

Ridge Road Reporter

January 2026



Dear Parents,

I hope all of our Ridge Road Families had a wonderful holiday break! This month's newsletter contains an update from our school nurse, PTO news and some important dates to mark on your calendars. Please take a few minutes to review everything with your child.

Starting on January 13th, we will conduct our Aimsweb winter benchmark assessments for all students in grades K-4th. These screeners give us a snapshot of how each student is progressing with their ELA and math skills. Your child's individual information will be shared with you with the 2nd marking period progress reports at the end of January. Also, on January 30th, our 3rd and 4th grade students will be participating in the practice simulation for the NY State tests. This practice simulation takes about 45 minutes and is to make sure our laptops and all school technology is ready for the actual assessments this spring. It also gives the students a glance at what the state tests will look like when they participate this spring.

Please note that we are hosting a **Family Swim Night on Friday, January 9th from 6:00-8:00 pm at the HS pool.** Also, the **Ridge Road Talent Show will be on Thursday, February 5th at 6:00 pm in the HS Auditorium.** Please look for additional information and sign-up forms coming home this week with the students.

Wishing you the best in 2026,

Anne-Marie Manikowski-Bailey
Ridge Road Elementary Principal

PTO News

- **Meeting:** Wednesday, January 14th @ 6:30pm in Ridge Road Library – Free Babysitting!
- **Family Swim Night:** Friday, January 9th @ 6-8pm in HS Pool
- **Questions?** ridgeroadschoolpto@gmail.com
- **Officers:** President: Miranda Rice
Vice President: Sarah Swimelar
Co-Treasurers: Nadiya Auerbach & Angela Fitch
Secretary: Kristi Coldiron
Fundraising Coordinator: Samantha Moon

Important Dates

- Monday, January 5th: School back in Session
- Friday, January 9th: Family Swim Night 6-8pm- HS Pool
- Wednesday, January 14th: Principal Chat with Mrs. Bailey 5:45pm
- Wednesday, January 14th: PTO Meeting 6:30pm
- Thursday, January 15th: BOE meeting @ Intermediate School 6pm
- Friday, January 16th: End of Marking Period
- Monday, January 19th: No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Wednesday, January 28th: Report Cards Go Home

Outdoor Activity Time

The students at Ridge Road will go outside for physical activity and socialization on a regular basis. We try to go outside if the temperature is at 20 or above. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the colder weather and snowy conditions. Please do not forget to send **LABELED** boots, hats, gloves, and snow pants with your child daily. Please note that if students do not have proper gear, they will stay on the blacktop areas for outdoor time.

Devices and Toys in school

Please take a minute to remind your child that items such as toys, trading cards, game boys, and DS's are not allowed in school. We ask that children save these items for home use. Also, per NY State Bell to Bell Law, no internet enabled devices are allowed to be out in school, this includes cell phones and smart watches. Thank you.

January Character Education Trait

Our Character Education Trait for January is Fairness. Students will be focusing on activities that teach about fairness for everyone and will also be learning about people that represent this trait in history.

Please also discuss fairness with your child at home.

Ideas for discussing fairness:

- Sharing treats at home: "I cut, you pick"
- Acting out skits about fairness
- Talking as a family about why games have rules
- Discussing with your child what they think fairness is

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlyn DeFilippo, Title IX Coordinator, or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845 (607) 739-5601.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Ridge Road is Anne-Marie Bailey. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any Ridge Road student should be referred to Mrs. Bailey at 607-739-6351.



RIDGE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NURSE NOTES

- **RECESS** – The students will continue to have outside recess weather permitting and a winter coat as well as hats, snow pants, boots and gloves will be needed.
- **DONATIONS** – Thank you to those who have sent in donations. They are greatly appreciated. We currently need boy and girl pull on pants and long sleeve shirts sizes 4-14.
- **PARTY TREATS** – All treats need to be in their original sealed packaging as well as have an ingredient label easily visible for me to check for student allergens.
- **SCREENING REFERRALS** – reminder to those who have received hearing or vision referrals for your student to return the form to me once you have been seen by an audiologist or ophthalmologist.
- **MEDICATIONS** - Per NYS/District protocols a provider order is required for all over-the-counter medications (cough drops) Please do not send these items in with your students.
- **HYDRATION**- It is common this time of year for students to experience dry lips & skin. Hydration is very important. Please send in a refillable plastic water bottle daily.
- **Two-hour delay** – medications scheduled for 8:30am can NOT be given at 10:30am. Please plan to give your students morning medication at home. **Breakfast is also NOT available.**

Please feel free to contact me: Karena Bifano MSN RN

Kbifano@horseheadsdistrict.com 607-739-6351 opt. #3





Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

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12/11/25 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Horseheads Contact: Hailea Potter, Community Information Specialist/(607) 739-5601, x4295

**HORSEHEADS CSD PARTNERS WITH UNITED WAY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER TO PROMOTE
DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

Partnership Aims to Expand Early Literacy Opportunities for Local Families

Horseheads Central School District and United Way of the Southern Tier have teamed up to grow enrollment in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program that provides free books to children from birth to age five.

Reading with your child is one of the most important early activities for setting them up for lifelong success. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, sponsored locally by United Way of the Southern Tier, delivers an age-appropriate book each month, addressed to the child, creating excitement and helping children develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading. All books are provided at no cost to families.

"Early literacy is foundational to everything we do," said Thomas J. Douglas, superintendent of Horseheads Central School District. "Programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library strengthen that foundation by giving our youngest learners access to books and the opportunity to build strong reading habits from the very beginning."

"At Horseheads Central School District, we are committed to ensuring that every child not only learns to read but also discovers the joy of reading. Our dedicated staff focuses on building word recognition and language comprehension, yet we recognize that developing strong reading skills is a shared responsibility with families and the community," said Anthony Gill, assistant superintendent of Horseheads Central School District. "Through our partnership with the United Way of the Southern Tier, we are able to support this shared goal. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library helps put books into the hands of pre-school children and their families, fostering a love of reading at home. We are grateful to the United Way for supporting this important work."

Any child under age 5 in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, or Yates counties can enroll, regardless of family income. More than half of all young children in the local community receive these books each month.

"In the past year, more than 600 children under age 5 living in the Horseheads District received books through this valuable program," said Maleaha Smith, president and CEO of United Way of the Southern Tier. "Working with the Pre-K classrooms to reach families who have not yet enrolled their children will advance our shared vision of empowering the next generation of young learners."

United Way's chapter of the Imagination Library has reached more than 11,500 local children since it began in Chemung and Steuben counties in 2018. Another 500 children have been served in Schuyler and Yates counties with the rollout of the Imagination Library in those counties in 2024.

To register a child for free books or check availability in your area, [visit the Imagination Library website](#).

For more information about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, email [United Way of the Southern Tier](#) or call 607-936-3753.

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Engaging Parents & Caregivers

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library encourages good reading habits for parents, caregivers and their children. When your child receives their Imagination Library books, we ask you to do the following:

1

Begin reading with your child immediately

2

Read to your child at least 5 days per week

3

Read books multiple times

Snuggle, ask questions, notice letters, make sounds, have fun!



Each year, our esteemed Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee, a specially selected panel of early childhood literacy experts, is responsible for reviewing hundreds of potential titles for inclusion in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

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Thank you so much for the books! I love reading them to my daughter, some I had never read, and some I loved as a kid. It is an awesome program and my 3 year old LOVES getting her own special mail every month.

- Parent

My kids absolutely love getting their books in the mail every month! My husband and I read to our kids every night and enjoy the variety of stories we get to introduce them to. It was hard to pick just 3 that topped our lists, since so many are a huge hit in our house. Awesome program!!!!

- Parent



Parents & Caregivers

Setting Up Children for Future Success

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is the flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Tennessee organization. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting FREE books to children from birth to age five. The program is made possible through funding shared by Dolly Parton herself, and local Program Partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world. There is never a charge to families who participate in the program and it is open to all children under the age of five in geographic areas with operating programs.



As a parent or caregiver, reading with your child is one of the most important activities you can engage in to help set them up for success.

Dolly believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything and be anything. Through her Imagination Library, Dolly wants to ensure every child can feel the magic that books create.

Register your child today and begin receiving one free, high-quality, age-appropriate book each month for your child, birth to age five. These books are personalized with your child's name and mailed directly to your home to create a one-of-kind gifting experience.

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“The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.”

- National Commission on Reading



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[ImaginationLibrary.com](https://www.ImaginationLibrary.com)