



Pine Ridge Elementary

4613 South Pine Ridge Road

Birdseye, IN 47513

Phone (812) 817-0900

Fax (812) 326-2016



I'd like to thank our staff, students, and families for being well prepared for the start of the school year. It was a great first three days at Pine Ridge Elementary School. Our students have done a great job with our **new procedures** for the bus, entering the building, in the hallways, at recess, while at lunch, or visiting the restroom and all of the other changes to what we consider normal procedures. Our students have been awesome and I appreciate their patience and flexibility.

School and classroom **newsletters** contain a lot of valuable information. My newsletter is posted on the [Pine Ridge Website](#) under Newsletters. I usually leave them posted for 6 weeks. There is a lot of information in this newsletter. Please take time to read the entirety.

We will have our first ever **Paragon eKickoff** on Thursday, August 20th. Martha Steckler and her team will push out a kickoff celebration to our classrooms to share with our students. Paragon has the greatest impact on what we can afford to do for our school. Paragon fundraising pays for supplies, field trips, technology, school improvements, playground equipment, murals, student celebrations, and much more.

This year, PTO funds have provided some student protective gear and accessories in preparation for returning to school. Many of you have or will see lanyards and bands that attach to student face masks. This is an example of something we didn't expect to pay for, but they were paid for with PTO funds and sewed by volunteers. Our PTO has provided other items such as hand sanitizer and additional student supplies and materials to ensure students are not sharing certain items in the classroom or outside of the classroom. **C.A.R.E.S. funding** was released to public and private schools over the summer and has been used to provide needed cleaning equipment and more expensive protective gear for our schools. But, the formula set by the federal government does not benefit the demographic profile of the Southeast Dubois County Schools. This is why Pine Ridge PTO funds and funds left over from grants such as Tools for Schools and UPGRADE have been used to provide gear and more expensive items such as water filler stations. You can view final allocations [here](#) on the Indiana Department of Education website. These allocations follow the standard Title fund formulas that dictate Local Education A.

The PTO has set an **ambitious goal** of raising \$15,000 this year to fund our regular and expected yearly expenses, to add to the PTO savings for playground upgrades, and to support the school's efforts to provide a high quality education. To reach this goal families are asked to consider two options for fund raising: an \$80 donation per student or \$200 in Paragon sales. Families can blend a mixture of either option, but to reach our goal it is important that each student achieve one of these options. If a family decides the donation is the best fit for them, they are still allowed to sell Paragon if they wish, and vice versa. There are many employers in our area who offer a match to any donation going to a nonprofit. Please contact your Human Resource office

to learn if this is an option for you. [This link](#) provides a list of companies in our area that offer matching donations. The PTO greatly benefited from the matching donations last year.

Paragon fundraising and **Box Tops** were the main reasons why parents had very few supplies to buy this school year. Our yearly expense for student supplies ranged from \$2,500 to nearly \$3,300 over the past 5 years. Your participation in our fundraising programs is greatly appreciated, and getting one more person- a neighbor, grandparent, aunt, or uncle- to participate will have a great impact. **Box Tops** are hard to find now, but as you collect them, please trim and bag Box Tops in groups of 50 to make our job a lot easier when it is time to send them in. **Please download the Box Tops App** and link your account to Pine Ridge Elementary School (Birdseye). Thank you to everyone for helping us provide a high quality educational experience for your child. Important information about new incentives to increase our Box Top collection is on later pages in the newsletter.

Before we abruptly left school last year, we set a vision for our playground area to add a **tag zone** so kids can run, duck, climb, jump and just have fun in a safe environment. Our PTO provided the funds to make this a reality. We are fortunate to have a PTO who wants to see continuous improvements at Pine Ridge, and is willing to set aside funds yearly to make significant financial contributions. The PTO has positioned themselves to provide funding for large playground improvements about every 5 years. Thank you to our PTO and our families for supporting our school. All of our students have enjoyed time on the new playground area.



Keep in mind that we are not able to have **visitors** at school at this time.

Thank you to the **Dubois County Community Foundation** for donating scanners for our students to monitor their temperature upon entering the building. This was provided by a grant from The Lilly Endowment. If you have any interests in endowment building or supporting groups in our community, reach out to Nona Baker or Clayton Boyles. They have helped many groups in our communities.

If your child brings their lunch to school, please ensure it is a **quality lunch**. I know we have some picky eaters, but it is important that they have the fuel to learn all day long. Avoid high sugar drinks because they cause sugar spikes and then a sharp drop by the end of the day. If your child eats breakfast at school it is served from 7:30-7:55.

Great job **dropping off and picking up** students! Everyone is following the procedures to keep our students safe before and after school. Drive along the sidewalk in the south lot to drop off students and leave. If you walk your child to the gym doors, please park away from the sidewalk so you don't block the flow of traffic. We can accept students at 7:30 a.m., but not before due to not having supervision for them.

When you leave the south lot at the end of the day **please practice patience**. Make sure students and parents are clear of the area between the sidewalk and the parking area. Do not make a u turn to avoid traffic or to be the first out of the lot. If you pull along the sidewalk at the end of the day, wait for everyone to clear the area, follow the sidewalk to the end, and circle around the parked vehicles to exit the lot. Do not cut back through the walk area.

Picture Day is on hold for now.

Kids love to build and create. If you or someone you know has Legos or K'nex they would like to donate to Pine Ridge, please contact Mr. Haas. We are wanting items for our STEM Lab/Maker Space area. We could also use magnets, pipe cleaners, tubes, marbles, etc... for the lab.

Release time is on hold until September 1st or until we are back in a green stage.

Students who completed the **Summer Reading Challenge** will be enjoying a fun afternoon Friday, August 21st. We have free time outside, treats for everyone, and a fun afternoon planned. Thank you to all families that finished their packet. Completing the activities is a great way for your child to stay connected and be prepared for the new school year. Thank you Pine Ridge PTO for funding this celebration.

Please title checks for lunch or textbook rental as **SEDCSC Lunch** and **SEDCSC Textbook**.

Keep up to date with school events by following our Facebook, Instagram, and website pages.

Mrs. Stevens and I wanted to remind families that On My Way Pre-K applications are being accepted to assist families with pre-k tuition. The State office is being very lenient this year, and I encourage all of you to look into this opportunity. A link was emailed earlier today.

From the **Youth Soccer League**:

Amazingly, it is that time of year again!!! Time to register your children for the Forest Park Youth Soccer Association/Kiwanis fall soccer season! Please [Click Here](#) to visit our website and complete the registration form by Sunday, August 23. Please note: you will need to create an account, unless you already have a blue sombrero user name and password, to be able to complete the registration. Payment is due via Visa or MasterCard on the website at time of registration. The cost is \$30 per child. Each additional child in a family is \$25 – the discount will show up during checkout. Children entering Kindergarten next year (2021)

through incoming 6th graders are welcome to sign up. The season will run from 9/13 through 10/11 with games played on Sunday afternoons. Practices are through the week at the discretion of the individual coach (for 3rd-6th only) and clinics are preliminarily scheduled for 9/2 (K-2nd) and 9/9 (3rd-6th).

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges that FPYSA has done our best to address. Attached you will find a waiver that must be completed and signed prior to a child's participation in any events. Also, our COVID Plan is [attached](#) that describes how events will be carried out. Please help us continue to be able to provide a fall season by reading and adhering to these guidelines.

Also, please remember our "Gear Swap" program. This is now our seventh year offering this unique opportunity as we try to provide the fun of soccer to more children in our community and at the same time remain affordable to their families. Bring in your old equipment and shop for new/used equipment in the concession stand!

Feel free to "Like" our Facebook page (Forest Park Youth Soccer) for more information.

For questions or concerns, please email fpysoccer@gmail.com.

Box Tops for Pine Ridge

1. Students should bring in box tops that are good beyond March 1, 2021.
2. Have Box Tops counted in groups of 50 and placed in zippered bags.
3. Bonus Box Tops must be kept separate from regular Box Tops. Packs of 50 would be best.
4. Send in Box Tops before 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021.

INCENTIVES: If this goal is met, we will have a school wide **Box Tops Bash**. This will include games and the chance for the winning grade level teachers and a student to throw pies at Mr. Haas.

1. Our school goal is 20,000 Box Tops. Last year, we brought in just over 13,000 Box Tops, so we will need to dig deep.
2. The **grade level challenge** will be based on a per student average for the grade level.
 - a. The second place grade level will earn an ice cream party.
 - b. The first place grade level will earn a trip to the Jasper Skate Palace or the bowling alley in the spring!
 - c. Finally, one student who participated in the Box Top Collection will be drawn to win 2 tickets to Sky Zone in Evansville! For every pack of 50 turned in, a student can put a ticket in the box to win this prize.

Visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> for coupons, activities, and more information about Box Tops for Education.

We will post the classroom totals in the hallway every Friday.

Thanks for your support.

Tips for a Safe Bus Ride

Getting on the Bus:

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness
- Do not stray onto the street, alleys or private property
- Line up away from the street or road as the bus approaches
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before approaching the bus
- Use the handrail when boarding

Behavior on the Bus:

- Don't speak loudly or make loud noises that could distract the driver
- Stay in your seat
- Don't put your head, arms or hands out the window
- Keep aisles clear of books and bags
- Get your belongings together before reaching your stop
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat

Getting Off the Bus:

- Use the handrail when exiting
- If you have to cross in front of the bus, first walk at least 10 feet ahead until you can see the driver
- Make sure the driver can see you
- Wait for a signal from the driver before crossing
- When the driver signals, look left, right, then left again. Walk across the road and keep an eye out for sudden traffic changes
- If your vision is blocked, move to an area where you can see other drivers and they can see you
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver signals it is safe
- Stay away from the rear wheels of the bus at all times

Student Name _____ **Homeroom** _____

All Sports Pass Information & Order Form

The Forest Park High School Athletic Department is selling all sport passes for the 2020-2021 season. **Passes will be valid for all Forest Park sponsored junior high and high school home athletic events EXCEPT IHSAA tournaments. The all sports pass includes boys' basketball and football.** A family pass (for father, mother and all elementary and secondary school aged children) is \$170. An adult pass is \$70, and a student pass for grades 1-12 is \$40. Kindergarten and pre-school age children are not required to purchase a ticket.

Complete below to indicate what type of pass you are purchasing. List EVERY person getting a pass. Please indicate if students will sit in student section for boys' varsity basketball or not. All checks should be made payable to Forest Park.

Last Name	First Name	Family Pass – covers all family members	Adult Pass - ONLY	Student Pass – ONLY indicate grade	Student in Student Section for Varsity BBall Yes or No

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB INFO

Forest Park Athletic Booster Club Passes for the 2020-2021 season are on sale. Dues are \$10 per person for those 60 and older and \$5.00 per person for those under 60 years of age. Those 60 and older are admitted to all Forest Park sponsored Junior and Senior High School athletic events with this card EXCEPT for Varsity Boys' Basketball, Varsity Football and IHSAA tournaments. Membership dues provided by those younger than 60 will be used as a donation to help support all Forest Park Athletic teams. No cards will be issued to those under 60.

The Booster Club encourages all parents of athletes at the Junior and Senior High level to become Booster Members for the minimal price of \$5.00. Checks should be made payable to Forest Park Athletic Boosters.

2020-2021 BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Last Name	First Name	Under 60 \$5	Over 60 \$5

--	--	--	--

This Completed Form and Checks should be given to your child’s first period teacher.