



Points of Interests:

- Picture retake day is October 26!
- Harvest Party Parade is early this year!
- Conferences are at the end of this month.
- Fall Family Fun Night cancelled.



Individual Highlights:

Dates to Remember	2
Free Parenting Conferences	3
Attendance Guidelines	3
PTO Page	4

The Red Pine TREEbune

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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 hope you have all had the chance to view the recent video of a father with his young daughter attending a Phillies baseball game. A foul ball was hit towards their section. The father stretched out over the edge of the upper deck and snagged the ball. It was a spectacular catch and most likely as a lifelong Phillies fan, his first souvenir ball from his favorite team! He gave high fives to all the folks around him including his little girl. He then handed her the ball and she promptly turned towards the field and threw the ball over the edge into the sea of fans below!

This father's reaction sets this situation apart from most and ingrains it into our memory. He threw up his arms in disbelief, looked at his daughter and then grabbed her so he could give her the warmest hug imaginable.

I watched this video clip with my family numerous times and we were touched by the images. One of my daughters stated, "Dad, I think that scene is kind of how you deal with kids who make mistakes at school". My other daughter then said, "You know what Dad, I prefer it when you deal with our mistakes with hugs way more than when you yell." Their comments as well as the video clip taught me an important lesson. Our love for our children is the most important

thing we can share.

We need to make sure that our children know that it is okay to make mistakes and that we will still love them. If they are misbehaving or making poor choices, our children need to know that we are not disappointed with them as a person, but with the action they have chosen.

I have to admit that I have been a bit harsh with my own children on a few occasions and I have always felt terrible afterwards. At these times, I reflect back on how I reacted to my children's mistakes and/or poor behaviors and tried to think of a better way to handle the situation. I strive to show them love as I address their mistakes.

Do not ignore your children's mistakes or poor behaviors, but let them know they are loved no matter what. I can tell by how terrific our students are that most of you subscribe to the practice of hugging your children regularly. I know that I try hard to be nurturing when dealing with a child's mistakes and/or poor choices at school and this has definitely had a positive effect on our students.

So please, the next time your child makes a mistake, hug them first and then figure out a solution.

Sincerely,
Gary Anger

Second Head of Household

For those families where each parent has a separate address, there must be a **Second Head of Household** form filled out and on file at school. These forms are available in the office.

Dates to Remember

10/1 – ESELL Field Trip to Apple Orchard – 9:50-12:30
10/1 – PTO Meeting – 4:30-6:00 p.m.

10/2 – Gr. 5 Field Trip to Renaissance Festival – 9:30-3:00

10/5-10/9 – Gr. 4 – Artist in Residence
10/5-10/9 – Food and Nutrition Services Appreciation Week
10/5-10/9 – Fire Prevention Week

10/7 – First Band Rehearsal
10/7 – Fire Drill – 9:45
10/7 – Fire Prevention Presentations: Gr. 1 – 10:00; Gr. 2 – 10:25; Gr. K – 10:50

10/8 – Red Pine Walk/Bike-to-School Day
10/8 – Site Council Meeting – 4:00-5:30
10/9 – School Store – 9:10-9:25

10/12 – Bus Evac Make-ups – 9:30

10/14 – QUEST Session A Ends
10/14 – QUEST Parent Musical – 9:30

10/15-10/16 – NO SCHOOL – Teachers' Convention

10/19-10/23 – Transportation Employees Appreciation Week

10/21 – MAP Testing Ends – Grades 2-5

10/22 – Innisbrook Fundraiser Pick-up 3:30-8:00

10/22 – Harvest Parade and Parties – K-AM at 10:15; K-PM – Gr.5 at 1:45 Parade; Parties 2:30

10/23 – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Staff Development Day for Teachers

10/26 – Picture Retake Day

10/28 – NO SCHOOL FOR HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN

STUDENTS ONLY

10/28 – Kg. Conferences- 8:00 -8:00
 Gr. 1 – 5 Conferences- 4:00-8:00

10/29 – NO SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

10/29 – K-5 Conferences 8:00 - 8:00

10/30 – NO SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND STAFF



Absence Reporting

Every day the office ensures each of our more than 800 Red Pine students are accounted for; either because the teacher's attendance reflects the child's presence at school or because the parents have informed us of their child's absence. As most of you are aware, our District has a Child Safeguard Policy which includes calling parents for each and every child that is not accounted for (after daily attendance has been taken by the classroom teacher). **It is very important that you remember to call the Red Pine office if for any reason your child is absent.** This includes vacations, doctor/dental appointments, illness, etc. **Red Pine Office: 651-423-7870.** You may call this number even outside of our regular office hours. If no one answers, you will automatically be forwarded to voicemail, or you may call voicemail directly at 651/683-6969, then press 37870. The voicemail is checked each morning. Thank you for helping keep our kids safe!

Attention Fifth Grade Band Families

Starting this fall, very little printed information will be sent home with students regarding band. Instead, most letters and other band communications will be sent out via email to a Red Pine Band email listserv.

All band families with email access are asked to sign up for this listserv so that Mr. Santori may keep you informed of what is happening in the Red Pine band. To sign up, please do the following:

1. Log on to the Red Pine website at www.district196.org/rp
2. Click on the Back Pack Online icon.
3. Enter your email address and name. Click on rp-band to sign up

for the band listserv.

4. Click on the picture of the backpack with a computer mouse attached.
5. You will receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription. Follow the directions in that email.

Please be aware that this email listserv will be Mr. Santori's main method of communicating with families this year. Be sure to sign up so you do not miss important announcements about band at Red Pine.

If you do not have internet access, please notify Mr. Santori by voice mail (651-683-6969, #92056) and you will receive paper copies of all band letters.

**"Children need love especially when they don't deserve it."
 Harold S. Hulbert**

Free Parenting Conference – Saturday, November 7



8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Eastview High School,
6200 140th St. W., Apple Valley

Hear keynote speaker,
Dr. William Doherty, discuss
*Too Fast with Too Much – How
to be a Grounded Parent in a
Crazy World.*

Learn upbeat parenting tips.

Choose 2 of more than 20
breakout sessions on topics of
interest to parents.

Visit with representatives of area
organizations offering a variety of
parenting resources.

**Make your reservation
today!**

Register online:
www.district196.org/ce or call
651-423-7920 for this free
seminar.

Childcare for children ages 2+ is
available for \$10 per family.

Childcare reservations are
required and can be completed
online or call 651-423-7920.

A Note from Innisbrook

Dear Red Pine Elementary Parents:

Thank you so much for your faithful participation over the years in your school's Innisbrook fundraiser. At Innisbrook we strive for excellence in everything we do. Our mission is to provide you with quality products, outstanding service, and an easier method for ordering.

While 367 of you last week successfully entered your orders on our new EZ Order Site, we know that others experienced delays and for that we sincerely apologize. We have from time to time over a few days experienced temporary issues with MCI and HP causing some sporadic downtime on our site. We are doing everything possible to eliminate those issues and you can rest assured that these issues will be fixed. This weekend, we installed another high speed server and worked around the clock to fix these issues.

Thank you all so much for your patience and your orders. We hope that you will continue to participate in raising money toward Red Pine's goal.

We appreciate your business and look forward to many years of serving your fundraising needs.

Sincerely,
Donna Mitchell
Regional Manager
Innisbrook Wraps

Attendance Guidelines

This is a reminder to our families about The School Attendance Guidelines. A major student responsibility at all grade levels is regular attendance. Many studies correlate regular attendance with success in school. Regular attendance means that the academic learning process is not interrupted, less time is spent on make-up assignments, and students benefit from participation and interaction with others in class.

In the state of Minnesota it is the parents' legal responsibility that all elementary age children attend school. Elementary age students who miss more than a combined total of 7 unexcused days of school are considered at risk for educational neglect and their parents are in violation of the state law on compulsory education.

Excessive absences and/or tardies may result in a letter of concern from the school. It should also be noted that three unexcused tardies may be considered as one unexcused absence. **If attendance does not improve, we are required to report families to the County for truancy.**

Excused absences:

- Illness
- Family emergency
- Funeral
- Religious Holiday
- Doctor's Visit

Unexcused Absences:

- Child overslept
- Parents did not know school schedule
- Child did not feel like coming to school
- Child thinks school is boring
- Child is babysitting younger Sibling
- Cold weather

We want to support parents and children so all of our students have the best attendance record possible and are learning to their full potential. If you have any questions please contact Julie McMonagle, School Social Worker at 651-423-7870.

INNISBROOK FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who made donations and purchases during our fall fundraiser. Although revenue increased after the deadline was extended, we are still \$5,000 short of our \$24,500 budgeted amount.

The next PTO meeting is Thursday, October 1st at 4:30 in the Red Pine Media Center. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be discussing budget cuts and focusing on fundraisers that are already in place. These topics will be discussed and voted on.

FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT CANCELED

At the September PTO meeting, we were unable to find a date for the Fall Family Fun Night due to conferences, MEA, and other conflicts. As a result, the decision was made to cancel it this year. However, we hope to include some additional events at our Spring Arts Night. Stay tuned for more information.

DIRECTORY DEADLINE

The 2009-2010 Red Pine Community Directory is nearing completion! Please be sure to turn in your signed form in order for your family to be listed this year. Forms are available on the Red Pine website www.district196.org/rp in the PTO section. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST DEADLINE

If you have not turned in your volunteer checklist, please do so as soon as possible. Our Volunteer Coordinator will pass the names on to the Committee Chair People who will contact potential volunteers about opportunities.

BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR

Friday, November 13th is our Barnes & Noble Red Pine Book Fair. Look for more information in Friday Folders in the upcoming weeks.

PTO BOARD 2009-2010

President:	Trisha Nelson-Chetek	tnc1216@frontiernet.net
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