

ROCK RIDGE ELEMENTARY

# Rock Ridge Review

December 2023

400 Heritage Avenue, Castle Rock, CO 80104

Weather Closure: 303-387-SNOW

Attendance Line: 303-387-5152

Office: 303-387-5150

## Principal Message

Dear Rock Ridge Community,

Warm regards,

Peter Mosby  
Principal, Rock Ridge Elementary



### HOURS

First Bell: 8:30 am  
School Begins: 8:35 am  
All Dismiss: 3:30 pm  
AM Kinder: 8:30-11:15  
PM Kinder: 12:45-3:30

Principal: Peter Mosby  
Assistant Principal: Julie Roach





# RRE Calendar

## Upcoming Events:

**December 22 - January 8: Winter Break/No School**

### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

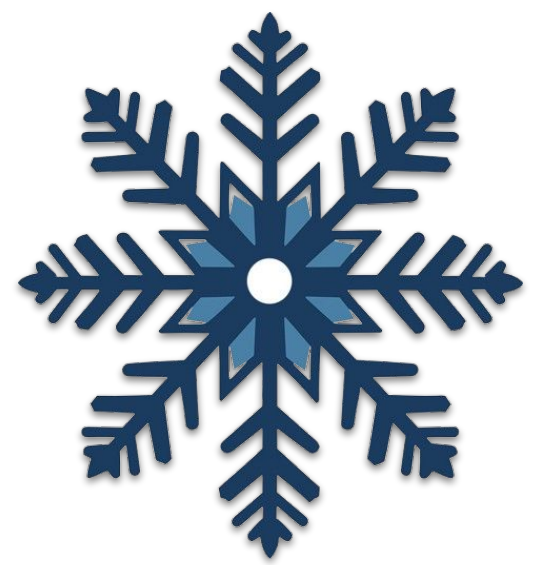
- December 25 - January 5: Winter Break
- January 8: Teacher Work Day
- January 9: First Day of Second Semester
- February : 2nd Grade CoGAT
- February 16: Professional Development Day
- March 6: SPED Planning Day
- March 18-22: Spring Break
- April 2-4: 3rd-6th grade ELA & Math CMAS
- April 4-11: 5th-grade Science CMAS



DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						6
	1	2	3	4	5	13
7	8	9	10	11	12	20
14	15	16	17	18	19	27
21	22	23	24	25	26	
28	29	30	31			

# Counselor's Corner



Here is a great [list of children's books](#) to address a variety of Social and Emotional topics. Consider putting some of these books on hold at the new Castle Rock branch of the [Douglas County Libraries](#). Keep kids reading and increasing their SEL skills over the upcoming break!

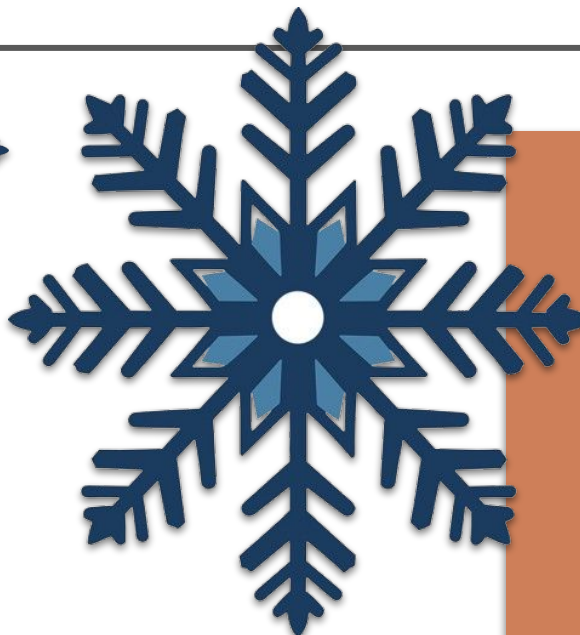
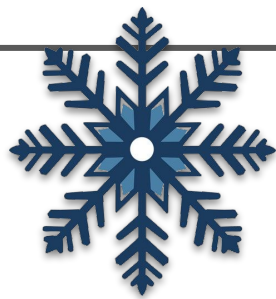
Have you ever felt the “winter blues?” Colder temperatures and bad weather can make socializing more difficult. While holiday celebrations are often fun, they can also cause a lot of increased stress. The isolation paired with stress and shorter amounts of daylight are a perfect recipe for Seasonal Affective Disorder, appropriately abbreviated to SAD. If you or your children experience an increase in irritability, a decrease in energy levels, interrupted sleep patterns, and a general feeling of sadness during winter months, you are definitely not alone. SAD is quite common. Visit this [Link](#) from The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) about SAD and how to treat it.

Parker Arts presents the Parker Arts Lecture, The Adolescent Brain: Addressing Teen Behaviors on Wednesday, February 7th. The event is free but tickets are required. Register [here](#).

School breaks can often create hardships for families who rely on the free breakfast and lunch. As we anticipate the winter break, I want to remind families of local community resources. Click [here](#) for lists of community health, food, employment, child care, and other assistance. The Front Range Food Pantry partners with Rock Ridge Elementary. See their [website](#) to get connected with weekly food assistance.

Imatter Colorado allows youth to have free counseling sessions. Click this [link](#) to learn more. Parents and caregivers are now able to refer youth to the [Second Wind Fund](#). Click [here](#) for apps for mental health and recovery. Free counseling is also being offered through December from the Denver Counseling Center.

I want to wish all Rock Ridge families a very happy and safe winter break. See you in 2024!



Dawna McKnight,  
RRE School Counselor,  
[dtmcknight@dcsdk12.org](mailto:dtmcknight@dcsdk12.org)



FREE  
COUNSELING  
SERVICES  
THROUGH  
DECEMBER!

**ACCESSIBLE &  
AFFORDABLE  
COUNSELING  
SERVICES**

FOR INDIVIDUALS, KIDS, TEENS, FAMILIES  
& COUPLES

With the holidays approaching, we are offering free counseling services to **students, families, and staff** at K-12 schools and colleges in Colorado now through December. Reach out with any questions or for a consultation call!



**IMMEDIATE  
AVAILABILITY**



**TELEHEALTH  
SESSIONS**



**Email Us**

[info@denvercounselingcenter.org](mailto:info@denvercounselingcenter.org)



**Office Location**

6399 S Santa Fe Dr.  
Littleton, CO 80120



**Call Us**

Call 303-762-6987

# LIBRARY NOOK



Thank you so much for your support at the  
Book Fair!! Grand total of books sold:  
1,440!!!

When we come back from Winter Break  
be on the lookout for brand new books in  
your school library!



Laura Keller  
[laura.keller@dcsdk12.org](mailto:laura.keller@dcsdk12.org)

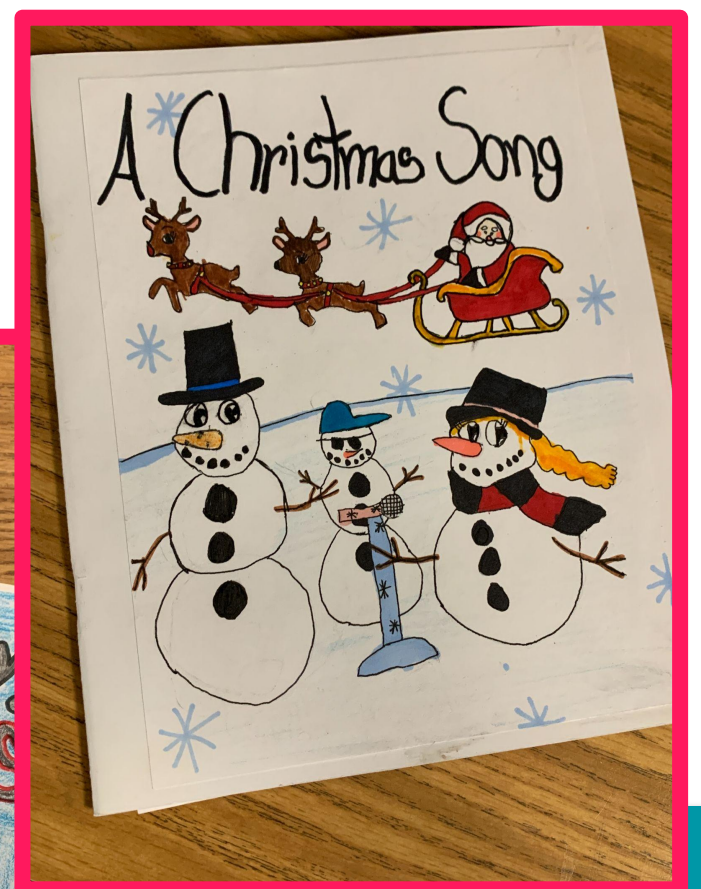
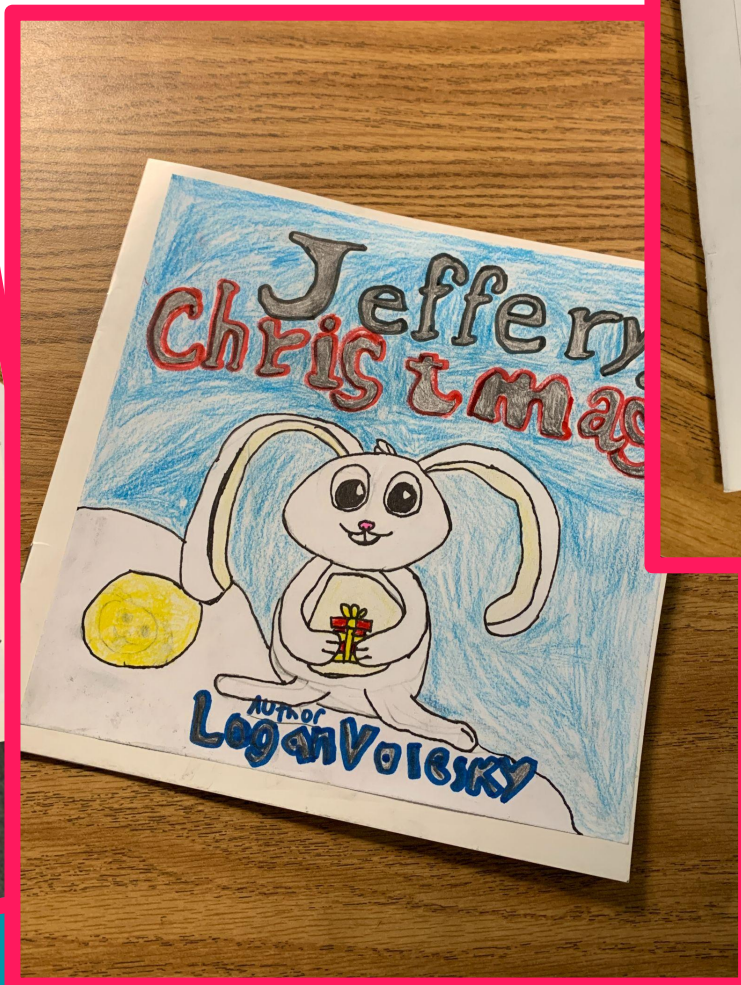
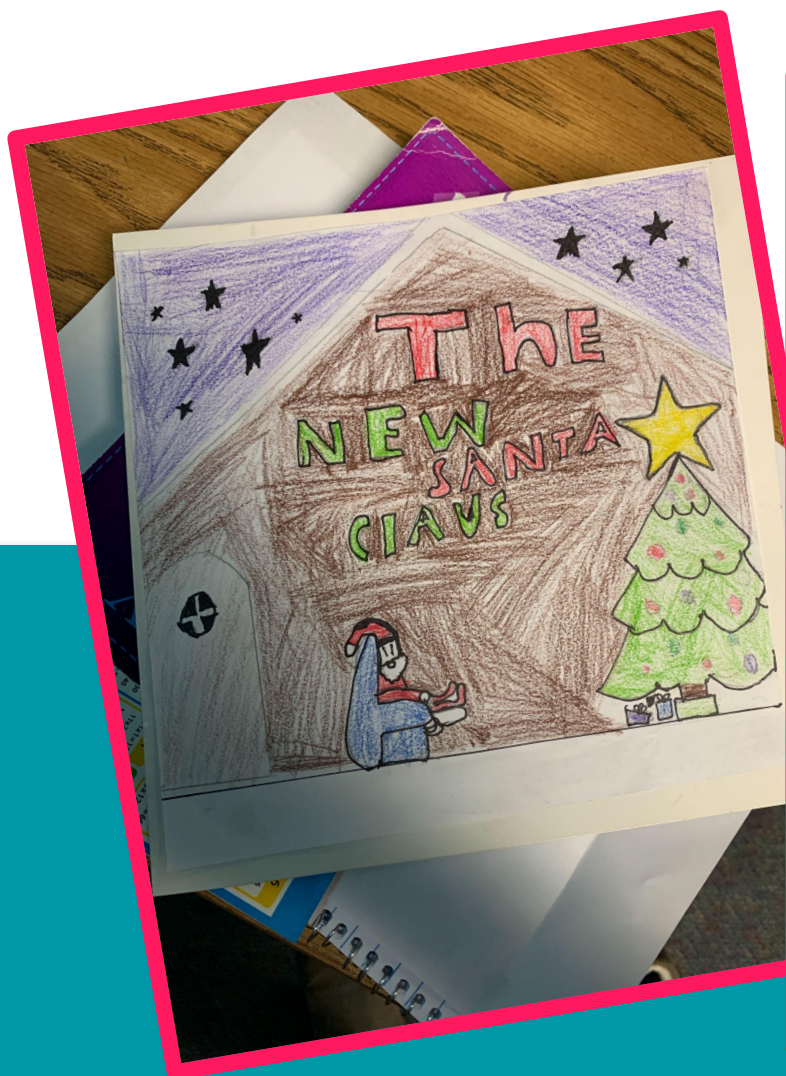


# Celebrating Students

# 6<sup>th</sup>

## WINTER PICTURE BOOKS

As part of our *How we Express Ourselves* planner, students planned, wrote and illustrated picture books to share with Primary buddies.



# Celebrating Students

# 5<sup>th</sup>

## HAWK QUEST

5th Grade had an in school field trip in support of their Sharing the Planet unit as well as their upcoming *How the World Works* planner. The kids got to experience several birds of prey up close.

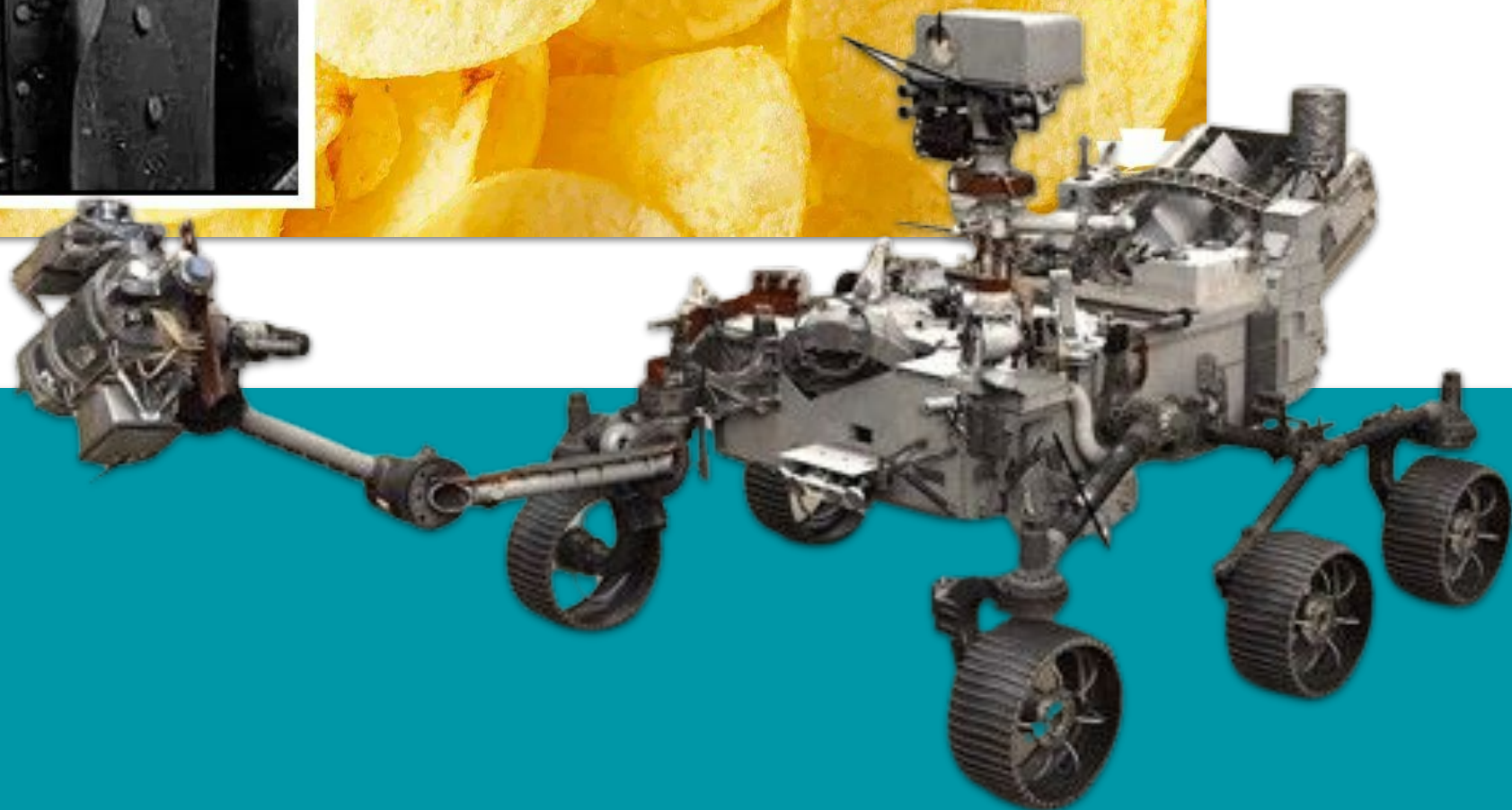
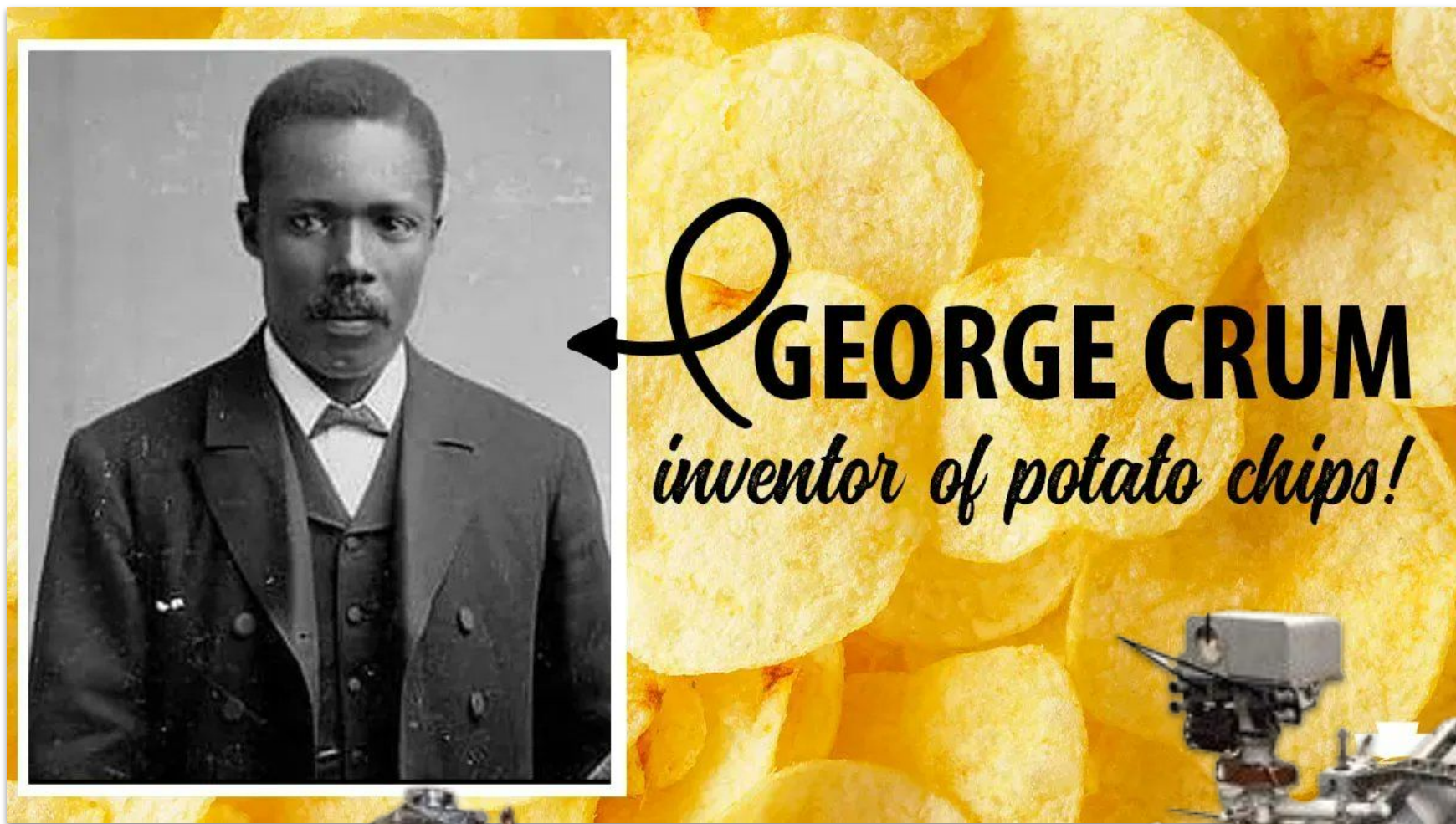


# Celebrating Students



## INNOVATIONS and INVENTIONS

Third grade explored innovations and inventions that changed people's lives. They explored things from the potato chip to the Mars Rover.





# Celebrating Students



## SNUGGLY READ-A-THON

First grade had their annual Snuggly Readathon on December 1, 2023. It has been a first grade tradition since 2010.

First graders listened to books and stories from guest readers. They also read books, jokes and poems the entire day in their pajamas!

## AROUND THE WORLD

First grade is also learning about Christmas around the world as a part of The How We Express Ourselves planner. To go along with this students created a yearly calendar to give as a Christmas gift to their parents.



# SPECIALS SPOTLIGHT



## RRE Winter Concert

On Thursday, 12/7/23, we celebrated Winter and the holiday season with our annual Winter Concert. This year's event featured our orchestra, band and choir. These kids worked very hard and Mr. Goldman is so proud of them! We will be having an encore performance next Thursday, 12/21 at 8:45am open to all classes!

**Who: Band/Orchestra/Choir Students**

**What: Winter Concert ENCORE!**

**When: Thursday 12/21 @8:45am**

**Where: RRE Gym**



**Ross Goldman**

*Music Teacher*

Rock Ridge Elementary School

(303) 317-5150 ext. 56636

[rgoldman@dcsdk12.org](mailto:rgoldman@dcsdk12.org)



# SPECIALS SPOTLIGHT



In PE (3rd-6th) over the last few weeks we have been sharpening our hockey skills in preparation for the RRE Hockey Tournament. The classroom round of the tournament will begin once we return in January. A RRE hockey champion will be crowned in February at the conclusion of our three hockey tournament rounds (classroom, grade level, and school wide).

Once we return our K-2nd grade PE students will be continuing on with a small cup stacking unit along with a small bowling unit.



## **CELEBRATIONS: Holidays in December**

In December, various celebrations light up the month! From Kwanzaa to Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's Eve, each holds its own significance. Let's delve into these festivities starting with the widely known Christmas—a Christian celebration marking the birth of Jesus Christ. Families gather, sharing joy and stories while embracing the legendary figure of Santa Claus, who traditionally delivers gifts down chimneys, inspired by the generous Saint Nick who once left presents in shoes.

Moving to the lesser-known yet culturally rich Kwanzaa—a week-long celebration (from December 26th to January 1st) honoring African American heritage. It involves lighting seven candles, three red, three green, and one black, each symbolizing principles such as unity, self-determination, collective work, responsibility, cooperation, purpose, creativity, and faith. These principles hold personal significance for individuals celebrating Kwanzaa.

Hanukkah, another significant holiday, commemorates the Jewish community's resilience during historic challenges. Spanning seven days, it symbolizes the survival and triumph over adversity, shining brightly with its traditions and rituals.

Finally, New Year's Eve—a global celebration bidding farewell to the old year and embracing the new. As the clock strikes midnight, revelers mark the transition with kisses, cheers, and colorful fireworks, welcoming the promising year ahead.

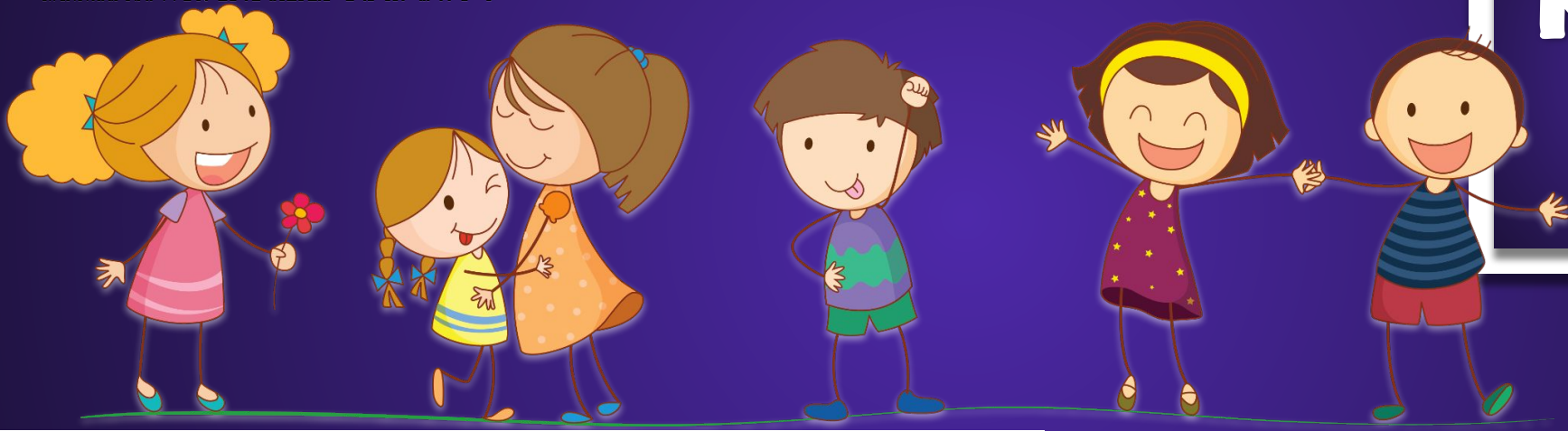
These December celebrations showcase diverse traditions, each holding unique cultural, religious, or symbolic significance, bringing people together in joyous remembrance and anticipation for the future.

By: *Brinley*

**WRITTEN  
FOR KIDS,  
BY KIDS**



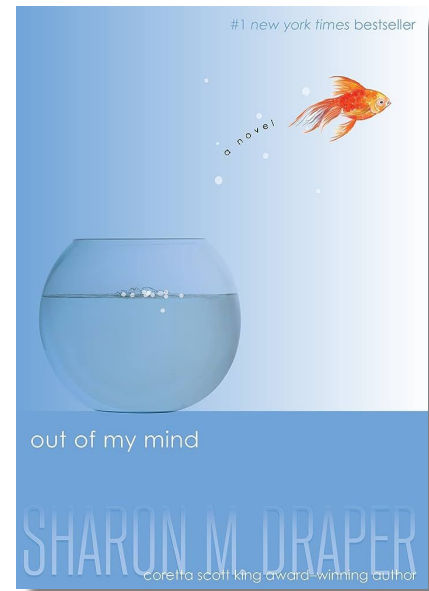
**KID TO  
KID**



## BOOK REVIEW

### OUT OF MY MIND

Word count: 56,872



This book holds a special place in my heart; it's one of my all-time favorites. It tells the story of an 11-year-old girl named Melody who lives with severe cerebral palsy, a condition that affects her ability to walk and speak. Despite her challenges, Melody's determination shines through. This touching story not only warms the heart but can also bring tears to your eyes. Sharon M. Draper, the author, is incredibly talented, crafting books that are inclusive and inviting to all readers.

Written by Brinley Burman.

**WRITTEN  
FOR KIDS,  
BY KIDS**



# KID TO KID



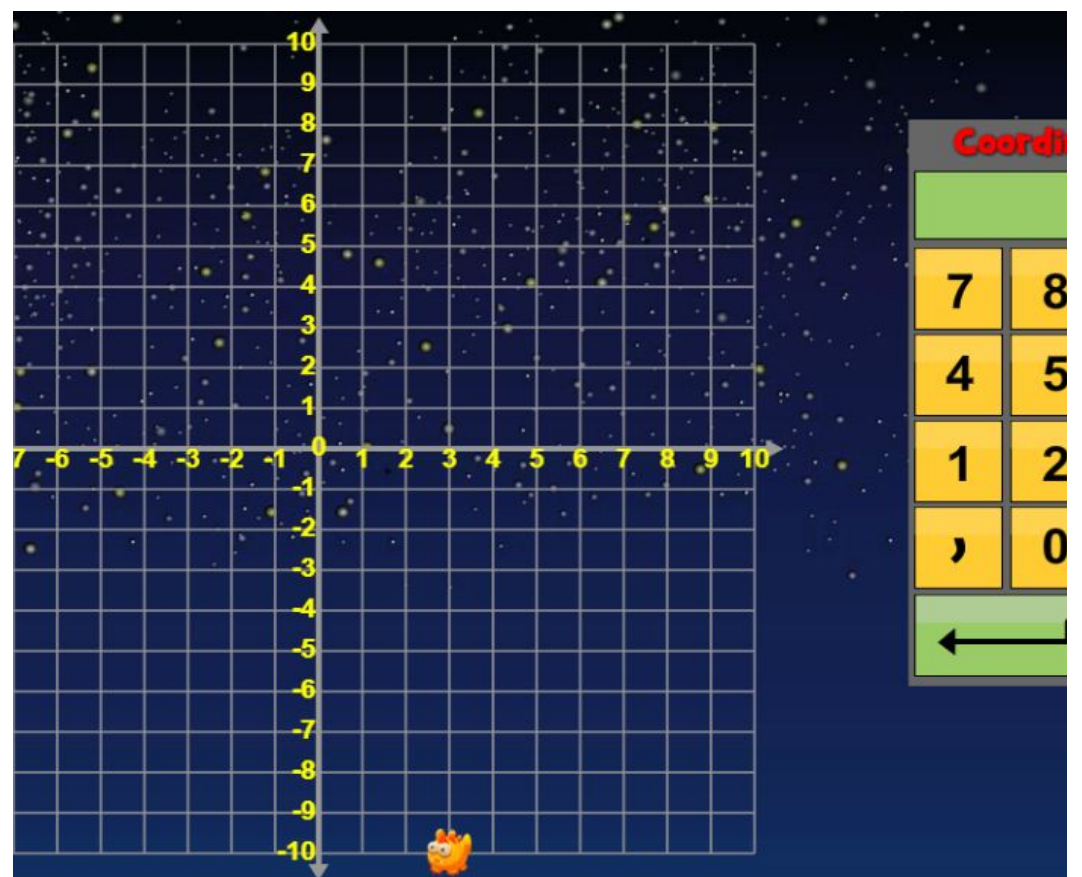
## EDUCATIONAL GAMES



This game, part of PBS Kids games, is called the Ice Cream Problem—a fun way to tackle challenges! The game introduces various concepts you might encounter in a quiz later on. During the quiz, you're presented with a question and three possible answers. If you answer correctly, you're rewarded with food jumping out of the hopper (or sometimes, electricity). However, choosing the wrong answer prompts an X to appear on the selected hopper. Not to worry, though! A girl guides you through the question, providing assistance and explanations to help you find the correct answer.

*By Chase Burger*

Welcome to Rescue Mission! In this thrilling game, your mission is to rescue stranded aliens using your coordinate skills. You'll use the pad on the right to input coordinates. As depicted in the picture, this game is a fantastic way to sharpen your grid skills while having an out-of-this-world adventure!



**WRITTEN  
FOR KIDS,  
BY KIDS**

# KID TO KID



www.timvandevall.com

© Tim's Printables

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FOR KIDS,  
BY KIDS



# International Baccalaureate

## INQUIRING MINDS

**FACTS ABOUT WINTER**

**WINTER**

*December January February*

**MADEWITHHAPPY.COM**

**The Largest Snowman** was 122 Ft. Tall

**The 1st Winter Olympics** was in 1924

**Meteorological Start Date** December 21st OR December 22nd

**Meteorological End Date** MARCH 19TH OR MARCH 20TH

**Snowflakes** Have 6 Sides

**The Chinese Plum Tree** blooms in winter

**Some Animals** Hiberante For Winter

**North Pole** has a day of 24 hour darkness

**Winter Astronomical Start Date** December 1st

**Winter Astronomical End Date** February 28

**Monarch Butterflies** Migrate Each Winter

**Most Snow Angels** was 8,962 students





# Raising Royalty

Royal Crest Dairy is partnering with your school! Sign-up for our home delivery service using your code [RRERR](#) to receive 20% off your groceries. Royal Crest Dairy will then donate \$100 to your school.

Share with your family and friends! Donations accumulate with each new customer and fund local education and extra-curricular activities in your community. Support your school and enjoy Royal Crest Dairy's fresh dairy and Colorado Proud products!

## What do you get with Royal Crest Dairy home delivery?

- Fresh groceries delivered conveniently to your door
- Locally sourced Colorado Proud items from familiar brands
- Trusted delivery by the same milk person each week
- Time-saving meal options for busy families
- Great tasting milk for almost 100 years!



Sign-up today with this code.  
Share it with friends, family, and neighbors!

**20% OFF  
GROCERIES**

COUPON CODE:  
**RRERR**

RoyalCrestDairy.com



*Sign-up  
here!*



Please reach out to [rockridgepto@gmail.com](mailto:rockridgepto@gmail.com) if you have any questions!

**KID TO  
KID**



# OUR RRE NEWS CREW!

Rock Ridge Review



2023-24  
**Kyreena Pervere**

**PRESS**

Rock Ridge Review



2023-24  
**Brinley Burman**

**PRESS**


Rock Ridge Review



2023-24  
**Mila Cer**

**PRESS**


Rock Ridge Review



2023-24  
**Destiny Godsey**

**PRESS**

Rock Ridge Review



2023-24  
**Chase Burger**

**PRESS**


Rock Ridge Review



2023-24  
**River Mercer**

**PRESS**

Rock Ridge Review



2023-24  
**Adalee Skipper**

**PRESS**

**WRITTEN  
FOR KIDS,  
BY KIDS**



**MS. KAI**