

**Welcome To The  
Red Pine PTO  
2009-2010**



**Red Pine Elementary School  
530 Red Pine Lane  
Eagan, MN 55123-2183  
651-423-7870**

**<http://www.district196.org/rp/SchoolComPTO.html>**

## **What is the PTO?**

PTO stands for Parent Teacher Organization. All parents and teachers at Red Pine Elementary School are members of the Red Pine PTO.

The PTO Board is made up of four individual members who serve as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Secretary and Treasurer serve two years each. The Vice-President serves one year, followed by a year of serving as President.

The 2009-2010 PTO Board is made up of the following individual members:

President:	Trisha Nelson-Chetek
Vice-President:	Jeannette Appold
Treasurer:	Sarah Draxler
Secretary:	Brenda LaChance

## **When does the PTO meet?**

The PTO generally meets the first Thursday of every month, September through May, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Twice a year we meet from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. This allows more teachers to attend the meetings immediately after school. If there is a conflict with another school function (i.e. music program, family fun night), the meeting is scheduled for a different week that same month. All meetings are held in the Media Center (Library) on the lower level of the school.

## **Who can attend the PTO meetings?**

All parents and teachers are invited and encouraged to attend. We are always looking for input regarding PTO matters. The more people in attendance at the meeting, the better the needs of the children are represented.

## **What does the PTO do?**

The PTO:

- plans and sponsors fundraisers
- decides how to spend money from fundraisers
- plans and sponsors family night events throughout the year
- organizes staff appreciation events
- sponsors various school day events throughout the year
- subsidizes field trips, class parties, Halloween costumes, and more for Red Pine families in need

### **Why all the fundraisers?**

We want all children attending Red Pine to have a great school experience. While the school budget allows for most things, there are always new experiences and equipment that we want for the children. Fundraising allows us to pay for large expenditures, such as playground equipment and new computers, as well as fun activities and visits from authors and artists.

### **What is the primary fundraiser planned for the 2009-2010 school year?**

Our main fundraiser is Innisbrook and it takes place in the fall. A catalog of wrapping paper and gifts will be sent home in your child's Friday Folder. We earn approximately \$25,000 a year from this fundraiser.

### **Can I send a donation to the school instead of participating in the fundraiser?**

Yes. Please make your check payable to "Red Pine PTO" and return it with the Innisbrook voucher. Returning the voucher is important as it allows us to track participation. You can also send a check anytime throughout the year. Also, many companies allow employees to donate to a school and receive a company match. Check with your place of employment.

## **What other fundraisers does Red Pine do throughout the year?**

Our more passive fundraisers include:

- Barnes and Noble Book Fair
- Gertens Plant Gift Cards
- Box Tops for Education/ Milk Caps Redemption Program
- Simplified Scrip
- Monthly food nights
- Donations from Target and United Way

## **What does the PTO sponsor?**

The PTO sponsors the following programs for your children:

- Artist in Residence Program: Local artists are brought into the classroom to share their talents with the students.
- The D.A.R.E. Program: A graduation and music program is held for the families of fifth graders upon completion of the D.A.R.E. program.
- Friday Folders: These are sent home with your child each Friday and may contain schoolwork and communications from the school & district.
- Grandparent/Special Person Day: Second grade students invite a grandparent or special person to come to school with them for a day.
- Author Visits: Most years an author is brought in to talk to the children about writing. This is partially sponsored by the PTO.
- Other miscellaneous requests as deemed appropriate throughout the year.

## **What committees exist within the Red Pine PTO and what do they do?**

- Art Adventure: Parent volunteers, who are trained by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, visit classrooms and provide programs to enrich each student's understanding of artwork and to stimulate their imagination.
- Book Fair: The book fair is held each fall at the Apple Valley Barnes & Noble. The proceeds from this fair are used to purchase books for the Red Pine Media Center and classroom libraries.
- Box Tops for Education/ Milk Caps Redemption Program: The Red Pine PTO participates in the Land O'Lakes and Kemps milk cap programs. Milk caps will be collected on the Box Top for Education dates, which are noted on the school calendar.
- Family Fun Events(Check the school calendar for the dates and times.)
  - Fall Costume Ball: The Fall Costume Ball is held one evening in October in the Red Pine gym. There are fun activities for the entire family.
  - Skateville Night: A family night of fun at Skateville in Burnsville.
  - Arts Night: Arts Night at Red Pine is held in the spring. Student artwork is displayed throughout the school and all families are invited to attend.
  - Twins Night: The PTO sponsors Twins Night for Red Pine families. Families can order tickets through the PTO and attend a Twins game together.
- Fundraiser: Innisbrook is our major fundraiser, held in the early fall. Approximately \$25,000 is earned each year through this fundraiser.
- Garden Committee: The Garden committee is made up of Red Pine families who volunteer their time to keep the Red Pine landscaping beautiful.
- Plant Gift Cards: Gerten's plant gift cards are sold by the PTO in the spring to help support Red Pine's outdoor gardens.
- Hospitality: The Hospitality Committee provides a "thank you" each month to different groups of classroom teachers, specialists, and support staff.

- **School Directory:** The Red Pine Directory is published each year for the use of Red Pine families only. (Listing family information is optional, but encouraged.) Directories will be sent home in Friday Folders when completed.
- **School Pak:** School Pak is a service offered by the PTO that allows you to order your child's school supplies and have them ready for pick-up at the school Open House.
- **Simplified Scrip:** Your purchase of certain gift cards through Simplified Scrip helps support the programs sponsored by the Red Pine PTO.
- **Spiritwear:** The PTO Spirit wear committee sells Red Pine Cardinal clothing such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, headbands and jackets. New items are available each year. This is not a fundraiser, but a service offered to Red Pine families. An order form will be sent home in your child's Friday Folder.
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** The PTO Volunteer Coordinator matches volunteer opportunities with volunteers.
- **Welcome:** The PTO Welcome Committee provides information and assistance to new families at Red Pine.

### **How can I get involved?**

We're glad you asked! All families will be receiving a volunteer form on which parents can note the areas they would most like to volunteer. Names will be sent to the committee chair people who will contact volunteers.

You can also come to the next PTO meeting. You may sit quietly in the back or jump right in. The monthly meeting is the place where ideas are heard and decisions are made. These decisions affect the entire Red Pine community and that includes you and your child.

Can't wait until the next meeting? We understand. Email one of the board members and let them know how you would like to volunteer.

## PTO BOARD 2009-2010

President:	Trisha Nelson-Chetek	<a href="mailto:tnc1216@frontiernet.net">tnc1216@frontiernet.net</a>
Vice-President:	Jeannette Appold	<a href="mailto:jeannette.appold@thomsonreuters.com">jeannette.appold@thomsonreuters.com</a>
Treasurer:	Sarah Draxler	<a href="mailto:sdraxler@aol.com">sdraxler@aol.com</a>
Secretary:	Brenda LaChance	<a href="mailto:brenda@lachancehome.com">brenda@lachancehome.com</a>

## PTO MEETING SCHEDULE 2009-2010

All meetings are 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Red Pine Media Center unless otherwise noted.

September 10<sup>th</sup>

October 1<sup>st</sup>            4:30-6:00 PM

November 5<sup>th</sup>

December 10<sup>th</sup>

January 7<sup>th</sup>

February 4<sup>th</sup>

March 4<sup>th</sup>            4:30-6:00 PM

April 1<sup>st</sup>

May 20<sup>th</sup>