



Points of Interests:

- We are still accepting ink cartridges and cell phones for recycling
- Read about school reminders!
- Innisbrook Fundraiser starting soon!



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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,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! I hope you had a fun summer and enjoyed time together with your family. Every new school year brings a sense of excitement for learning for everyone involved in great schools like Red Pine. As always, we are so happy to see our familiar friends again and also looking forward to building friendships with everyone new to Red Pine this year.

I'm a pretty heavy reader in the summer and one book that I read really hit home both personally and professionally. Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck from Stanford University shares that our success is not determined by our IQ or ability, but by the mindset in which we approach our life and learning. If we take an attitude of growth rather than being fixed upon our old ways, we will become better students, friends and relatives.

I'm sure you all know someone who is very intelligent, but because they are so

set in their ways and unwilling to change, they are unable to use the gifts they have. I can personally share that any success I've had in life has not been a result of being smarter than others, but by being open-minded to the ideas of others and having a mindset of growth. Both in my personal and professional life, I am fortunate to be surrounded by people like all of you who help me grow through change every day.

The beginning of a new school year is a great time to refocus and think of new ways to serve our children. I invite everyone in the Red Pine community to join the Red Pine staff in being open-minded this year and always looking for different ways to serve our children. By all of us modeling a mindset of growth, our children will see this and join us by learning more than we ever imagined they could. It is going to be an amazing school year thanks to all of you and our students!

Gary Anger,
Principal

Dates to Remember

09/09 – First day of Kindergarten

09/10 – PTO Meeting: 6:30 PM –
8:00 PM-Media Center

09/11 – Innisbrook Fundraiser Begins

09/11 – Patrol Training

09/14 – QUEST registration begins

09/18 – Bus Evacuation Drill

09/21 – MAP Testing Begins:
Grades 2-5

09/21 – Innisbrook Packets Due

09/22 – OLSAT Testing: Grades 3-5

09/22 – Destination Imagination
Information Night: 7:00 PM –
Media Center

09/23 – School Picture Day

09/24 – QUEST Session A Begins

09/25 – Student Council Sponsored
"USA-Red, White & Blue Day"

Policy Change

District 196 elementary schools are making a change in the way birthdays are celebrated at school for the benefit of our students' health and wellness. Beginning in fall 2009, students will no longer be allowed to bring food or small gifts such as pencils and stickers to share with other students. Some of our schools have used this birthday practice successfully for several years.

Despite this change, birthdays will continue to be fun events for students and classroom teachers will recognize them in special ways on their special day.

The primary reason for this change is to comply with our district's wellness policy on making healthy choices as required by Section 204 of the Child, Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. The change also addresses increasing concerns about students affected by food allergies and childhood obesity. These are safety and

Visitor Sign-In

We are asking that ALL persons who enter the school check in at the office. Everyone who enters the instructional area must sign in and wear a name badge or volunteer button. You will be approached and asked to sign in at the office if one of these is not visible on your person. Please do not be offended. Also, please wait in the main foyer or outside to meet your child at the end of the day. If you need to go to the classroom, you must sign in and take a badge before 3:45 PM. Thank you for helping make our school a safer place for your children!

health issues we must take very seriously. The new birthday practice is also sensitive to the economic struggles some families are currently experiencing.

We strive to provide a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating choices and physical activity. This change incorporates current research to create guidelines that will help all of our students to make healthy choices. If you are interested in reviewing our district's wellness policy, it is available at:

<http://www.district196.org/district/schoolboard/policies/500/508.pdf>.

Thank you for cooperation as we implement this change beginning this fall, at the start of the 2009-10 school year.

Sincerely,
Gary Anger, Principal

Lunchroom Visitors

Due to the large student population at Red Pine, our cafeteria has little extra seating for visitors that may want to eat lunch with their child. We ask that if you come, ***you would be the last seated out of the class*** so that the majority of the students can sit with their own class to eliminate any tears from displaced students. Thank you for your understanding in this sensitive matter for our children.

YES! WE STILL RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES AND CELL PHONES...

We greatly appreciate your continued support of our students and technology at Red Pine with your donations of used printer cartridges and cell phones!!

•F.A.Q.•

What does the money that is raised support?

- The money we raise will be used to purchase software and media equipment that will be used by your children at Red Pine.
- This year's funds will be used to make improvements in the computer lab.

How do I participate?

- Simply send your recyclables to school. There is a drop box in the office and another in the computer lab.

What items can I send?

- We collect used cell phones but not their accessories, chargers, or manuals.
- We collect a large variety of empty ink-jet and laser printer cartridges. A complete list of the qualifying items is available at www.fundingfactory.com. (Click on the link to "Qualifying Lists".)

What if I have too much to send to school with my child?

- If you have 100 or more items to donate we can send UPS to you. Contact Mrs. Skalski for information about direct UPS pick-up.

REvolution Competitive Swimming begins September 14!

Develop the skills and conditioning needed for competitive swimming. Practices are scheduled five times per week. Inter-squad meets will be scheduled during practice time. Swimmers are encouraged to attend at least three times per week and swim in inter-squad meets.

For more information, visit <http://www.district196.org/cewww/Aquatics/REV.cfm> or call 651-683-6879.

Nutrition Newsflash

Welcome back to school meals! Nutritious food is directly linked to student achievement, and we all want to “grow” healthy students who are ready to learn.

SchoolView

We encourage the parents of elementary school students to sign up for SchoolView, a FREE and convenient way to access information about your child’s meal account. FeePay can be accessed through SchoolView, and payments can be made to your child’s meal account using a credit card (with 4% charge) or checking/savings account transfer. Parents can also utilize the low-balance alert feature in FeePay to eliminate receiving the blue low-balance notes. Please contact your child’s school to sign up for SchoolView.

Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Students who qualify for *free* meals are eligible to receive both a free breakfast and a free lunch each day. Students who qualify for *reduced-price meals* may receive a free breakfast and lunch for \$.40 per day. Please contact your child’s school for breakfast serving times.

Local Lunch

We plan to offer a “Local Lunch” each month featuring a food item that is grown in Minnesota as a way to bring the Minnesota farm-to-school activities to our students in the district. Be sure to ask your child about the fresh, locally grown corn-on-the-cob that will be served in school cafeterias on Sept. 29. October will feature grass-fed beef hot dogs from Cannon Falls.

Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™

Remember to celebrate Family Day, a national initiative to remind parents that what your kids want at the dinner table is you! The parental engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep kids substance-free. Family Day reminds parents that “Dinner Makes a Difference!”

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.

Back to School Reminder

SAVE YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLY RECEIPTS AND SAVE MONEY ON YOUR STATE TAX RETURN!

Information Provided by Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance Tax Law Project

MINNESOTA EDUCATION CREDIT AND SUBTRACTION

You may be able to claim a state tax credit or subtraction for costs related to your child’s education. This covers children in kindergarten through high school. The maximum credit is \$1,000 per child and eligibility is based on your family’s income. Anyone can take the subtraction regardless of income.

To claim the credit or subtraction save receipts for your children’s school supplies, including pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, calculators, etc. You can also claim expenses for things like: tutors, academic text books, fees paid to others for transportation, music lessons, after school academic programs and academic summer camps. Additionally you can claim the cost of computer hardware and educational soft ware (up to \$200).

To claim the credit you will need to fill out Schedule M1ED with your Minnesota State Tax Form, to take the subtraction use the worksheet on the back of Form M-1. Remember you MUST save the receipts from your purchases to the claim the credit or subtraction.

For additional information and a more detailed list of what expenses can be claimed go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue Website www.taxes.state.mn.us and enter the search term “Education Credit and Subtraction”.

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 or 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!

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
- Extreme family emergency
- Funeral
- Religious holiday
- Doctor's visit, including mental health

Unexcused Absences

- Child overslept.
- Parents did not know school schedule
- Child did not feel like going to school.
- Child thinks school is boring.
- Child is babysitting a 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.

Medieval Fair at Caponi Art Park

History should not only be experienced through a textbook— Escape to a place where chivalry is alive and well, and where lords and ladies enjoy combat tournaments of honor and valor: it's time for the annual *Medieval Fair* in Dakota County!

The Society for Creative Anachronism, a historical recreation nonprofit, brings the Middle Ages to life in the woods of Caponi Art Park with authentic pavilions on display in a Medieval Village. Artisans and noblemen in period dress will present interactive demonstrations and activities, including **music, rapier and armored combat, weaponry and armorers, period games, bone carving, fiber arts & more!** **This is a great educational event for youth and adults of all ages and can enhance your student's learning experience. This is a FREE outdoor community event (\$4.00 per person suggested donation).**

Medieval Fair will go on rain or shine except in the event of severe weather or heavy rain. **Caponi Art Park** is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday through October and is located on **1220 Diffley Rd in Eagan** east of 35E, between Pilot Knob Rd and Lexington Ave.

Caponi Art Park and Learning Center is an independent non-profit organization that relies on donations from people who enjoy the park and its programs. For more information about Caponi Art Park and the *Medieval Fair*, visit www.caponiartpark.org or call 651.454.9412.

Day Care Forms

A new **Transportation for Students in Day Care** notice needs to be filled out each time there is a change in your child's day care or any time your child is coming from or going to an address other than home for after school care. Please remember this is the only way we have of communicating with transportation the bussing needs of your child and ensures a safe and smooth release time for your child. **A new form needs to be filled out each new school year** so the bus route can be adjusted accordingly in the fall. Please call Jo or Janie at 651/423-7870 if you need a form. Thank you for your cooperation. Forms may be returned to Red Pine- we will forward to transportation

PTO Pages

WANTED: Art Adventure Volunteers

If you are interested in or love art and have a desire to share your enthusiasm with Red Pine students... then this is the volunteer opportunity for you. You do not have to be an art expert!

Art Adventure is sponsored by the Red Pine PTO and done in conjunction with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Volunteers visit Red Pine classrooms to show students reproductions of art that are on display at the MIA. As a volunteer you will talk with the students about the art shown in the reproduction and lead the discussion.

You will not go into the classroom unprepared! The MIA provides a three-hour training session and written training materials (as well as the reproductions we show the students). As a group, we volunteers will meet and discuss presentation times and ideas to help us prepare for our classroom experience.

This is a volunteer opportunity in which you will be as rewarded as the students. Volunteers repeatedly are awed by the insights into the art that our children provide. The students are remarkable and it is a pleasure to be a part of this learning experience!

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, you must act now! Our deadline for scheduling you into a training session at the MIA is coming up. If you would like to find out more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact me. It is truly a rewarding experience.

PTO Art Adventure Committee Co-Chairs:

Cari Reichenbach ctreichenbach@comcast.net
651-454-3305

Dione DeMartelaere ddemartelaere@comcast.net
651-423-2756

Coming Soon!

The Red Pine Community (phone) Directory will be published again this year for the parents/guardians of Red Pine. Please look for the

contact sheets to be sent home with your child in their Friday Folders the first week of school. Please complete the form

whether you would like to be in the directory, or not. We want everyone included that wants to be. Thank you!"

You're Invited!

The PTO invites all parents and teachers to attend the PTO meetings this year. 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. If you are unable to attend the meetings but would like to volunteer, look for the volunteer form that will soon be arriving in your child's Friday Folders, or contact one of the members of the PTO Board.

PTO MEETING SCHEDULE 2009-2010

The next two meetings will be held in the media center:

September 10 th	6:30-8:00 PM
October 1 st	4:30-6:00 PM

Look for the red booklet, "Welcome to the Red Pine PTO", which will be sent home in this week's Friday Folder.

PTO BOARD 2009-2010

President:	Trisha Nelson-Chetek	tnc1216@frontiernet.net
Vice-President:	Jeannette Appold	jeannette.appold@thomsonreuters.com
Treasurer:	Sarah Draxler	sdraxler@aol.com
Secretary:	Brenda LaChance	brenda@lachancehome.com



Innisbrook

It's A Jungle Out There!

2009 PTO Fund-Raiser
I Innisbrook Gift Wrap & Chocolates

The Innisbrook Fundraiser is the Red Pine PTO's major fundraiser of the year. For every item sold, 50% will go to support activities to enrich our student's education. Money raised will 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.

Over the past ten years this event has raised more than \$279,000 for Red Pine Elementary. We hope that you will continue to support this important Red Pine PTO Fundraiser.

Order unique gifts for your babysitter, secretary, grandparents and corporate giving!

Mark your calendar!

Sept 11 (Fri)	Packets go home
Sept 21 (Mon)	Order Vouchers and check(s) due at school
Oct 22 (Thurs)	Product Pick-up: Red Pine Gym - 3:30-8:00

Big Changes This Year!

- ___ Carefully read both sides of the instruction sheet in your Innisbrook packet.
- ___ All orders must be entered on the Innisbrook website. Go to www.innisbrook.com and select EZ to enter your order. Our school number is 102127. If you have questions or don't have a computer, call Innisbrook toll-free at 1-877-525-5608 and they will take your order.
- ___ After entering your order in the computer, print the sales voucher and attach your check(s) made payable to Red Pine PTO. **Return only the voucher and checks to school.**
- ___ Keep your catalog and order worksheet at home. Do not return them to school. You will need your order worksheet to help with delivery of your products!
- ___ Encourage out of town friends and relatives to order! See side 2 of the instruction sheet for more details.

As Always...

Sell only to people you know. *Parents must accompany students during selling.*

Every order is important! Thank you for your participation!

Any questions? Call PTO Fundraiser co-chairs:
Ann Simms 651-452-1411 Julie Herron 651-452-0564

Support your school by participating in the Red Pine PTO Innisbrook Fundraiser!

Below are some of the PTO activities and events that are made possible, in part, by the money raised during the Innisbrook Fundraiser:

Art Adventure
Book Fair
Fall Costume Ball
Skateville Night
Arts Night
Twins Nights
Garden Committee
Spiritwear
School Directory
Kindness Retreat
Artist in Residence
DARE Graduation
Literacy Connection
Turkey Bingo
Tile Project
Author visits
And many, many more!

The PTO has also provided funds to Red Pine for the purchase of literacy materials, computer and technology upgrades and many other items that have enhanced the learning environment for our children.

**Please continue to support these programs by participating in
the Innisbrook Fundraiser. Thank you for your support!**

Thank You!

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.