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- Another Culver's Night!
- What is SchoolConnects?
- Find out all about the Barnes and Noble Book Fair



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# The Red Pine TREEbune

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November 2009  
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Red Pine Elementary School 530 Red Pine Lane Eagan, MN 55123 651-423-7870

## Principal's Column

Dear Red Pine Families,

I'm often asked what exactly the Red Pine staff does on our professional development days in which students are not in school. The easy answer is that we work very hard, but I thought I'd go into a little more depth into what was accomplished this past week.

We began our day with technology training in particular ways to improve professionally. So much of the information management part of our jobs has gone online and unlike most corporations, we do not get time or financial resources to train staff in these new areas of technology. Thus, it was important to take a short time to gain as much knowledge in the area of technology as possible.

We then took some time reviewing and clarifying our building emergency plan. We have very specific procedures for all staff to follow dependent upon what emergencies may come up at our school. We are one of very few schools that have actually practiced a parent reunification drill, but feel that our proximity to some significant industries makes this an important thing to do. You may have heard that there was a bank robbery in Rosemount recently and at that time we went into a high security mode as soon as we were notified. You never know what may happen so we

need to always be prepared to keep our students safe.

The majority of our day was spent working on developing learning targets in the area of mathematics for each grade level. Every team met to determine "essential learnings" or what exactly it is that students need to know to be successful in math at their particular grade level. As Mal Pancoast stated, "The odds of hitting your target go up dramatically when you aim at it". We want to post learning targets for our students so they know exactly what it is we expect them to learn. You may see some of these targets posted around the school in the near future.

Other parts of the day were used for such things as specialists, special education staff and specialized staff meeting with other teachers in their area of teaching focus. Classroom teachers also spent time preparing for conferences, putting additional data into online data management systems and other important tasks. We can always use more time and professional development days, but are thankful for every minute we get to serve our students and families.

Sincerely,  
Gary Anger

## Thank You So Much!

Thanks to the Red Pine students for bringing in 40,000 pennies to get Mr. Anger off the roof. This money will go right to our PTO and back to our students this year!

# Dates to Remember

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**11/3** – School Board Election - No evening events

**11/5** – PTO Meeting – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**11/6** – Science Museum Assembly for Grade 4 (9:30-10:30) and Grade 2 (10:40-11:40)  
**11/6** – Red Pine Campfire at Lebanon Hills Visitor Center – 7:00 PM

**11/7** – Parent Education Conference – 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - EVHS

**11/10** – Math Olympiad Contest #1

**11/12** – Site Council Meeting – 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**11/13** – School Store  
**11/13** – Barnes & Noble Book Fair All Day – Apple Valley B&N only

**11/20** – Student Council Sponsored “College Sports Day”

**11/25** – All School Turkey Bingo – 2:40 p.m.

**11/26-11/27** – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

**11/30** – Health and Fitness Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m. - Library

## SchoolConnects Calls for Parent Notification

District 196 subscribes to the SchoolConnects service to quickly notify households by phone in the event of an emergency situation or change to the school schedule such as a weather-related cancelation, late start or early release.

SchoolConnects has the capacity to send a pre-recorded message to thousands of phone numbers in a matter of minutes.

Our school can also use the service for emergency notifications, if necessary, as well as occasional non-emergency calls to let you know about important dates such as statewide testing or an all-school event.

You do not need to subscribe to receive the SchoolConnects notifications, but should make sure our office has the correct emergency contact numbers for your child. These emergency contact numbers are also listed for your child in the SchoolView student information and parent portal system. The SchoolView database is continually updated and phone numbers are uploaded to SchoolConnects weekly.

In the event of a school schedule change related to weather, the district will complete only one call per child, starting with the primary (home) number and moving to parent cell and work phone numbers, as needed, until a call is answered by a person or recording machine/service. In the event of a true school-wide or district-wide emergency, calls may be initiated simultaneously to all numbers listed for each child. Duplicate numbers are not called.

## November Culvers Night

Bring your friends, neighbors and relatives to our next Red Pine's Night at Culver's Restaurant on November 17th!

Each 3rd Tuesday of the month, we will be having a Culver's

Fundraising night. We will receive 10% of all sales from 5-7 that night. The money earned from this will be going towards our Families in Need program. This is a great night to come out to Culver's, mingle with other Red Pine families, and support our school. Culver's is located at 3445 Oleary Lane in Eagan.

## PTO Directory

The 2009-2010 PTO Community Directory is now ready. It will be sent home with the oldest & only child of each family (one per family please). If there are mistakes in this year's directory I apologize in advance. Please notify me of any errors so that it can be updated for next year. Thank you.  
Sarah Draxler, [sdraxler@aol.com](mailto:sdraxler@aol.com).

The Red Pine Garden Committee would like to thank Pack 455 and Troop 455 for their help with watering and weeding the gardens over the summer. Another thank you goes out to Mrs. Gerten's spring gardening class for their help with cleaning up and planting last spring.

# Nurse's Note

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## Influenza-like Illness

Red Pine has seen students with influenza-like illness, and we continue to appreciate the efforts of parents and staff to reinforce good hand washing habits and respiratory etiquette with students. It is also important for students to remain at home when they are ill.

We are tracking symptoms of influenza-like illness for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in an effort to monitor trends of influenza-like illnesses. MDH has asked us to report absences of students with

influenza-like illness symptoms AND absences of students who are absent for unspecified illness. **When calling your child in absent due to illness, please be prepared to report whether your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, and a cough or sore throat (other symptoms of influenza-like illness may include headache, runny nose, body aches and fatigue). This information will insure our report to MDH is as accurate as possible.**

Please continue to reinforce with your children the importance of

hand washing, covering their cough and avoiding touching their eyes, nose or mouth. According to MDH, students and staff who experience fever of 100 degrees or higher, and a cough or sore throat must remain out of school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, which is typically 5-7 days. Before such time they can spread the illness and should not be in school. This also insures they get the rest they need. Thank you for your help during this unprecedented flu season.

## News from the Social Worker

Winter is coming in quickly this year. As the days get colder, I am reminded that many families are challenged with a variety of issues at this time of year. I have mentioned a couple of programs that provide assistance through this challenging time.

### **Community Action Council Armful of Love Program**

Armful of Love is a service to help families who are unable to afford holiday gifts for their children. Families will be asked to provide financial need and other information to be eligible. Families wishing to apply for the program may call **952-985-4065**, starting Monday, **October 12** to make an interview appointment. Interviews will be conducted at:

501 East Hwy 13, Suite 102,  
Burnsville, MN 55337.  
To be a Sponsor or donor call 952-985-4067.

To volunteer your time contact Hillary Mealman at 952-985-4022.

### **MN Cold Weather Rule & Energy Assistance**

The cost of heating our homes during a Minnesota winter can add strain to any family's budget. Families do have a few options when that strain becomes too much. Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule offers families some flexibility when utility bills become difficult to pay during the coldest months of the year. Contact your natural gas or electric utility provider now and set up a Cold Weather Rule payment plan.

HeatShare: 651-322-3500.

CAP Agency- Energy Assistance: 952-432-6699

Dakota County Economic Assistance: 651-554-6511

**Please come see me with any questions regarding community resources.  
I will also be posting Community Resources outside my office door at Red Pine.**

**Julie McMonagle, LGSW  
Red Pine School Social Worker  
651-423-7870**

# Innisbrook

## **It's A Jungle Out There!**

2009 PTO Fund-Raiser

Innisbrook Gift Wrap & Chocolates

**Red Pine Elementary raised over \$20,000!!**

to support PTO programs and activities. These funds will also help us reach our goal of having additional SMART Board projectors in classrooms as well as meeting any additional technology needs.

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraiser!**  
**Thank you to each volunteer who helped with order processing and product pick-up!**  
**Thank you to the Red Pine teachers and staff!**



## Dairy and More Bring Dollars to Red Pine

3-A-Day is a not only a good choice for healthy teeth and bones, but a great way for Red Pine Elementary to achieve additional funding to keep it a top notch school. Land O'Lakes, Kemps, and Nature's Choice have a variety of products with caps and labels worth a nickel each to Red Pine. A list of our participating vendors products can be viewed at their web sites listed below:

[www.savefiveforschools.com](http://www.savefiveforschools.com) (Land O'Lakes)

[www.kemps.com](http://www.kemps.com) (Kemps)

[www.milkmoola.com](http://www.milkmoola.com) (Kwik Trip's Natures Touch)

Our Milk Cap collection bin is located right around the corner from the main office. When sending your caps and labels in with your kids, remind them to deposit their caps and labels in the collection bin. If you visit the school for conferences, bring them in then!

So, the next time you visit Cub Foods, Rainbow, or Kwik Trip keep an eye out for Save-Five-for-Schools, Nickels-for-Schools, and Milk Moola. A quick rinse and snip will gain five cents towards bettering your child's education!

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## **Calling all 3rd - 5th Graders!** **COME SHOW YOUR PURPLE PRIDE!**

Minnesota Vikings Mascot VICTOR will be holding a pep rally Wednesday, November 18th, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in our school gymnasium. VICTOR will be promoting the "Fuel Up to Play 60!" program. This pep rally is brought to us by the Midwest Dairy Association and the National Dairy Council in conjunction with the National Football League. This initiative encourages kids to make healthy choices in low fat and non fat dairy, whole grains, fruits and vegetables and encourages kids to get 60 minutes of exercise a day. Remember to wear your purple and gold on Wednesday, November 18th. See you there! Go Team!

# Barnes and Noble Book Fair Q & A

**Q: When and where is the Book Fair?**

**A:** Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM TO 11 PM at the Apple Valley Barnes & Noble near County Rd. 42 and Galaxie Avenue.

**Q: Is this a fundraiser?**

**A:** Yes, with the emphasis on FUN! If we reach \$10,000 in sales (which we usually do), 25% of our sales come back to us in the form of Barnes & Noble gift cards, which are used by our Media Specialist to restock our library shelves. (If we fall under \$10,000, we receive a smaller percentage.)

**Q: Do we have a goal?**

**A:** We haven't set a goal per se, but since we have topped \$13,000 in sales in the past, it would be great to reach \$14,000. That would mean \$3,500 in new books for our kids! That is an average of about \$16 in purchases per child in our school.

**Q: Can we invite friends and family?**

**A:** Absolutely! They just need to let the cashier know that they are here with the Red Pine Book Fair.

**Q: Do only children's books count towards the Book Fair?**

**A:** No. That's the best part. You can buy any books, music, gifts, magazines, and café items.

**Q: What does NOT count towards the Book Fair?**

**A:** The purchase of gift cards won't count towards Red Pine sales, and neither will the purchase of a Barnes & Noble membership. (You can use your Barnes & Noble membership card to receive a discount on your purchase. That will lessen the amount that Red Pine will receive, since your total price will be less.)

**Q: Can I spend a gift card at the Book Fair and have it count towards Red Pine sales?**

**A:** Absolutely!

**Q: My child said we could buy a book for his teacher. Tell me about that.**

**A:** The teachers (classroom, specialist, and special ed) have assembled wish lists of books that they would like to have in the classroom. The wish lists will be at the Book Fair and Barnes & Noble will do their best to get all those books in stock. (525 have been requested!) You may purchase a book. Tell the cashier that it is for a teacher and your child will receive a book plate to sign before giving to their teacher. Not only does the teacher get a new book, but the school gets a portion back to purchase books for the library.

**Q: What can I purchase at the Café?**

**A:** WHOLE FROZEN CHEESECAKES FROM THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY and/or cupcakes can be pre-ordered. (Please call Barnes & Noble at 952-997-8928 no later than Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> to pre-order). Cheesecake Flavors include: Pumpkin, Plain, Neapolitan, and White Chocolate Raspberry. Whole cheesecakes are \$35 – great for holiday parties! Also available are soups, sandwiches, pretzels, hot & cold drinks, and a variety of bakery items.

**Q: I'm pretty busy that day and won't have much time.**

**A:** That's okay. You can pre-shop a day or two before and ask Barnes & Noble to hold your purchases for pick-up on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Then, on that day, you can stop by, pick up your items, pay for them, and get on your way.

**Q: What if the book I want isn't in stock?**

**A:** Order and pay for it the day of the Book Fair. It will help out Red Pine. Barnes & Noble will contact you when it is in.

**Q: Who are the authors I keep hearing about?**

**A:** Great question! Our theme this year is *Our Favorite Minnesota Authors*. We will be highlighting books by the following children's Minnesota authors. They have all generously donated signed copies of their books to be given away to our Red Pine students. Extra copies of their books will be on display for purchase. Check them out!

Check out **Our Favorite Minnesota Authors** before the Book Fair:

Warren Hanson [www.warrenhanson.com](http://www.warrenhanson.com)

David LaRochelle [www.davidlarochelle.net](http://www.davidlarochelle.net)

Mary Casanova [www.marycasanova.com](http://www.marycasanova.com)

Marion Dane Bauer [www.mariondanebauer.com](http://www.mariondanebauer.com)

Peg Kehret [www.pegkehret.com](http://www.pegkehret.com)

Nancy Carlson [www.nancycarlson.com](http://www.nancycarlson.com)

Kate DiCamillo [www.katedicamillo.com](http://www.katedicamillo.com)

**Q: When is the best time to come to the Book Fair?**

**A:** If you are looking to quietly purchase holiday gifts, come between before 4:00 PM or after 8 PM.

**Q: What happens between 4:00 and 8:00 PM?**

**FACE PAINTING!**

**GUEST READERS!**

**PRIZE DRAWINGS!**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!**