

Pine Ridge Elementary

4613 South Pine Ridge Road

Birdseye, IN 47513

Phone (812) 819-0900

Fax (812) 326-2016



Parent Teacher Conferences are approaching. Teachers shared a survey with parents last week to schedule times to meet. Teachers will be sharing academic and behavioral topics and giving ideas of what you can do at home to reinforce what students are learning at school. It is very important that you and your child's teacher have regular communication about academic and behavior progress. Please plan to participate.

A friendly reminder to pull all the way up to the end of the sidewalk when **dropping off** your child. Also, if your child needs assistance exiting your vehicle, or if you need to exit your car to say goodbye, please park in the center of the lot and walk your child to the sidewalk. This will help keep things moving.

The **Book Fair** is next week. Classes have specific times they will be able to visit the book fair. Students received a catalogue to preview the options this week.

Please take time to review **the updated COVID guidance for October 4th**. Masks are optional starting next week, but that means we are back to **contact tracing** students and staff. It is important that all stakeholders review the guidance that school students and staff will follow starting next week. You can find guidance [here](#), and updates will be posted on this page as they are approved by our School Board.

Our students did a great job wearing masks during September. I might exhausted myself asking students to adjust their mask or remind them to put it on as they returned from recess, but overall, they did a good job with it. A big **Thank You!** goes out to families for preparing students for the change of going back to masks. It makes our jobs easier when we are all on the same page.

Thank you to all families who supported Pine Ridge by donating or selling **Paragon** products! We exceeded expectations again. **Paragon pick up is October 7th from 2:45-6:00.** Car rider families are welcome to enter the gym doors before dismissal to get items.

Please be aware that our **lunch menu** might change slightly as we move into the school year. We have experienced some issues with our distributors, but our kitchen staff has been very proactive with these issues. If significant menu changes come about, we will notify parents as soon as possible.

Ranger Archery, or NASP, begins in October. All fourth grade students will experience archery during their P.E. time in October. Mr. Haas and Mr. Winkler are certified instructors and lead the classes in the proven NASP method.

Students in grades 4-12 are invited to register for the Ranger Archery program. The Ranger Archery program will practice weekly and participate in multiple tournaments. Families can register and learn more about the program [here](#).

Cinnamon rolls will be sold by our PTO later in October. We will send a flyer home in the next few weeks.

Take on the monthly **UPGRADE Challenge** to improve your health and well-being. It is a great way to start a conversation with you child and make long lasting life choices.

If your child is dropped off **after 8:00 a.m.**, we must have an adult come in with them and sign them in. Please do not drop them off at the front door and leave. It is very important that an adult brings your child into school so we can mark them as being here and ensure they get where they need to be.

Breakfast is available to all students at all grade levels. Breakfast provides a great start to the school day and has been proven to provide many benefits including increased academic performance and attention, improved test scores and fewer absences.

Meals offered by the National School Lunch Program are made up of five components, which include Fruits, Vegetables, Protein, Grains, and Dairy. Taking a serving of all five of the food components is encouraged. Students do not have to take everything offered to them each day because of the "Offer Versus Serve" (OVS) concept. It allows students to decline some of the food offered in a reimbursable lunch or breakfast. Students do not need to select all five food components, but they will select at least three. One of the food components selected must be a 1/2 cup of fruits or vegetables.

Upcoming events

October 8: **Fire Prevention Program**- Outdoors following COVID guidelines and procedures.

October 8 : **FP Chorus Visits PRE**

October 13: **Parent - Teacher Conferences**

October 19-23: **Fall Break**

November 23: **Silly Safari**

December 1: **Picture Retakes**: Students are expected to bring back pictures.



***We are looking for a **Park Ranger hat** for a student behavior program. Park Ranger hats signal to those in need that, "I'm here to help." We want to highlight students who go above and beyond to help others and always do their personal best. If you know of anyone who might have a Park Ranger hat we can have please contact Ryan Haas.