



## **Executive Summary/School Accreditation**

**2015-2016**

### **Description of the School**

Silver Ridge Elementary School is located in the suburban town of Davie, Florida. There are currently 1134 pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade enrolled students. Silver Ridge is over-enrolled by 132 students. It is operating at 113% of its capacity. Despite the availability of new charter schools, the number of students has continued to increase over the last three years. The number of students is projected to continue to increase. 86 of our students come to us as the result of reassignment from other schools. Silver Ridge has adopted a co-teaching model on several grade levels to accommodate the needs of our ever growing student population.

39% of students receive free/reduced lunch. 51% of students are considered to belong to a minority group. 49% of students are white/non- Hispanic, .082% of students are black/ African American, 35% are Hispanic, .0035% of students are Indian, .044% are Asian, and .035% of students are from 2 or more races.

Silver Ridge has a high staff retention rate. 97% of teachers are designated "highly qualified." There are 75 teachers and 28 paraprofessionals on staff to meet student needs. The majority of instructional staff members are teaching in their area of certification (97.5%). 11 teachers are National Board certified.

Our community is constantly changing as our population grows and diversifies. Over the past ten years, we have seen increases in the number of students who are traditionally at the greatest risk for facing educational disparities. Every day, Silver Ridge welcomes these students and prides itself on continuing to embrace every individual who comes on campus.

### **ESE Program Summaries**

Silver Ridge is home to ten ESE programs. Silver Ridge also offers a Gifted/High Achieving class on every grade level, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>. At Silver Ridge, we are fortunate to provide a variety of programs that meet students' various needs, including but not limited to specialized instruction for those with intellectual disabilities, pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade; push-in and pull-out services for varying exceptionalities; speech, language, occupational, and physical therapies; and part-time and full-time pre-kindergarten programs for children with identified speech, language, and/or developmental delays. At Silver Ridge, we provide the opportunities and support for each child to participate and learn to his/her fullest extent possible.

**Walk-In Therapy:**

A walk-in therapy program for speech or language may be considered for any eligible child whether or not the child is in a private preschool, a day care program, or at home. If the child is eligible for speech or language, he/she may receive these services on a walk-in basis at the public school closest to the home. Typically, the educational need of preschool children in this program is in the area of communication. This service MUST be staffed with a certified Speech/Language Pathologist (SLP).

**AM/PM Model:**

This model provides a half-day ESE program for students with speech, language and/or mild developmental delays. The curriculum focus is on communication and social skills for those students who do not require the intensity of a full day program. Typically the educational needs of the preschool children in this program are in the areas of language and communication, which may impact social-emotional, cognitive and/or independent functioning. This class MUST be staffed with a Speech Language Pathologist who is also certified in Pre-K Primary or Preschool Education, and one teacher assistant.

**Integrated Preschool:**

This model provides an inclusive full day program for ESE children to interact and work with typically developing peers. The curriculum focus is on instruction in readiness, communication, and independent functioning and social skills. Typically, the educational needs of the preschool ESE children in this program are in the areas of cognition, communication, social-emotional and independent functioning. This classroom is staffed with one Pre-K Primary or Preschool Education state certified teacher and one teacher assistant.

**Specialized Preschool:**

This model provides a self-contained program for ESE children with developmental delays. The curriculum focus is on instruction in readiness skills, communication, independent functioning and social skills. Typically, the educational needs of the preschool children in this program are in the areas of cognition, communication, social-emotional and independent functioning. This classroom is staffed with one Pre-K Primary or Preschool Education state certified teacher and one teacher assistant.

**Intensive Preschool:**

This model provides a self-contained program for ESE children who require intensive instruction in all domains and a highly structured classroom environment. The curriculum focus is on instruction in communication, independent functioning, social skills, and pre-academics. This classroom is staffed with one Pre-K Primary or Preschool Education state certified teacher and assistant.

**School's Purpose:**

The mission of Silver Ridge Elementary is to provide a secure, positive environment through an ongoing holistic educational program that will foster self-esteem and take into account individual differences and needs of the school and its community. It takes working together to develop:

Productive Thinkers, Respectful Citizens, Intelligent Minds, Dedicated Individuals and Excellence in Education.

**Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement***Achievements***Academic Excellence:**

Each year, public schools in Florida receive a school grade of A, B, C, D or F based primarily upon achievement data from the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test, or FCAT. An "I" indicates scoring is incomplete. School grades indicate how well a school is performing based on state standards. For elementary and middle schools, the grades are based entirely on FCAT results. Silver Ridge Elementary has earned an A rating for 8 consecutive years.

**Silver Ridge Silver Pals:**

Third and fourth grade students at Silver Ridge Elementary participate in the Silver Pals program. This program is comprised of students in general education classrooms who visit peers that have physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Classroom visits provide the opportunity: for peer tutoring, building tolerance and understanding for others, and for modeling good citizenship. Students participate in the following activities: buddy reading, completing floor puzzles, working on math and language arts skills, assisting with computer activities, practicing fine motor skills, socializing, and reviewing sight words...and that is just a few! The third and fourth graders have taken their newfound "teaching" positions with incredible grace, patience, and maturity. Students look forward to biweekly visits because they enjoy spending time together. As one of the third grade students stated, "My week is not complete if I don't get to spend time with my buddy". It is clear that both groups are learning from one another and forming special friendships.

**Project Perch:**

SRE students give a hoot! In early January 2016, Silver Ridge Elementary students joined forces with The Town of Davie and Project Perch to dig new homes for burrowing owls. The morning began with a presentation from Vice-mayor, Susan Starkey and Avian Biologist, Kelly Heffernan. We learned that the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport was concerned about the owl population near their runways and was looking for a place to relocate them, hopefully keeping the community of burrowing owls together. The Town of Davie jumped at the chance to "adopt" the whole colony. All they needed were diggers! So on that beautiful sunny Saturday, with shovels bigger than they were, our Silver Ridge environmentalists headed for our section of the open space and began digging. We needed much guidance from our Everglades National

Park Naturalist, Chris Reiss along with a lot of elbow grease! Most of us had never dug a hole. After considering the proper depth and dimensions to accommodate the prefabricated owl dwellings, it took many hands to break through the topsoil. Eventually, our Silver Ridge children scooped out enough earth to sink two artificial burrows into Westridge Park. Soon, owls from the Fort Lauderdale airport will be relocated there, and we hope they decide to stay! Burrowing Owls are a species of special concern in Florida because available and safe open space for their burrows is becoming increasingly hard to find. These owls are crucial to the balance of nature in the area as they keep the snake, mouse and insect populations at bay. It was rewarding to practice being good stewards of the earth, and we look forward to visiting "our" owls in their new homes as soon as they're settled in.

**Broward County P3 Challenge:**

The Broward County P3 Challenge is a collaborative effort with Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division and the Environmental Education Council of Broward County. The P3 Challenge consists of 6 categories; School Grounds Enhancement, School Sustainability, Curriculum Integration, Community Involvement, Administrative Support, and Special Project/Innovation. After review of our application, we were awarded \$2000 as the overall county winner. Thanks to winning Broward County's P3 Eco Challenge (P3= Protecting our Planet for Posterity.), we had the funds to grow an additional reading garden outside our media center. We are grateful to The Town of Davie Arboretum for a lovely white crepe myrtle that shades a corner of this new green space and to Whole Foods Market for providing us with another majestic shade tree.

**Department of Education Green Strides Tour:**

Silver Ridge Elementary School had the honor of being a stop on the U.S. Department of Education's Green Strides Tour in 2014. Distinguished members of the tour included Andrea Suarez, Falken director of the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, and Greg Ira, director of the Office of Environmental Education and Sustainable Initiatives, and representatives from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. We are so honored that our school was chosen as the only elementary school stop on the tour. After a short student-led presentation, our children guided the way through campus sharing their expertise of our school's green spaces. Along the tour, our Atala butterfly rose from their overnight roost in spectacular glory, wowing the crowd almost as much as our students' commitment to protecting our planet!

**Golden School Award:**

Additionally, our school has received Golden School awards for parent volunteers. The total number of volunteer hours equaled/exceeded twice the number of students enrolled during an academic school year. Silver Ridge has been a proud recipient of the Golden School award for over 20 years.

**Silver Ridge Aftercare:**

Silver Ridge Aftercare is a childcare program operated by the School Board of Broward County. The program offers families a safe and enriching environment for students upon the conclusion of the school day. From 2:00-6:00PM, students are provided with opportunities to play outside, cook, complete academics, utilize the computer lab, participate in team building activities and play indoor games. Students in grades 1-5 are given assistance in completing homework and a quiet, stress-free atmosphere is created for them during this study time. Children are arranged into groups with peers in the same grade level. The Silver Ridge Aftercare program offers extended hours on early release days to meet the needs of families. The program is made possible by the dedication of a responsible and caring staff, the support and understanding of our school community, and the enthusiasm of students who continue to join us year after year. Silver Ridge's aftercare program was a recipient of the Afterschool Quality Child Care Award, awarded by the BASCC.

#### *Areas of Improvement*

Despite experiencing an increase in the number of students considered disabled, economically disadvantaged, ELL, and/or belonging to a minority group, Silver Ridge has continued to demonstrate academic excellence. In addition, our school has continued to grow in student enrollment despite area charter schools that have been competing for students.

Although Silver Ridge provides an atmosphere of academic success and a rich family inclusive atmosphere, we continue to raise our standards. After careful analysis of data, Reading has been identified as an area for targeted improvement. Although, the decreases in student performance can be directly linked to the increase in academic rigor instituted by the state of Florida, increasing the achievement of all student is a top priority. Additionally, data indicates the need to improve the attendance in kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4 grades. Through PLCs, professional learning communities, our faculty has had the opportunity to acquire skills to enhance staff and student technology skills, to focus instruction on Florida standards, to collect data to assess and guide the instruction of struggling students, and to increase the rigor of instruction. Additionally academic intervention groups have been instituted to meet the needs of students.

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#### **Additional Information**

Silver Ridge has 180 parent and community volunteers who assist our school on a regular basis. Our school has an active Parent Teacher Organization. Silver Ridge offers many opportunities for parents and guardians to engage in their child's education. There are many special family events to engage students, families, and the community.

#### *Community Involvement*

##### **Student Council:**

Student Council consists of elected representatives from each class in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The club organizes a variety of fundraisers for both our school and community. The first one is

the **Harvest Drive**. During the first two weeks of November, students from all grade levels donate non-perishable food items for the drive. Student Council members inspect and organize the items before delivering them to Western High School. This drive helps some of our most vulnerable populations living in our community. As a collaborative effort with other Broward County Schools, there were over 10,000 recipients of food donations this year.

The next major fundraiser is the annual **Toy and Dollar Drives**. Student Council members promote the drive and encourage their fellow students to donate new and gently used toys for kids of all ages. The items are distributed to children in need of holiday cheer. The Dollar Drive collects money that is allocated to pre-selected families so that they may receive some of the requested items on their lists. Student Council then shops for and delivers the gifts. This drive primarily assists our own school's community, but any extra toys are donated to the Broward County Public School's toy drive. This year we had a total of 14 families, three for whom we shopped and 10 of whom received boxes of toys and gift cards to Publix/Target. The Student Council Officers go shopping with the Student Council advisor, Principal and Assistant Principal. The officers sit down, read the "wish list" and discuss their plan of how they can best utilize the funds to grant the wishes of the families they serve. They work on budgeting for clothes and toys for their assigned family, but the overall experience is priceless.

Student Council representatives also facilitate communication with students. The representatives go back to their own classrooms and that of their paired primary class in order to inform these students of how many families are being assisted and the current fundraisers being hosted.

#### **Ecology Corps:**

Silver Ridge Elementary School has an afterschool Ecology Corps. These students take on beautification and conservation projects throughout the school and were more than willing to move into our community to make a difference. Students meet every Thursday from 2:00 until 3:15. They begin with a review and discussion of conservation topics using the *Journey for the Planet* workbook as our guide. Based on their discussions, follow-up activities have included: refreshing the school's recycling procedures, writing public address announcements for WSRN (our school's morning announcements channel), maintaining the butterfly gardens, and caring for the designated *Reading* and *Fountain of Youth* gardens. This year we began raising flags that represent the air quality for the area each morning. The flag color provides information to our community and is explained in an announcement on WSRN to keep our student body aware of the cleanliness of our air for the day.

#### **Honor Flight:**

Silver Ridge collected \$800.00 for the Honor Flight, which helps to send a veteran to Washington, DC to visit the World War II Memorial. Student letters to our veterans also touched the hearts of those who served this great country. The soldiers who received the letters from children were very appreciative of their expression of kindness and support.

#### **The Mayor's Mile Challenge:**

The Mayor's Mile Challenge is a fun way to get our families together and promote getting some exercise. Silver Ridge has been involved in this event since its inception two years ago. The

students and their families are encouraged to sign up to walk a mile in order to raise money for the local Police Athletic League. A percentage of the money raised comes back to our school. This family-fun event takes place early on a Sunday morning. The local police block off the mile route that goes through downtown Davie, FL. Once the walk is over, there are many businesses that offer free items to the participants. This community event really gives us all a down home feeling that can only be experienced in Davie.

**Jump Rope for Heart:**

Every year, Valentine’s Day is celebrated by gaining an awareness of how to keep our hearts healthy. Our Physical Education teacher, Ms. Griffin, and our supportive PTO organize the annual Jump Rope for Heart event. During the event, families are encouraged to sponsor their children by making donations to the American Heart Association. In addition to raising funds and awareness, students strengthen their own hearts through exercise. On Valentine’s Day or the closest school day, the entire school jumps rope for 30 minutes!

*Student/ Family Events*

**Jingle Jog:**

The Jingle Jog is a school-wide family event. Prior to Winter Break, the Davie Police Department facilitates creating a safe path for all students to walk/run in and around the neighboring Bamford Sports Complex. The course is also accessible to our students in wheelchairs. The activity emphasizes the importance of healthy minds and bodies. Parents are encouraged to share the day with their children.

**Silver Ridge Safety Patrols:**

Silver Ridge Safety Patrols are student volunteers in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. A Safety Patrol’s job is to model for students the safety rules that have been taught in the classroom and to assist students in safe transitions throughout the Silver Ridge campus. This promotes the development of leadership skills and good citizenship qualities. As school-age leaders, they serve as role models for the younger children who look up to them. School Safety Patrol members gain safety awareness, leadership, teamwork, pride and citizenship. These students receive instructions in safety guidelines and procedures during their training, and this content is reinforced through regular meetings. Duties of all patrols are to compliment students observed following safety rules, to remind students of safety rules when appropriate, and to report for duty in a consistent and timely manner.

**Math Club:**

The Math Club consists of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who have demonstrated a profound interest in mathematics and a desire to grow their skills. These students are chosen by their teachers after thoughtful observation and consideration of their in-class assessments, mathematical processing skills, and ability to work well with peers. The Math Club meets at least twice per month in order to prepare for the annual competition each March. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders each form teams with four members and one alternate. The team component of the competition is

worth 20% of competition points, and the remaining points come from each student's individual test results.

**Spanish Club/Competition:**

The goal of our Spanish Club is to prepare for Broward County Public School's World Languages Competition. The club is open to 4th and 5th graders and currently has 23 members who meet for one hour after school twice a month. The meetings consist of a variety of activities: Students get to know one another, learn about the competition, discuss project choices, enjoy snacks from Spanish-speaking countries, make Guatemalan worry dolls, and more. Later in the year, students begin working on their projects for the competition. The categories from which they are able to choose are the following: declamation (reciting a poem in Spanish), poster, new media, 3-dimensional art/craft project, talent (song or dance), and skit. Silver Ridge has received recognition for the following achievements: 1<sup>st</sup> place- Talent/Dance, 1<sup>st</sup> place- Skit, *Little Red Riding Hood*, 1<sup>st</sup> place- Declamation, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place- Place Poster, and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place- Place Project. The students will also present their projects during Silver Ridge's Night of the Masters in May.

**Edible Garden Club:**

The edible garden club is sponsored by Ms. Katya Lopez with the help of other classroom teachers and parents. Students are taught the basics of planting through hands-on lessons. All garden activities include math (through garden design) and language arts (through garden journaling) and nutrition. These lessons allow students to be actively engaged and develop a pride in their work. The students feel as though they are a part of their school community. Students learn to take care of their environment while learning how to use the natural world to better themselves.

**Roving Reporters:**

Roving Reporters on WSRN is a student-run television production program that focuses on providing 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with hands-on experience producing digital news stories. The program promotes both literacy and STEM technology usage while providing students with the necessary skills to become career-ready in the 21st century. The program is facilitated by the non-profit organization Chester is Cool and its founder, Sean Russell. Founded in 2006, Silver Ridge Elementary became the first school to pilot the Roving Reporters program in Broward County.

**Night of the Masters:**

Night of the Masters is a student showcase that focuses on the curriculum of our activity programs: Art, Spanish, STEM Technology, Music, Physical Education and Library/Media. Students who excel in various areas are chosen to perform or display their masterful art/work products. The PTO has often been involved with the event by offering baked goods or a light dinner. Parents and members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend the event to see what amazing things the students at Silver Ridge Elementary have accomplished throughout the year in these specialized areas.



**Primary Reading Challenge:**

The Primary Reading Challenge is an annual event. Students in grades K-2<sup>nd</sup> are challenged to read one hundred books from the Reading Across Broward Log. Many of these books are award-winning and inclusive of multiple reading levels and preferences. Any student who reads one hundred books will be rewarded with a delicious breakfast during the month of April. Students are allowed to wear their pajamas to this special breakfast and will be presented with a special certificate to commemorate their dedication to reading. In addition, students have the opportunity to listen to stories read by our school administration.

**Barnes and Noble Family Literacy Events:**

Silver Ridge holds a Barnes and Noble Family Literacy event at least once per year. It is always based around an inspiring theme, and activities reflect the theme or topic. Past themes have included Makerspaces, Start a Summer Reading Buzz, Winter Wonderland, and a Tyler Whitesides author signing. A portion of all purchases is donated back to the school in the form of a Barnes and Noble gift card. Former students, parents, teachers and administration volunteer to supervise activities that are placed around the store. Students and their families enjoy these literacy-based activities in an exciting community environment.

**Book Fairs:**

Silver Ridge holds two book fairs each year. The first is in October and the second is held in March. These book fairs run for about seven days, and all students have the opportunity to shop during their scheduled media class. The book fairs always focus on a theme, and the decorations, contests, and literacy activities correspond to that theme. Additionally, two family events are held during each fair; both a morning event and an evening event are scheduled to allow for maximum participation and accommodation of varying schedules. A percentage of the purchases is returned to the school as cash or book profit. Silver Ridge PTO raised approximately \$10,000 annually from our book fairs. Last year, several iPads and new library furniture were acquired with this money. We will continue to purchase additional furniture and technology during the current year. We also work to ensure that Silver Ridge students and our community consider those children who may not have the means to partake in the purchasing of books. \$1 donations are collected to provide these children with the opportunity to participate in the buying of a book.

**Author Visits:**

Reading is a skill which is strengthened through repeated practice. One of the best ways to motivate reading is through author visits. Each year, we bring authors to our campus to visit with students. This provides an authentic experience for students to see the value of reading and writing. They are able to meet the person behind the words of the books they adore. Authors share their inspiration and habits for writing. Teachers make connections between the curriculum and themes or topics in the books. Personal interaction between the students and the author increase the child's motivation and engagement to read the book, and reading the book becomes a more personalized experience. Typically students are able to purchase personalized and autographed books. This helps to extend the experience beyond a one day

visit and into a lifetime of cherished memories and literature. This year's authors include: Ryan Higgins, Tyler Whitesides, William Sydnor, and Tamera Wissenger.

**Coding:**

Grades K-5<sup>th</sup> participated in the International Hour of Code Week. In preparation for this event and to build the technology skills that students will utilize for a lifetime, students attend STEM regularly as a special. Students are able to gain practical skills by learning how to navigate the many facets of computers, and they are able to enhance their understanding of technology through instruction in coding.

**STEM:**

At Silver Ridge Elementary, we believe that all students can benefit from a thorough education in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). To meet the needs of our students and encourage their interest in the many benefits of a STEM education, we developed a STEM specials class that is provided to all students at all levels. When Pre-K comes to the STEM special, the students work on a program called I-Station, which immerses pupils in learning letters in a fun way. Kindergarten students work on keyboarding skills and basic computer literacy. They work on Keyboard Zoo and Typerocket Junior. These two programs make learning the letters on the keyboard enjoyable. Then they progress to using the Microsoft Word program. These activities provide support in learning letters and enhances knowledge of where the letters are on the keyboard. Students progress to typing whole sentences. Later, they will read simple stories on the computer and demonstrate understanding by retelling events. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders work on Dancemat Typing, which is an extensive program that teaches students how to type. There are 12 stages and a total of four levels. Students are tested at the end of every level before they go to the next. Once students have gained keyboarding skills, they begin to explore the website [code.org](http://code.org) and learn to write computer code on their own. The culminating activity will be for students to participate in an engineering project.

Grades 3-5 are totally engaged in STEM and participate in several projects. After a quick review of the typing skill at the beginning of the year, they work in teams of four to complete projects. Each team is assigned one of seven habitats (ie. arctic-Greenland, Amazon Rainforest, desert-Arizona, etc.). One team member researches the habitat, while the other three research animals that live in that environment and comprise a food chain. Next, students work together to solve a hypothetical problem concerning those animals. They also complete oral presentations. In addition, students learn to write binary code. Pupils listen to low and high pitch sounds to decipher the binary code. Grades 4-5 draw, in code, a simple beam bridge. Their engineering project is to build a bridge using materials of their choice. They learn about how forces act on the bridge and test the bridges to see if it can hold up. They also do an egg drop activity for engineering. They design a protective barrier to prevent their egg from cracking when dropped from the second floor of a building on campus. Finally, grades 3-5 will finish the year by doing keynote presentations. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is assigned national parks, 4<sup>th</sup> grade researches national landmarks, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade works on international landmarks. Grade 3 will respond to the problem: How can an animal survive in a particular climate? Grades 4 and 5 research a person associated with the landmarks. Students dress as their person and present

autobiographical information. Projects enable students to explore our world, become independent thinkers, and solve real-world problems.

**Tana-kee-kee:**

Silver Ridge has participated in a school-wide learning experience called Tana-kee-kee for 20 years. At Tana-kee-kee, a class from every grade level brings to life a different culture of Florida's vast and varied early history, creating a tradition that still remains today. Students spend several weeks researching and preparing for the event. During our Tana-kee-kee celebration, staff, students and parents spend the day at the Ridge sharing the knowledge they gained over the past few weeks. Each grade level is assigned a different role that relates to a part of Florida history. The students dress in costume, and we maintain a campsite with supplies to enhance its authenticity. Throughout the day, students rotate to all five campsites. Kindergarten students play the role of Seminole and Pioneer children. They make puppets of Florida creatures and give a brief summary of the facts they found. First grade students play the role of Citrus Growers and teach their spectators the importance of Vitamin C and where it comes from. Second grade students play the role of Cowboys and Ranchers. They teach good old-fashioned cowboy dancing and horseshoe tossing. Third grade students play the roles of Frank and Ivy Stranahan, owners of the very first trading post in Florida. At this campsite, students are allowed to trade a craft they made. Fourth Grade students are the Seminoles. They teach their visitors about wars, clans, and other aspects of early Seminole life. Finally, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students represent the Military from the 1800's. They pitch tents and teach the visitors how to march. All students keep a special Tana-kee-kee journal that they add to each year. By the time they graduate it is filled with special memoirs, information, poems, songs and photos.

**Grade 2 Annual Cultural Awareness Day:**

Cultural Awareness Day is an annual event for our Grade 2 students. It is the culminating activity following a classroom guidance lesson on understanding, appreciating, and celebrating diversity. Each year, six parent/family member volunteers prepare a 20 minute presentation on the country/heritage they wish to share. Students rotate through presentations, learning a little about each culture along the way. Some of the experiences students have had through the years include sampling food items from various countries, learning a dance, viewing artwork and artifacts from various countries, dressing up in clothing/costumes of the region, hearing children's stories or learning games from a certain part of the world. Students often opt to assist their parent with the presentation of their culture which is especially meaningful as the students begin to see aspects of their classmates they may not have seen before and realize that we are indeed, different and the same.

**100<sup>th</sup> Day of School:**

Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students mark the arrival of the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school in grand style. Students participate in themed art, cooking, music, math, social studies, and literacy activities. First graders transform themselves into 100th Day superheroes. They arrive at school disguised as centurions! After performing a series of 100<sup>th</sup> Day secret missions, they become 100<sup>th</sup> Day heroes. The celebration integrates curriculum, reinforces number sense, and

builds concrete understanding of a variety of mathematical concepts. It is truly a day to remember.

**Octoberfest:**

On October 31<sup>st</sup> (or the school day closest to Halloween), all Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes participate in the annual Octoberfest celebration. Parents are invited to come and share the day with their children. The morning begins with a school-wide costume parade that allows students to display their school-appropriate costumes. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students dress as famous scientists and give biographical reports in their classrooms about their scientist of choice. After the parade, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students participate in fall-themed activities. The activity booths are set up in one of our school's courtyards, and they are supported by the cooperation of faculty/staff and volunteers. At the booths, students participate in art projects, physical education challenges, culinary experiences, and math activities. It is a wonderful fall-themed day of family fun.

*Parent Teacher Organization*

**The Back to School Bash:**

The Back to School Bash is held in early September in the Silver Ridge cafeteria. The event has provided an opportunity for students and families to get together to celebrate the beginning of the school year and to raise money for the PTO. A DJ has provided entertainment and food was available for purchase from Papa John's, Subway, Chick fil A and a bake sale. A raffle was held for students to shadow a teacher or administrator for a day. This fun and successful event gets our students ready to bring their enthusiasm for education into their classrooms for the upcoming school year

**Bingo Night:**

PTO will host the third annual Bingo Night in the Silver Ridge cafeteria. This is a wonderful night in which families come out and play bingo together. The MC for the evening is Mr. Sean Russell from Chesteriscool.com. Food, drinks, snacks and desserts are available for purchase. In addition, there are raffles and a silent auction featuring tickets to theme parks and attractions such as Disney World, Sea World and Universal. Bingo Night is fun evening for the Silver Ridge community, but it mainly serves as a fundraiser for the PTO that will support meaningful experiences and events throughout the school year.