

The Redtail Ridge Review

Principals Update

April 2026

Redtail Ridge Elementary School

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Hello Redtail Ridge Families,

I hope you had a wonderful spring break and were able to enjoy some special time with family and friends. Breaks like these are always a great opportunity to rest, recharge, and come back ready for a strong finish to the school year.

April is a busy month at Redtail Ridge, filled with both exciting learning and important milestones. Last Friday, our 3rd and 4th grade students began their Reading MCA assessments. This week, all students in grades 3–5 will continue with their Reading tests, and next week they will begin their Math MCA assessments. We have been talking with students about approaching these tests with confidence and reminding them that there is no need to feel nervous. Instead, we encourage them to simply do their best, as these assessments help us understand what they have learned and where we can continue to support their growth. Families can help by ensuring students get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast on testing days—simple routines that truly make a difference.

We are also celebrating the incredible success of our I Love to Read fundraising efforts! Students have been receiving their goal awards, and it has been so fun to recognize their hard work and enthusiasm for reading. On Friday, March 27th, students enjoyed extra recess and had a blast watching their grade-level teachers compete in a relay race. Each team brought great energy, dressing up in fun themes and entering to their own “walk-up” songs—it was a highlight for many! The celebrations will continue with an author visit on April 14th, followed by an all-school PJ Day and Bounce House Party on April 29th.

As always, I encourage you to take a few moments to read through the rest of the newsletter. There are so many wonderful things happening at Redtail Ridge, and we are grateful for your continued partnership in supporting our students.

With gratitude,
Mrs. Yetzer

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, we value parent input as one part of the student placement process. Due to the closing of WestWood Elementary, we will not be able to honor specific teacher requests. Please do not list individual teachers on this form. If your child has previously had a teacher you would like us to be aware of, you may include that information; however, prior teacher placements cannot be guaranteed. Many factors are carefully considered when creating balanced classroom communities. Current classroom teachers work collaboratively with the principal to place students based on a variety of needs, including learning styles, work habits, academic and social-emotional considerations, special programming and overall class composition. Our goal is to create supportive, well-balanced classrooms that meet the needs of all learners.

[Placement Form](#)
(Parent Input Form)

This form is Due Friday, April 24th.

School Safety Spotlight

Safety Spotlight: Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 13–17, 2026)

Severe Weather Awareness Week reminds us to stay prepared for Minnesota's spring and summer storms, including thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding. At school, we practice a tornado drill annually so everyone knows where to go and how to stay safe.

Statewide Tornado Drill:

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2026

Times: 1:45 PM and 6:45 PM

Families can reinforce safety at home by:

- Reviewing your household emergency plan and identifying a safe shelter, like a basement or interior room on the lowest level.
- Making sure your family can receive weather alerts via NOAA Weather Radio or mobile notifications.
- Preparing a simple emergency kit with essentials such as water, flashlights, batteries, and medications.
- Talking with children about severe weather in a calm, reassuring way.

A few simple steps can make a big difference in keeping everyone safe.

Kindergarten Open House

It's time to [enroll for kindergarten](#) in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, and families are invited to attend an Open House at each elementary school on Monday, May 11.

This event is a great opportunity for incoming kindergarten students and their families to get a feel for their future school. Students can explore the building and experience riding a school bus—helping ease the transition into this exciting new chapter.

Open House times are scheduled by school:

Five Hawks and Redtail Ridge: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Glendale, Hamilton Ridge, Jeffers Pond, and La ola del lago at WestWood: 4:30–5:30 p.m.

We look forward to welcoming our newest learners and helping your family get ready for a strong start in kindergarten

Hats for Hammocks

Dear Redtail Staff and families,

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the Hats for Hammocks fundraiser! The total was over \$800 raised. I'm so grateful for all of you. Congratulations to the 20 winners of the drawing! I'm excited to share with you the progress on the project and see it finished.

Reid Torstenson

Eagle Scout Candidate Troop 339

Principals Reading Corner

This month, we are excited to launch our April Kindness Challenge, inspired by the book ***We Are All Connected: Taking Care of Each Other & the Earth***, by Gabi Garcia. I read this book last week to all grade levels and introduced the idea that our actions—big and small—can make a positive difference for others and our environment. Throughout April, students will be encouraged to show kindness and responsibility in all areas of the school, including classrooms, hallways, the lunchroom, and the bus.

Each class will use a calendar to track their progress. At the end of each day, students will reflect together on their actions and decide if they met their goal. If they did, they will mark the day with a circle or star. Classes that meet their overall goal will earn a special Earth Day keychain as a celebration of their efforts!

We encourage you to talk with your child about ways they can show kindness and take care of their surroundings both at school and at home. Together, we can help our students see how we are all connected and how their actions matter.

Every Buddy's Playground

Every Buddy's Playground is an exciting initiative focused on making our playgrounds welcoming, accessible, and fun for every student. By improving surfacing for easier mobility and adding more inclusive equipment, we're creating more opportunities for students of all abilities to play, connect, and build friendships together. This work reflects our district's commitment to inclusion and supporting the whole child — both in and out of the classroom.

Playground updates at each school will be based on its unique needs, with input from staff and families. Redtail Ridge will be part of Phase 2, and our PTC will be helping with fundraising efforts to support this project. We're grateful for their partnership and enthusiasm. If you would like to donate to the Redtail Ridge Every Buddy's Playground project, here is the link to our PTC's donation site.

Please help spread the word about this wonderful initiative and visit the Every Buddy's Playground website linked here, for more information on how this work is making a difference for students across our district.

Tutoring through Community Ed

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.

From the PTC

This month we have a restaurant fundraiser at The Crooked Pint in Savage on April 15th from 5PM - 9PM. No code needed - just let your server know you are there for the Redtail Ridge Fundraiser.

We were able to celebrate the success of the Read A Thon before Spring Break with staff costume races and extra recess. We also have our bouncy house party, a s'more's party and a PJ day all on April 29th. Thank you again for all of your support of our Read A Thon.

Thank you for continuing to support the PTC so we can support Redtail Ridge!!!

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!

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 the week of March 4th were:

First picture:

Kindergarten: Aleena (Madson) & Jaxon (Scheffler)
1st Grade: Tyler (Haugh) & Mila (Hanson)
2nd Grade: Maci (Stufft) & Bella (McGinnis)
3rd Grade: Thomas (Erickson) & Bowen (Hatchett)
4th Grade: Lincoln (Hanstad) & Corbin (Hough)
5th Grade: Chelsie (Cockrill) & Annabelle (Weeres)

Second Picture:

Bus: Luella (Cockrill) & Kyle (Roberts)
Parent Pick Up/Biker/Walker/Kids Co: Nash (Hough) & Stella (Hanson)

Our Caught Caring MVP's for the week of 3/9 are:

First picture:

Kindergarten: Max (Alpaugh) & Avery (Scheffler)
1st Grade: Parker (Schnackenberg) & Zakariya (Hanson)
2nd Grade: Lilah (Glass) & Johnny (Hansen)
3rd Grade: Wes (Miller) & Holly (Kodada)
4th Grade: Cooper (Groll) & Aliza (Roberts)
5th Grade: Kinsley (Reetz) & Max (Doerr)
Missing from photo: Kinsley

Second Picture:

Bus: Sadie (Hansen) & Laney (Schnackenberg)
Parent Pick Up/Biker/Walker/Kids Co: Ayyub (Kodada) & Kai (Weeres)

Our Caught Caring MVP's from the week of 3/16 are:

First Photo:

Kindergarten: Ayan (Alpaugh) & Connor (Madson)
1st Grade: Ersu (Schnackenberg) & Luke (Haugh)
2nd Grade: Harper (McGinnis) & Shane (Stufft)
3rd Grade: Charlie (Erickson) & Hazel (Hatchett)
4th Grade: Madeline (Hanstad) & Jeanine (Hough)
5th Grade: Brady (Cockrill) & Leah (Weeres)

Second Photo:

Bus: Ily (Cockrill) & Noor (Hough)
Parent Pick Up/Bikers/Walkers/Kids Co: Mahraz (Hansen) & Evie (Stufft)

Our Caught Caring MVP's for the week of March 23rd are:

First Photo:

Kindergarten: Nora (Scheffler) & Maverick (Madson)
First Grade: McKinley (Hanson) & Karson (Haugh)
Second Grade: Liliana (Glass) & Bilal (Hansen)
Third Grade: Abigail (Miller) & Soren (Kodada)

Fourth Grade: Fadumo (Roberts) & Emma (Groll)
Fifth Grade: Sam (Reetz) & Lexi (Doerr)
Missing from photo: Abigail

Second Photo:

Bus: Cameron (Glass) & Stella (Doerr)
Bikers/Walkers/Kids Co and Parent Pick Up: Evan (Weeres) & Carter (Erickson)

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

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!



Prior Lake-Savage School District 719 would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Prior Lake-Savage School District 719 directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

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