choice Dollars, take this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds by directing them to **Friends of Eagle Ridge Academy**.

If you are looking for an easy way to help support the Academy, look no further than Thrivent Choice®, Thrivent Financial's member-advised charitable outreach program. Thrivent Choice lets eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute some of its annual outreach funding by choosing from thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide, including Friends of Eagle Ridge Academy.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until March 31 to direct them. If you are a Thrivent member and haven't yet participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to learn more about participating in it, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Upcoming Student Senate Event:

All The Comforts of Home

2017 Coffee House

Friday, December 15 @ 6:00 pm
In the lunchroom

Fun night of warm drinks, performances, and friends!



Congrats, ERA Chess Players!

First graders Aarti K. and Aditi K. and second grader Joshini S. participated in the Youth Enrichment League Holiday Chess Tournament on Dec. 2 and represented ERA. Based on a roll-up of the individual results, ERA ranked third overall. At the K-1 grade level, Aarti rose to the occasion and was the unanimous winner by claiming the champions trophy. At the K-1 grade level, Aditi earned her competitive stripes by finishing in the top 5 and was ranked fifth. At the 2-3 grade level, Joshini met with stiff competition and was a true warrior by finishing in the top 10. She was ranked ninth.

Joshini is a member of Chess Club, which is an Activity Club offered through the Academy. Session One of Activity Clubs are finishing up now, but stay tuned for sign-ups for Session Two after break! Questions? Contact Mrs. Marilyn Strand, Activities Specialist.



MARILYN STRAND
Activities Specialist



Activities & Events

Free Dress Day Tuesday, Dec. 19

2017-18 FREE DRESS DAY DATES:
Oct. 6, Dec. 19, March 22, and May 25

What is Free Dress Day?

Free Dress Day is a school fundraiser for various departments at Eagle Ridge Academy. Students pay \$5 to be able to wear non-uniforms to school on specific "Free Dress Days."

One Week Before:

Through Dec. 18: K-12 students may bring \$5 to their homeroom or first hour teacher in order to participate in Free Dress Day.

The Day of:

Dec. 19: The cost is \$6 if students pay on the actual Free Dress Day.

Guidelines for Free Dress Day from the ERA handbook are:

All shoes must have backs, boots are permitted. Long and short sleeve shirts are permitted. No strapless, spaghetti straps, or sleeveless tops are permitted. Jeans are permitted; however, jeans with immodest rips in them are not. Sweat pants are permitted. Any logos on clothing must be school appropriate. Shirts are not to be tied back with elastic bands, but may be untucked. Heels should be no more than 1". Skirt and shorts length should be modest, and no more than 2" above the knee. Costumes and masks should not be worn. No hats are permitted. Leggings and yoga pants may only be worn with modest shirts, tunics, shorts, and skirts.

Dec. 19 Free Dress Day funds are going to support:

- Art Expo
- 2nd Grade Author Visit
- 3rd Grade Geodome
- Kindergarten Field Trip to Elderly Communities
- 4th and 5th Grade math manipulatives
- Upper School Choir Performance Field Trip
- 9th-12th Grade Phys. Ed. equipment

Questions? Contact Lower School or Upper School Principals.

Upcoming School Events:

Dec. 15 - Jan. 11

Dec. 11-19 – Student Senate Sock Drive

Dec. 15 – Spirit Wear Day

Dec. 18-19 – PTO Festival of Treats

Dec. 19 – Free Dress Day

Dec. 19 – 2nd Grade Boys Get Together

Dec. 19 – 2nd Grade Girls Get Together

Dec. 20 - Jan. 2 – Winter Break

Dec. 29 – Alumni Movie Night

Jan. 9 – School Board Listening Session

Jan. 9 & 11 – 2018-19 Enrollment Events

For more information and more events, visit the [school calendar](#).

SCHOOLS OF LOGIC & RHETORIC FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

School of Logic	Wednesday, Jan. 17	Thursday, Jan. 18	Friday, Jan. 19
8:00-10:00	Period 1	Period 2	Advisory/Test Make-Up
10:00-11:00	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
11:05-1:05	Period 7	Period 4	Period 3
1:10-3:09	Advisory/Test Make-Up	Period 6	Period 5

School of Rhetoric	Wednesday, Jan. 17	Thursday, Jan. 18	Friday, Jan. 19
8:00-10:00	Period 1	Period 2	Advisory/Test Make-Up
10:05-12:05	Period 7	Period 4	Period 3
12:05-1:05	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
1:10-3:09	Advisory/Test Make-Up	Period 6	Period 5

Festival of Treats | Monday, Dec. 18

Festival of Treats is on Dec. 18! Consider making a traditional family treat to contribute for our lovely ERA teachers and staff. Otherwise, choose any yummy treat from our [sign-up genius](#). Please drop off your items at the Activity Office by the Main Entrance (Door 2) during end-of-day pick up on Friday afternoon, Dec. 15, or on Monday morning, Dec. 18.

Ski & Snowboard Club

Ski and Snowboard club has started, and our next group lesson is on Jan. 12. Please remember to sign up by Jan. 5 at 3:00 p.m. All waivers and payments should be placed in an envelope with PTO written on the front and brought to Mrs. Strand in the Activities Office. Please refer to our FAQ info [at this link](#).

Once again, anyone may come to Ski and Snowboard Club; there is not an official process to join. Even friends and family may take advantage of our special rates! Group lessons are available weekly for \$10. Payment must be made by the Friday before the lesson. Discount lift tickets (\$20) and ski or snowboard rental packages (\$17) will be available for purchase from the ERA PTO inside the Hyland chalet.

Our first Ski and Snowboard Club potluck is on Jan. 12. Please come and enjoy the fun! If you would like to contribute, you may sign up [at this link](#).



Save the Date: Winter Uniform Sale is Feb 19

Looking for Uniforms? The PTO Winter Uniform Sale will be held at ERA during conferences on Feb. 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Get to your conference early or stay for a bit afterwards to save money and stock up on uniforms for your growing student. Personal shoppers will be on hand to assist and answer questions.

Uniforms to Sell or Donate? Uniform donations may be brought to the Activities Office inside the Main Entrance (Door 2). Please view our [information flyer](#) for more details, including drop off options prior to the sale. Updated garment tags for families wishing to sell uniform pieces can be found [in this link](#).

Redemption Program Contest Winners

The Redemption Program is in the midst of Contest #3. It will be open until Feb. 22 at 9:00 a.m., so there is a lot of time to send in many redemption items. Here are the items we collect to earn money for our school:

- **Box Tops, Coke Rewards**
- **Tyson Project A+**
- **Loaves for Learning**
- **Milk Moola**
- **Old cell phones/used printer cartridges**

Bring all these items to your lower school teacher or the collection cart inside the vestibule of the Main Entrance (Door 2). Thank you so much for your diligence and support.

