



The Redtail Ridge Review Principals Update

December 2024 |

Redtail Ridge Elementary School

Quick Links

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Redtail Ridge Website](#)

[Background Check for
Volunteers](#)

Dear Families,

I can't believe it's December already! I hope everyone had a great break and you were able to spend extra time with family and friends.

Please take a moment to review this monthly newsletter which highlights the past month and includes important information to keep you up-to-date with what is happening at Redtail Ridge and the PLSAS school district.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended conferences. We had a great turnout, and your partnership is truly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,
Mrs. Yetzer

Our 5th Graders had a fabulous time at Wolf Ridge a few weeks ago. They did a ropes course, learned about birds, the environment, the weather and climate, rock climbed, learned about early voyagers, etc. Even with a cold and rainy day one of the days, fun was had by all!

A special shout out to our wonderful 5th grade teachers and our amazing chaperones for making the week run smoothly and safely.

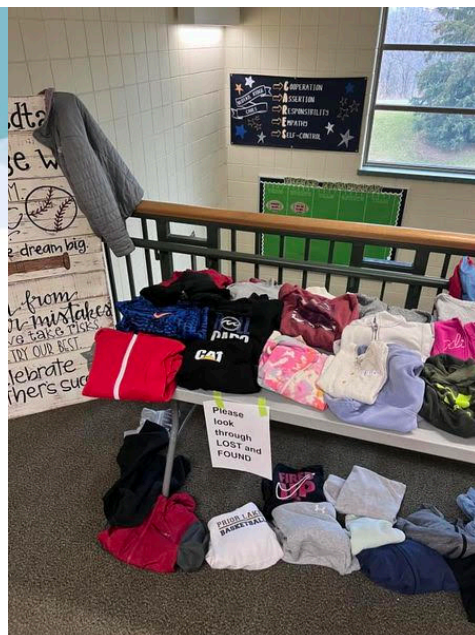
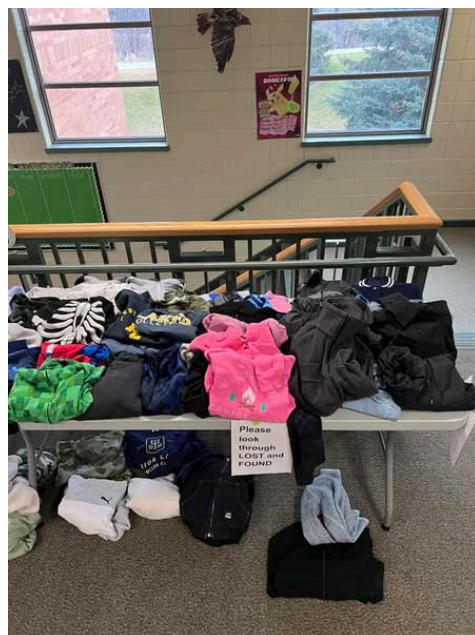




LOST AND FOUND!

We have a LOT of Lost and Found - anything look familiar? Please feel free to sign in at the office during school hours to check out the tables. Items have been added since these photos have been taken.

Items left will be donated in January.



A message from Dr. Thomas, Superintendent

PLSAS Staff and Families,

Following the outcome of the recent operating levy vote, we understand there are many questions about what comes next. The levy was designed to provide critical long-term support for sustaining and enhancing district operations, and we are now focused on planning for multi-year budget reductions to address the financial challenges ahead.

To address these challenges, our administrative team is reviewing costs associated with areas identified during the levy information campaign as potential reductions. Our goal is to implement the necessary budget reductions, totaling \$4–5 million, for the 2025–26 school year. This follows the approximately \$4 million in reductions already made for the 2024–25 school year.

The following budget reduction areas under consideration include (but not limited to):

- Closing one or more elementary schools resulting in boundary changes.

- Increase in class sizes.
- Reduction in staffing and personnel expenditures across the district resulting in reduced services and student supports.
- Move MNCAPS to a district facility.
- Reduce programs for students including:
- Limit Spanish Immersion to K-5 only
- Reduce secondary electives
- Reduce Laker Online staffing
- Eliminate middle school activities
- Eliminate MNCAPS pathway(s)
- Reduce student access to educational technology.
- Increase fees for community facility use.
- Close pool at Twin Oaks.

On Monday, November 25th, at the last School Board Meeting, the Board reviewed these reductions and confirmed that all options remain under consideration. If an elementary school closure is pursued, it would potentially take place for the 2026–27 school year. This allows time for required notifications to the Minnesota Department of Education, cost analysis and planning for elementary boundary changes.

Additional considerations include potentially moving the MN Center for Advanced Professional Studies (MNCAPS) program to Prior Lake High School and closing or repurposing the District Services Center, with staff relocated to a school building(s).

Timeline and Next Steps

- More than 40 representatives from teacher and support-staff groups have contributed additional ideas. Key themes from these discussions will be presented to the School Board on December 9, along with budget reduction cost models.
- After reviewing this information, the Board will convene at a newly added study session, prior to winter break, to provide further direction.
- Monthly updates on the budget process will be shared during future Board meetings, leading up to a final decision on the 2025-26 budget this June.

Looking Ahead

As a reminder our School Finance 101 web pages are available to help our community better understand the complexities of school finance. We continuously update the content to ensure it remains a reliable resource, especially as we enter a budget-reduction process.

Like many districts facing these challenges, we know these decisions are incredibly difficult and have far-reaching impacts on our students, staff and families. Our focus remains on making thoughtful and informed choices while preserving as much as possible to support student success.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we navigate these difficult decisions.

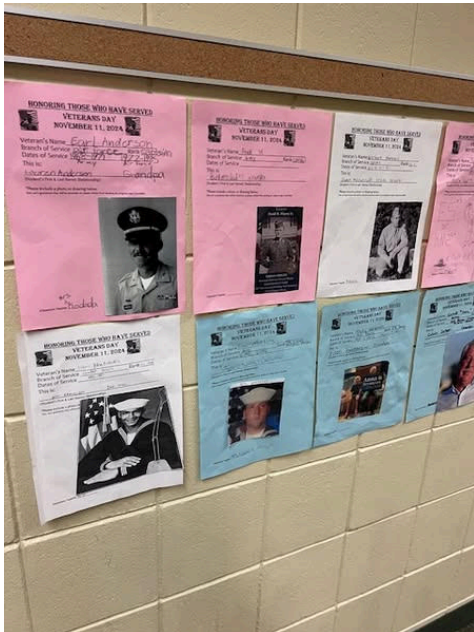
Yours in partnership,

Dr. Michael Thomas
Superintendent

Veterans Day

To honor our veterans, the students at Redtail Ridge were able to decorate our main hallway with images of the veterans they know. We had a great response and the wall is so full. Many parents/guardians were able to check out the wall during conferences - it really is an amazing display.

Thank you to all of our veterans! We appreciate you!



Lunchroom Helpers

Do you have some free time/flexibility in your daily schedule from time to time? Would you like to be a Cafeteria Volunteer? We need helpers to assist the student's with everything from opening milk cartons to helping students get

utensils and napkins, to wiping off tables after a class is dismissed. Please see the Sign Up Genius [here](#) to sign up for a day or two.

Thank you!!

From the Health Office

Please remember to wash and return any clothing that comes home on your child from the Health Office. Our supplies are dwindling.

We are currently seeking donations of new or gently used boys sweat pants. Please no jeans or other style pants. If you have any to donate, please send them to school or drop them off at the office.

THANK YOU!



Our last day of school will be Friday, December 20th. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2nd. Enjoy your winter break!

Caught Caring Winners

At Redtail Ridge we celebrate our CARES (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control). Students can be "Caught Caring" if they show one of the CARES during school and staff may give them a Caught Caring Ticket. Each week we draw winners and those students can choose a reward from a list of Caught Caring Awards as a special thank you from the school staff for being a CARES student.

Caught Caring MVP's for the week of 11/4:

First photo:

Kindergarten: Hadley (Madson) & Jack B (Scheffler)

1st Grade: Freddy (Hanson) & Azhar (Haugh)

2nd Grade: Eric (Glass) & Evelyn (Hansen)

3rd Grade: Brody (Gratz) & Nash (Hatchett)

4th Grade: Sophia (Groll) & Tyler (Losure)

5th Grade: Cora (Veldman) & Claire (Doerr)

Missing from photo: Hadley (Madson)

Second photo:

Bus: Brady (Hanstad) & Leo (Roberts)

Parent Pick Up/Biker/Walker/Kids Co: Ella (West) & Livy (Ward)

Missing from photo: Ella (West)



Our Caught Caring MVP's for the week of 11/11 are....

First Picture:

Kindergarten: Dax (Alpaugh) & Mila (Madson)

1st Grade: Charlotte (Schnackenberg) & Nora (McGinnis)

2nd Grade: Mabsud (Stufft) & Brooke (Skjoiten)

3rd Grade: Miles (Ward) & Natalie (Kodada)

4th Grade: Jack (Hanstad) & Abby (Roberts)

5th Grade: Hattie (Reetz) & Lincoln (West)

Second Picture:

Bus: Lizzy (Glass) & Lucia (Hansen)

Walker/Biker/Kids Co/Parent Pick Up: Logan (Glass) & Cameron (Scheffler)



Our Caught Caring MVP's for 11/18 are....

First picture:

Kindergarten: Holland (Schnackenberg) & Jack (Madson)

1st Grade: Zooe (Hanson) & Brady (Haugh)

2nd Grade: Jimmy (Hansen) & Jordyn (Glass)

3rd Grade: Evan (Hatchett) & Natalie (Gratz)

4th Grade: Grady (Groll) & Deke (Losure)

5th Grade: None -at Wolf Ridge

Not pictured: Jimmy

Second picture:

Bus: Hazel (Skjoiten) & Brooks (Scheffler)

Parent Pick Up/Walker/Biker/Kids Co: Everest (Hanstad) & Peyton (Ward)



Our Caught Caring winners for 11/25/24 are....

First Picture:

Kindergarten: Elias (Alpaugh) & Beckett (Scheffler)

1st Grade: Lucy (Schnackenberg) & John (McGinnis)

2nd Grade: Kora (Stufft) & Lainey (Skjoiten)

3rd Grade: Jameson (Kodada) & Wyatt (Ward)

4th Grade: Parker (Roberts/Mishica) & Logan (Hanstad)

5th Grade: Isla (Doerr) & Rossi (Veldman)

2nd Picture:

Bus: Lilly (Haugh) & Raegan P (Hatchett)

Biker/Walker/Parent Pick Up/Kids Co: Tucker (West) & Colton (Glass)

Missing from photo: Raegan & Tucker



Inclusive Schools

Redtail Ridge Elementary School had the privilege of welcoming physical therapy students from Concordia University, St. Paul for a special Unified event that fostered empathy, inclusion, and awareness! They created a remarkable workshop to help our elementary students learn more about physical disabilities and the experiences of peers with physical impairments.

Students had the opportunity to:

Try out equipment like wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches.

Practice supporting peers who use mobility aids.

Experience challenges like maintaining balance to better understand the experiences of individuals with physical impairments.

This interactive event fostered empathy and gave our students a deeper appreciation for the challenges and triumphs their peers with disabilities navigate every day.

Thank you, Concordia St. Paul, for partnering with us to help create a more inclusive and understanding school community!



INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

December 2nd-6th



2nd- Wear a Kindness Shirt

3rd- "Stand up for others" - Wear **Orange** for ADHD Awareness

4th- "We all count" - Wear a Jersey or Shirt with a Number on it!

5th- "It's cool to be different" - Wear Crazy Socks for Down Syndrome Awareness

6th- "Together we make a rainbow" - Wear your class color!

Kindergarten Red	First Grade Orange	2nd Grade Yellow	Third Grade Green	Fourth Grade Blue	Fifth Grade Purple
----------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------

Countdown to Winter Break

December 16th-20th

16th - Merry Monday - Wear your favorite hat or scarf!

17th - Snow White Tuesday - Wear White!

18th - Toasty Wednesday - Wear Pajamas!

19th - Sweater Weather - Wear an ugly sweater!

20th - Dress like your "Favorite Day of the Year!"

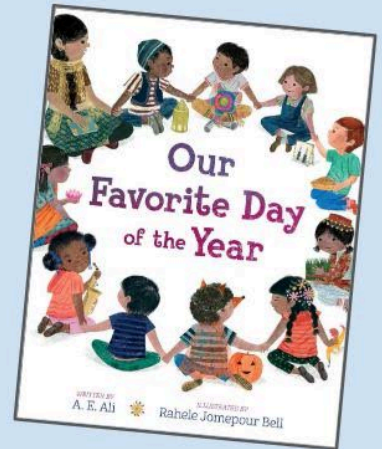


Favorite Day of the Year

Friday, December 20th

We are celebrating "Our Favorite Day of the Year" at Redtail!

Students may wear (school-appropriate) clothing that represents their favorite day of the year. Students could choose a birthday-themed shirt, culturally significant clothing, an ugly Christmas sweater, a Halloween costume, etc. that shows others their "Favorite Day of the Year!"



News from the Redtail Ridge Library

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for visiting the book fair! Nearly 300 families made purchases which means more books at home and more books in our school library. And more books means more reading! Thank you for giving our students the gift of book joy. Happy Reading!



THANK YOU

for supporting
our Book Fair!

#ScholasticBookFairs

Legacy Book Club

Redtail Ridge is excited to offer the Legacy Book Club. This is a positive way for your child to give a unique gift to everyone at Redtail Ridge Elementary while celebrating a special day in their lives. The legacy book can be for a birthday, in honor of someone special, or for whatever you would like to celebrate.

If interested, you can purchase a book from this wish list: bit.ly/rrlegacy. Your child's name will be featured on a special bookplate in the front of the book, and your child will receive a bookmark as a thank you gift. They will then get to be the first person to check out the book from the Redtail Ridge Library.

If you have questions, please email Mrs. Iverson at kiverson@plsas.org.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, December 3rd: Monthly PTC Meeting - 6:00 PM
Monday, January 6th- Chipotle 4:00-8:00 PM (A percentage of sales goes to the PTC)
Tuesday, January 7th - Monthly PTC Meeting - 6:00 PM

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events at Redtail Ridge:

(Be sure to check this list each month, as changes or additions **MAY** occur)

Tuesday, December 3rd: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 4th: Early Release Day
Thursday, December 5th: 5th Grade Conferences (3:15-6:15 pm)
Tuesday, December 10th: 5th Grade Conferences (3:15-6:15 pm)
Thursday, December 12th: 5th Grade Conferences (3:15-6:15 pm)
Monday, December 23rd- Tuesday, Jan. 1st: Winter Break
Tuesday, January 7th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Wednesday, January 8th: Early Release Day
Thursday January 16th: Redtail Ridge Choir Concert 6:30 pm
Monday, January 20th: No School (Staff In-Service Day)
Thursday, January 23rd: End of 2nd Quarter
Friday, January 24th: No School (Staff Workday)
Friday, January 31st: PTC Winter Family Fun Night
Tuesday, February 4th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Wednesday, February 5th: Early Release Day
Tuesday, February 11th: Conferences (3:15-5:15 pm)
Thursday, February 13th: Conferences (3:15-7:15 pm)
Monday, February 17th: No School
Thursday, February 20th: 2nd Grade Music Program 1:30 pm
Thursday, February 20th: Conferences (3:15-7:15 pm)
Tuesday, March 4th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Wednesday, March 5th: Kindergarten Picture Day
Wednesday, March 5th: Early Release Day
Thursday, March 13th: 1st Grade Music Program 1:30 pm
Thursday, March 27th: End of 3rd Quarter
Friday, March 28th: No School (Staff Workday)
Monday, March 31st- Friday, April 4th: No School- Spring Break
Tuesday, April 8th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Wednesday, April 9th: Early Release Day
Tuesday, May 6th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Wednesday, May 7th: Early Release Day
Thursday, May 22nd: Redtail Ridge Choir Concert 6:30 pm
Monday, May 26th: No School
Friday, May 30th: 5th grade Graduation 1:30 pm
Friday, May 30th: PTC End of the Year Family Fun Night
Monday, June 2nd: Kindergarten Graduation & Music Program 1:30 pm
Tuesday, June 3rd: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Wednesday, June 4th: Last Day of School- 3 hour early dismissal

Be sure to follow Redtail Ridge on Facebook!



SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.



noname
135K