



The Redtail Ridge Review

Principals Update

December 2025

Redtail Ridge Elementary School

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Hello Redtail Ridge Families!

November went by quickly, and what a wonderful month it was! We had an outstanding turnout for conferences, and it was truly great to connect with so many families. Sharing the progress, growth, and accomplishments your students have made so far this year is one of the highlights of our work.

As we look ahead, we have just three weeks of school before Winter Break, and they are sure to be jam-packed with continued learning and excitement. In addition to our regular instruction, we will be celebrating **Inclusivity Week** from December 5th–12th. This year's theme is "**Children First**," reminding us that when we center the needs, strengths, and voices of children, we create schools where everyone feels valued and supported. Throughout the week, students will participate in Spirit Days and engage in activities that help them learn about and appreciate the unique challenges others experience. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to build empathy, understanding, and a stronger sense of community.

We are looking forward to a meaningful and memorable December together!

With gratitude,
Barb Yetzer, Principal

State of Our School

Each year, Redtail Ridge staff review academic achievement data along with feedback from families and students to shape our school goals. Attached is the **Redtail Ridge State of Our School**, which highlights our strengths as well as the areas we are focusing on to continue improving student achievement and school culture. All of our goals are closely aligned with the district's strategic plan.

Please take some time to review our State of the School [\(linked here\)](#) to stay informed about our goals and the important work happening at Redtail.

School Safety Spotlight

The holidays can bring joy, but they can also bring added stress, busy schedules and big emotions for students and families. Taking care of mental well-being is an important part of keeping everyone safe and supported.

A few simple reminders:

- Keep routines as consistent as possible with sleep, meals and downtime.
- Encourage open conversations—let children know it's okay to talk about their feelings.
- Make time for movement, fresh air and screen-free family moments.
- Notice changes in behavior, mood or sleep and reach out if you need support.

If your child is struggling, please connect with your school counselor, social worker or psychologist. You are not alone—support is available.

Let's take care of ourselves and each other this season.

School Safety Update: Standard Response Protocol & Upcoming Drill

At Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. To ensure everyone is prepared for potential emergencies, we have implemented the Standard Response Protocol (SRP), developed by the I Love U Guys Foundation. This protocol outlines consistent and clear actions for a range of emergency situations, such as fires, lockdowns, evacuations, severe weather, and medical incidents.

The SRP includes five key actions that may be taken during an emergency:

HOLD – “In Your Classroom or Area. Clear the Halls.”

SECURE – “Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors”

LOCKDOWN – “Locks, Lights, Out of Sight”

EVACUATE – “To [a Location]”

SHELTER – State the Hazard and Safety Strategy

To learn more about SRP, watch our SRP video. This video is not being shown to students in school.

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff, we will be conducting a lockdown drill on Thursday, Dec. 11th. This drill is a routine part of our safety protocols and helps prepare everyone for a variety of emergency situations. The Savage Police Department will be on site to assist with this drill, which allows us to practice procedures collaboratively and ensure our response is aligned with local emergency services.

Key Details:

Purpose: To practice procedures for lockdown situations and ensure that students and staff are familiar with safety protocols.

Timing: The drill will take place during the school day, and we will do our best to minimize disruption to the learning environment.

[Tips for Discussing Lockdown Drills with Your Child:](#)

We want to assure you that this drill will be conducted in a calm, developmentally appropriate manner. Staff will explain the purpose of the drill ahead of time so students understand what to expect and why these procedures are important. Our goal is to help students feel informed, supported, and safe.

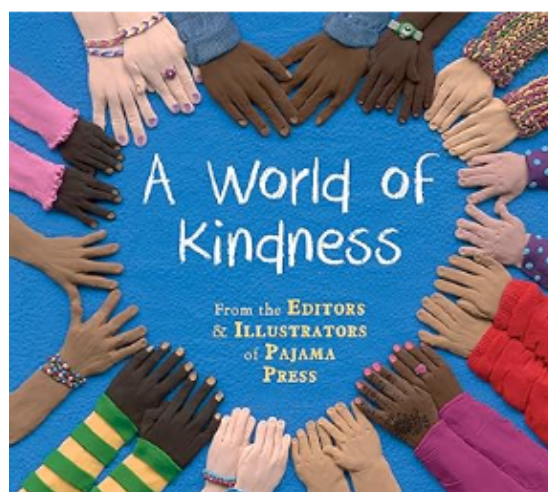
If you have any questions or concerns about the drill or would like additional information about our safety practices, please feel free to contact me at 952-226-8000 or at byetzer@plsas.org

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our school community safe!

Principals Reading Corner

This month, I read *A World of Kindness*, created by the editors and illustrators from Pajama Press. Typically, an author writes a story and an illustrator creates pictures to match. However, this book is unique—its illustrations come from a variety of talented illustrators. Some of the artwork was originally created for other Pajama Press books, while some illustrations were made specifically for this text. The editors then paired each illustration with a different act of kindness, showing how simple choices and small gestures can have a meaningful impact on others.

To build on this message, each class received a December Kindness Calendar. Throughout the month, classes will record the days they showed acts of kindness. At the end of December, if a class demonstrated kindness on the majority of the days, every student in that class will earn a special Kindness water bottle sticker. We look forward to celebrating the kindness we see all around our school!



Middle School Parent Information Night

Mark your calendars - There will be a Middle School Parent Information Night (PIN) for current 5th grade families on Monday, January 26th from 6:30 - 7:30 PM in the Twin Oaks Auditorium (enter the lower entrance, near Bridges ALC).



Lunch Room Volunteers

This year we are again asking for lunch room helpers. THANK YOU to all who have already signed up and helped us out this year! If you have time in your schedule to come volunteer in our lunch room, we would LOVE to have you. Here's the [sign up genius](#). The link has been updated with all dates for the rest of the school year.



School Spirit!

We have 2 dress up/spirit weeks in December. Next week, 12/8 - 12/12 we will be supporting Inclusive Schools Week and the week of 12/15 - 12/19 we will have a Countdown To Winter Break week! We can't wait for the fun outfits and colors for our dress up days!

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

December 8th-12th

8th- "Stand up for others"- Wear **Orange** for ADHD Awareness



9th- Wear a Kindness Shirt- for Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness



10th- "We all count"- Wear a Jersey or Shirt with a Number on it for Communication Challenges Awareness



11th- "It's cool to be different"- Wear Crazy Socks for Down Syndrome Awareness



12th- "Together we make a rainbow"- Wear your class color for Physical Disabilities Awareness

Kindergarten Red	First Grade Orange	2nd Grade Yellow	Third Grade Green	Fourth Grade Blue	Fifth Grade Purple
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Birdhouse Build and Ice Fishing!

Our 4th Graders have 2 very exciting events, one of which is being held today (12/4). The Urban Ice Anglers (a local non profit) is educating the classes about birds and bird habitats in Minnesota and then they are building their own birdhouses. Then, in February, the 4th graders are taking part in the Urban Ice Anglers Ice Fishing events on Bryant Lake. This non profit is bringing the outdoors to students across the metro and could use support and funding. If you would like to learn more about this amazing organization, check out their website (www.urbaniceanglers.org). You can also see several news stories about the organization under the "media" tab on their website. If you'd like to support the organization, they are selling hoodies and hats (see the flyer below). You can follow the organization on Instagram (@urbaniceanglers).

Thank you to the PTC for covering the cost of the birdhouses and for supporting the ice fishing trip by covering the bus cost!

10,000 ICE ANGLERS PROJECT FUNDRAISER MERCH

Free Ice Fishing Trips For Schools!



**EVERY PURCHASE SUPPORTS YOUTH ICE
FISHING ADVENTURES AND WORKFORCE
TRAINING THROUGH ELPIS ENTERPRISES.**

Follow us on Instrgram: @urbaniceanglers

Hosted by PLHS National
Honor Society

Parent's Night Out!

**A Fun & Safe evening
for kids grades K-5!**

Come inside at the upper entrance (IN) of Prior Lake
High School to sign a permission slip then leave your
kids for a night of fun!

For the Kids:

- Interactive Games
- Pizza & Snacks
- Crafts
- Movie
- Gym play

**December 12th
6pm-10pm
Prior Lake Highschool**

\$30 registration

\$35 walk ins

Register online at Go Fans!



 Register online at
gofans.co

 Upper Entrance of Prior
Lake High school (IN)

From the PTC

The PTC is hosting a restaurant night in December at Davanni's in Savage. **This fundraiser next WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th from 4-8PM.** Be sure to tell them you are there for the fundraiser!

Please stop by and support the PTC. Share the flyer with your friends and neighbors, too!

Next month there will be TWO restaurant fundraisers!! On Wednesday 1/14 at Sonic and on Tuesday 1/27 at Chipotle. More details to come.

Thank you for supporting the PTC so we can support our school and staff!

REDTAIL RIDGE ELEMENTARY

RESTAURANT NIGHT FUNDRAISER



**WEDNESDAY, 12/10
4PM-8PM**

DAVANNI'S - SAVAGE

**14125 STATE HWY 13,
SAVAGE, MN 55378**



Shop location: Savage - 14125 Highway 13, Savage, MN, 55378

"Fundraiser Night" for: Redtail Ridge Elementary

Bring this ticket with you and present it when ordering on

Wednesday, 12/10/2021 between 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Day/Date

Start time

End time

20% of your total order before sales tax will be donated to our group!

* Not good on delivery. You may call ahead your order in advance and present ticket on arrival.

For Davanni's use:

\$ Amount of order:

Order number:

**20% of sales will go to Redtail
Ridge**

REDTAIL PTC

**MONTH AT A
GLANCE**



DECEMBER

**NOTE THE
SPECIAL LOCATION!**

2ND

PTC MEETING
6PM @ THE SAVAGE TAP

10TH

DAVANNI'S RESTAURANT NIGHT
4PM-8PM

**22ND-
JAN 4TH**

WINTER BREAK- ENJOY!



REDTAIL RIDGE ELEMENTARY PTC



REDTAILRIDGEPTC@GMAIL.COM

OPEN PTC POSITIONS

- FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR
- GENERAL MEMBER (ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER AS ABLE)

From the Library

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. Happy Reading!



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Redtail Ridge Lost and Found!

Here is an updated photo of our current Lost and Found. This photo was taken on 12/2. We had a lot of lost and found claimed during conferences, but as you can see in the photo, there is still a lot to claim. Please remind your student(s) to check for lost items and parents are welcome to come during

All Lost and Found items will be donated at Winter Break.



News from the Health Office

It's important to regularly check your child's scalp and hair for signs of head lice. Routine inspection is one of the best ways to prevent and manage infestations.

Please note: There are **no school exclusions** for lice.

Tips for Parents:

Talk to your child about **not sharing** personal items such as combs, brushes, hats, or helmets.

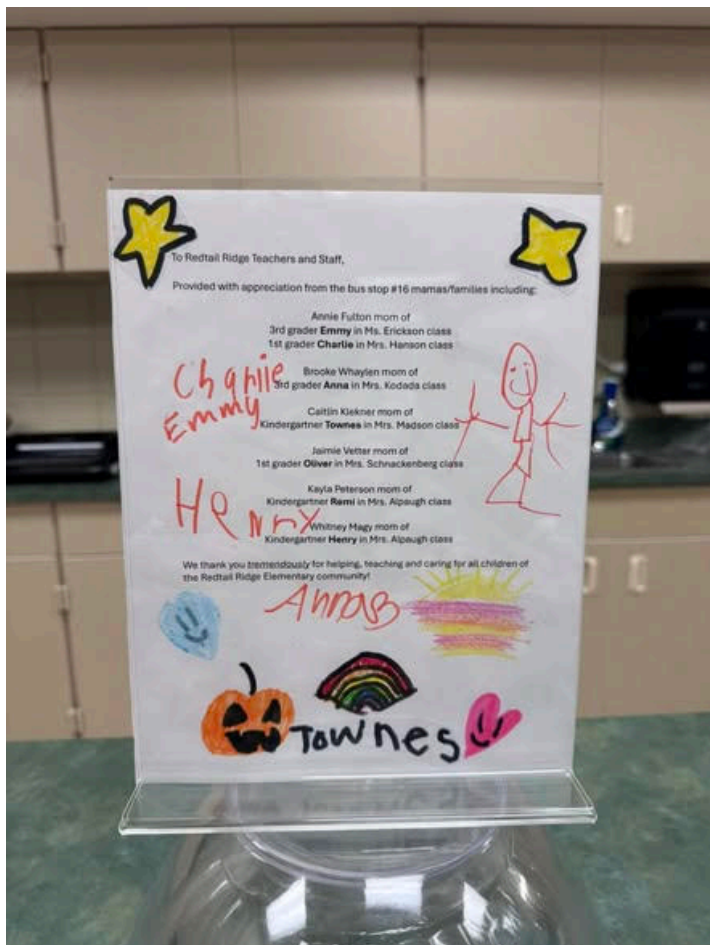
Remind your child to **avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact** during play and other activities—such as taking selfies, sports, playground time, slumber parties, or camp.

For children with long hair, **keep it tied back or braided** to help reduce hair-to-hair contact.

Check your child's head before and after sleepovers or similar activities where close contact may occur.

THANK YOU!!!

The Redtail Ridge staff would like to thank the PTC and our amazing families for the Fall Conference Meals! The teachers LOVED the charcuterie board, chicken and salad meal and the pizza night! A special shout out to Molly Lujan for making the charcuterie board and the bus 16 moms from a stop that banded together to do the chicken, salad, etc. night. THANK YOU!!!





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.

Our Caught Caring MVP's for 11/3 are...

First Picture:

Kindergarten: Jazzlyn (Madson) & Brynlee (Alpaugh)

1st Grade: Nolan (Hanson) & Audrey (Haugh)

2nd Grade: Cora (Glass) & Gino (Hansen)

3rd Grade: Abby (Erickson) & Jimmy (Miller)

4th Grade: Annie (Groll) & Levi (Hanstad)

5th Grade: Violet (Doerr) & Parker (Reetz)

Second Picture:

Bus: Tekken (Cockrill) & Kora (Hansen)

Parent Pick Up/Biker/Walker/Kids Co: Kim (Roberts) & Deacon (Miller)



Our Caught Caring MVP's for the week of 11/10 are....

First Picture:

Kindergarten: Otto (Madson) & Kade (Scheffler)
 First Grade: Holland (Schnackenberg) & Mila (Hanson)
 Second Grade: Nandika (Stufft) & Jordan (McGinnis)
 Third Grade: Eilish (Hatchett) & Maddy (Kodada)
 Fourth Grade: Wyatt (Roberts) & Lucy (Hough)
 Fifth Grade: Grady (Cockrill) & Deke (Weeres)

Second Picture:

Bus: Stella (McGinnis) & Hazel (Weeres)
 Kids Co/Parent Pick Up/Biker/Walker: Charlotte (Glass) & Evan (Groll)
 Missing from picture: Charlotte



The Caught Caring MVP's for the week of November 17th are....

First Picture:

Kindergarten: Camryn (Scheffler) & Mila (Alpaugh)
 1st Grade: Elias (Schnackenberg) & Maisy (Haugh)
 2nd Grade: Kenow (Hansen) & Jack (Glass)
 3rd Grade: Lucas (Erickson) & Stella (Miller)
 4th Grade: Alex (Hanstad) & Zoey (Groll)
 5th Grade: Logan (Doerr) & Autumn (Reetz)

Second Picture:

Bus: Avery (Alpaugh) & Oliver (Hansen)

Parent Pick Up/Biker/Walker/Kids Co: Norah (Haugh) & Lauren (Weeres)



Our Caught Caring MVP's for the week of 11/24 are...

First picture:

Kindergarten: Layla (Madson) & Owen (Scheffler)

1st Grade: Calvin (Hanson) & Henry (Haugh)

2nd Grade: Bennett (Stufft) & Mas'ud (McGinnis)

3rd Grade: Brynlee (Hatchett) & Liam (Kodada)

4th Grade: Arlie (Roberts) & Nadine (Hough)

5th Grade: Elena (Weeres) & Tyler (Cockrill)

Second picture:

Bus: Scotty (Haugh) & Ben (Groll)

Biker/Walker/Kids Co/Parent Pick Up: Asher (Erickson) & Alana (Kodada)



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events at Redtail Ridge:
(Be sure to check this list each month, as changes or additions **MAY** occur)

Monday, December 22nd-Friday, January 2nd: No School-Winter Break
Tuesday, January 6th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Thursday January 15th: Redtail Ridge Choir Concert 6:30 PM
Monday, January 19th: No School
Thursday, January 22nd: End of 2nd Quarter
Friday, January 23rd: No School
Friday, January 30th: PTC Winter Family Fun Night
Tuesday, February 3rd: 5th Grade Highland Ski Trip
Tuesday, February 3rd: 2nd Grade Music Program 1:30 pm
Tuesday, February 3rd: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Tuesday, February 10th: Conferences 3:15-6:15 PM
Thursday, February 12th: Conferences 3:15-6:15 PM
Friday, February 13th: No School
Monday, February 16th: No School
Thursday, February 19th: Conferences 3:15-7:15 PM
Monday, March 2nd: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Thursday, March 12th: 1st Grade Music Program 1:30 pm
Friday, March 27th: End of 3rd Quarter
Monday, March 30th-Friday, April 3rd: No School-Spring Break
Tuesday, April 7th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Friday, May 1st: PTC End of the Year Family Fun Night
Tuesday, May 5th: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center
Thursday, May 7th: Redtail Ridge Choir Concert 6:30 pm
Monday, May 25th: No School-Labor Day
Monday, June 1st: 5th grade Graduation 1:30 pm
Tuesday, June 2nd: Fun in the Sun Day
Wednesday, June 3rd: Kindergarten Graduation & Music Program 1:30 pm
Tuesday, June 3rd: PTC Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Media Center

Be sure to follow Redtail Ridge on Facebook!



