



October 2010
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The Branch

The Newsletter of the Redwood PTA



A message from the Principal.....

As we look at statistics in our school district, we find that we have many students who do well academically. We have met their educational needs and they are flourishing. In the past few years, we have embraced the Response to Intervention model to help those students who are at risk for one reason or another. Now that we have this process in effect, we are looking at providing for the needs of our higher achieving students. These students may, or may not qualify for the Academic Resource program. Classroom teachers are receiving training in the area of “differentiation of instruction” to provide for a more focused program of instruction for this group. Mr. John Lestor, an expert in this area is working with Avon Lake teachers this school year.

A new educational tool will be used by teachers in grades kindergarten through four at Redwood School this school year to monitor progress at each grade level and further prepare students for future assessments from the state of Ohio. Discovery Education provides solutions that measure and improve student achievement and predict performance on state assessments. Built from Vanderbilt University assessment research, Discovery Education Assessments measure knowledge, identify weaknesses, remediate with engaging Discovery Education *streaming* video content, and predict student performance with 80-90% accuracy. All students will take this web-based assessment three times per year. Individual interventions will be based on data gathered from this instrument to help students progress academically at the appropriate rate.

We have many activities coming in the next month at Redwood School. Below are the dates and descriptions:

- **October 2nd – The Avon Lake Homecoming Parade** begins at 10:30 at Bleser Field. Join us on the Redwood PTA float. Wear your Avon Lake colors.
- **October 4th – The Avon Lake Fire Department talks with students about fire safety.** One question they may have for you when they come home is “Where is our family meeting place if we have a fire?” Take some time to talk with your children about fire safety.
- **October 5th – Our third grade students will take the Reading portion of the Ohio Achievement Assessment in the morning.** Please talk with your child about this, have him/her get plenty of rest and be on time for school.
- **October 9th – The annual Redwood Pumpkin Festival** is bigger and better than ever this year. Don't miss it!!! Stop in between 11:00 and 3:00 for lots of fun.
- **October 15th – N.E.O. E. A. Day** No School for students today.
- **October 23rd – Begin “Red Ribbon Week” – Drug Awareness**
- **October 29th – Costume parades** (9:00 and 1:00-for PM classes)and PTA room parties (party time is at teacher discretion) – 9:00 and 1:00
- **November 2nd – Election Day** and Teacher Inservice Day. No school for students
- **November 10th and 11th – Parent conferences at Redwood.** Early dismissal at 1:45 PM for full day kdgn. and grades 1-4 only

Everyone at Redwood School invites you to participate in our school activities!

Sincerely,
James Flanigan, Principal



Redwood Parents and/or Guardians,

September 24, 2010

The school year is off to a running start. Hopefully, things are running smoothly for all of you. Fall is approaching quickly and we are getting ready for a lot of fun and exciting events. The PTA has been busy working on some of our biggest events, including the Pumpkin Festival, Homecoming and our Fall Fundraiser, which this year is the Save Around Cleveland coupon book. Some additional programs that we are working on include the Fall Scholastic Book Fair, the School Directory, Spirit Wear, and Academic Breakfasts.

We are excited to report that the **PTA has made the decision to purchase new playground equipment**. All playground equipment in the past has been purchased by the PTA. The last purchase was made in 2001, so we felt it was time to make some more improvements. The students really enjoy the equipment and it is a great way to promote physical fitness while having fun. We have just begun this process but will report more details (i.e. cost, budget, timing, etc.) at the November PTA meeting. **All fundraising dollars will go towards the purchase of new playground equipment so please support our fundraiser and sell your books!**

Thank you to all of you that completed our PTA survey. The majority of the responses preferred evening PTA meetings. So to accommodate everyone, ***we are going to start implementing alternating evening/morning meetings starting November 10th***. We will still be meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month (excluding December) in the Redwood Cafeteria, so with these changes we are hoping to see many new faces at our evening meetings.

New PTA Meeting Schedule:**

October 13 - 9:30 AM	March 9 – 9:30 AM
November 10 – 7:00 PM	April 13 – 7:00 PM
January 12 – 9:30 AM	May 11 – 9:30 AM
February 9 – 7:00 PM	

PTA Updates:

Our Student Directory is almost complete and should be ready for distribution by mid October. Membership cards will also be available at that time.

The Scholastic Book Fair is starting next week September 27 – Oct.1. Many of the proceeds will go towards the teachers so that they can stock up on classroom reading materials.

The first Spirit Wear order was placed and those shipments should arrive just in time for our Pumpkin Festival and Homecoming events. With our new program, orders can be placed at any time. So if you missed the first order, forms are available in the front office.

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 - PTA Scholastic Book Fair
- Oct. 2 – The Homecoming Parade
- Oct. 9 – Annual Pumpkin Festival
- Oct. 14 – First Grade Academic Showcase Breakfast
- Oct. 29 – PTA Costume Parade & Room Parties

Please join us at our next PTA meeting which is Wednesday, October 13th at 9:30 AM in the Redwood Cafeteria.

Our Agenda will be posted by Monday October 11th in the Handout section of our website. For those of you unable to attend, the minutes and any recent announcements are in The Branch or you can check out our Redwood PTA website at <http://www.avonlakecityschools.org/staff/redwood>. Our website is also full of great information like Announcements, 2010-2011 Events Calendar, and more, so please, check it out! **You don't need to attend meetings to be involved. Anyone can contact me with ideas or concerns that they would like voiced at a meeting.**

Warm Regards,

Nancy Sutsko, 930-0330 or nsutsko@yahoo.com

***The PTA has offered evening meetings in previous years, and the attendance was poor, so should there be a low attendance at our evening meetings again, we will return back to our morning meetings only*

REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE:

With uncertain weather this time of year, it may be a good idea for students to have an extra set of pants, socks, etc. in their locker. We do have some in the clinic but they are all a larger size. If anyone has clothes in smaller sizes that they would like to donate to our cause, please send them in marked "for clinic". PTA supplies NEW undergarments that do NOT get returned, and the student is to keep. All other borrowed clothes, we ask that you launder them and return for others to use.



Redwood Recess Walking Club

This year we are starting a walking club at recess. The students walk a lap on the walking course and keep track by marking tallies on a log sheet. Nine laps is a mile. Every five miles (45 tallies), they will receive a plastic foot to go on their chain. Mrs. Stuart with the help of the noon supervisors is supervising this program. This program will continue all year long. We hope students will benefit from this activity and will stay a little warmer during the outside winter recesses.

If there are any questions about the program, call Mrs. Stuart at ext. 6111 or email renee.stuart@avonlakecityschools.org.

PTA Fundraiser: SAVE AROUND CLEVELAND

By now your family has received the Save Around Cleveland 2011 coupon book from the PTA. This is our main fundraiser for the year. The books are only \$20 and contain thousands of dollars in coupons. (Some of the coupons indicate that they can only be used at certain locations. We have found that if you present the coupon at our local franchise, it is almost always honored.)

This fundraiser is very important because the proceeds will be used to purchase additional playground equipment for Redwood School. This directly benefits your child(ren) and the future generations of children that will go to Redwood. The school has the opportunity to add to the current playground equipment on the north side of the building (once the construction is complete) at a substantial discount because the construction company has offered to assemble any new equipment *for free*.

Please help us provide a fun and exciting place for your children to play by selling these books. Thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions regarding the fundraiser, please contact Jeannie Motylewski at 440-258-4682.

Are you a Redwood Student that is interested in wearing the Redwood Raccoon costume during the Halloween Parade? If so, get walking during the Recess walking program. Every time you earn a "foot" your name will be submitted into the drawing. The drawing and winner will be announced by Mrs. Stuart on Friday morning October 22nd! So get walking if you want a chance to win!!





Apples for the Students

Thank you!

Who knew buying groceries at Giant Eagle could lead to a mini shopping spree?

We were able to order a Flip video camera, a digital camera, a color scanner and some gym balls. These are the kind of extras that enrich learning throughout the school. We love to add photos to student projects, bulletin boards and newsletters. Scanning documents, diagrams and photos to flip charts is invaluable to interactive learning. We now have a scanner for each grade level plus our modular units which make the process much easier for our staff.

Of course we all know how much fun it is too see yourself on video! Not to mention the potential for practicing speeches and presentations.

So, keep using your Giant Eagle card so earn valuable points for our school enrichment account.

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP & REGISTER FOR REDWOOD!
Your Grocery Shopping can support Redwood!**

Giant Eagle- They are starting their Apples for Students program again to run from 9/18-3/18 this year. Make Sure Your Giant Eagle Advantage Card[®] is Enrolled.

Redwood's School ID# is 2696. Call 1-800-474-4777 to register for the program OR [ONLINE](#) . Take the first step toward great educational awards for your school and its students.

Heinen's- They have started an ABC School Donation Program. When you shop and use your Heinen's Preferred Customer Card, 1% of your purchase will go back to Redwood in cash! Register online at heinensrewards.com



Redwood Library News

Karen Schneider,
Librarian

Birthday Book Club

Thank you to the generosity of the following students for donating in April, May and June:



Jake Kusmfert for Dog Days by Jeff Kinney
Olivia Porcelli for The Starlight Ballerina by Nicola Baxter
Wyatt Taylor for The Frog House
Ethan Moore for Skippy Jon Jones Lost In Spice by Jaaug Sarchner
Aedan Allen for Ohio by Erin McHugh
Jennifer Jaiger for Runny Baggit by Shel Silverstein
Kaylee Costin for I was a 3rd Grade Spy by Mary Jane Auch
Brooke Garrett for Monster Squad The Slime That Would Not Die
Avery Minch for Rainbow Magic Fairies Katie the Kitten Fairy by Daisy Meadows
Avery Minch for Rainbow Margic Fairies Ellie the Guitar Fairy by Daisy Meadows
David Rodman for Stink and the World's Worst Super Stinky Sneakers by Megan McDonald
Lizzy Carver for A Hatful of Seuss by Dr. Seuss
Megan Kazarovich for Wall.E Love at First Beep by Apple Jordan
Andrew McLaughlin for Shape Me A Rhyme by Jane Yolen
Kellen Zarembski for Ripley's Search for the Shrunken Heads
Sam Johns for Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss
Avery Simon for Disney Princess Story Collection
Braden Elbert for Apolline and Her Bear by Nadine Walter
Olivia Ritter for Olivia the Magnificent by Sheild Sweeny Higginson
Emily Reynodls for The Baby Sitters' Club Summer Vacation by Anna M. Maritn
Mutasem Al-muhtaseb for Madagascar "Escape 2 Africa" Father and Son Save the Day
Nathan Johnson for The Legend of Baeoh: How Baeoh Got His Stripes
Amanda Blanchard for Queen Clarioh's Secret by Kimberly Morris
Mathew Kuban for There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Bat by Lucille Colandro
Meghan Bowers for Paint The Wind by Pam Munor Ryan
Ashley Jodan Hubert for Pink Me Up by Charise Mericle Harper
Gabby Williams for Ramona The Brave by Beverly Cleary
Nathan Simon for How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell

The library would like to thank Mrs. Smith and her family, and Andrew Crooks and his family for the generous book donations. They are great choices that the students will love! Their thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! Book donations are always welcome!

Homecoming 5k run/walk

Free kids mile fun

Come participate in an exciting Homecoming weekend activity. On Sunday Oct. 3 at 9:00 a.m., The Avon Lake Sports Hall of Fame is sponsoring a 5k walk/run. The race will start at Bleser Park, follow neighborhood streets, use the Armour Road Bike path and finish at the Memorial high school stadium.

At 10:15 there will be a kid's fun run. **It is free!** The course circles the high school track, moves onto the high school fitness trail and finishes on the stadium turf. All kid participants will receive a medal. The entire family can benefit from this fun, fall weekend activity. To sign up for the race, walk or fun run visit www.hermescleveland.com.



Parents,

We are off to an amazing start for collecting Boxtops. **We have collected \$658.00 thus far,** which is incredible considering we have only just begun 🎉. Giant Eagle again is offering a double incentive in October to boost our earnings. If you purchase any 4 Yoplait or Nestle products in one transaction they will give us a 15 BONUS boxtop CERTIFICATE. Likewise, if you purchase any 5 Progresso soups, Totinos Party pizzas, Gold medal flour or Betty Crocker mixes in one transaction we receive a 20 BONUS boxtop certificate. These are just other opportunities to help our earnings grow.

Again keep sending in those boxtops and collection sheets.

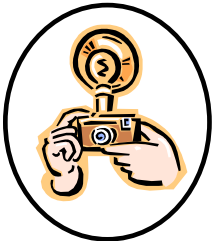
Thanks for your help,

Julie Norris

Reflections Creative Arts Fair



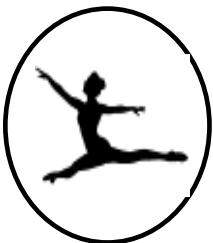
**Redwood Reflections
Volunteers Needed!**



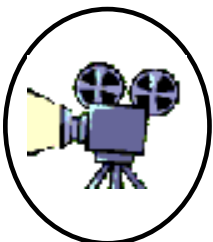
**If your child's classroom doesn't
already have one,
please consider being a
Reflections Creative Arts Fair
volunteer.**



**This year's theme is
"Together We Can".
More information,
including important dates,
will be coming soon.**



**Questions?
Contact Susan Mealey,
Redwood's Reflections Chair,
at tsmealey@centurytel.net,
or 440-933-9535.**



Redwood PTA Meeting Minutes: 9-8-10

Meeting was called to order at 9:39 am

Nancy Sutsko, President, conducted welcome, pledge and reviewed clipboard items.

Mr. Flanigan, Principal, gave the principal's report: Redwood construction change now includes four additional rooms, refer to website for more details. Fire safety next month, know your meeting point in case of fire. Discovery Assessment (a computerized assessment tool) is being used to help teachers know where each child is performing. Redwood received Excellence with Distinction honor for testing scores. Previously passage was at 66% and currently 93% with 100 of 104 fourth graders passing. John Lester a trainer will be coming to Redwood to work with higher academic students. October 5th is OAT for third graders.

Sutsko gave the president's report. Stacy Jantz made a motion to approve the budget, Holly Armbrecht seconded. Motion passed. Still examining playground addition to be financed through PTA fundraising. All volunteers must be PTA members per National PTA regulations. Redwood PTA has a new committee chaired by Renee Stuart, Gym Teacher, for Recess/Walking Program. PTA meeting survey results are in and there were more votes for evening meetings so we will attempt a few evening meetings this year, schedule forthcoming. Redwood PTA website is <http://www.avonlakecityschools.org/staff/redwood>.

Holly Armbrecht, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report. Reimbursement slips are in the copy room across from the main office.

Sutsko reported for Erin Stack, re: Directory & Room Parents, distribution of the directory TBA, sometime in October. Erin will be contacting those who signed up to be room parents.

Sutsko reported for Tracy Share, Newsletter, Redwood Branch is sent out via e-mail, deadline for entries will be the 18th of each month.

Sutsko reported for Kristen, Pumpkin Festival, please make cake donations, they are a big part of pumpkin festival fundraising, homemade or store bought.

Denice Kirkwood, Pumpkin Festival, collecting for donations for the raffle baskets. Denice has a letter/flyer if anyone needs one to take to businesses that you are contacting for a donation. They would like to have the basket donations by October 1st so they have time to put the baskets together.

Jeannie Motylewski, Fundraising, reported that sales for the "Enjoy the City" coupon books will begin September 20th and PTA needs to choose an end date. A decision regarding profit spending needs to be made so we can include what the money is being used for with the letter that will go home with the books. Volunteers still needed to help sell books at the Avon Lake Pre-school October 9th, which ends at noon. Jeannie will cover sales at the Pumpkin Festival and at Homecoming after the parade at 11:00. One book per student will be sent home with order forms. Collect the money at time of sale. Books delivered about one week from end of sale.

Julie Norris, Product Reimbursement, A packet is going home with the children regarding box tops. Giant Eagle reimbursement was \$7.00, with \$137.00 of our \$2,200.00 goal fulfilled. Giant Eagle and Heinen's register each year. Target sends money directly to school, not to PTA.

Nikki Kovacs, Homecoming, Redwood float theme will be Cool School because we won the cool school contest from channel 8. Next Wednesday there will be meeting at Nikki's house to brainstorm. Cutting Edge donating a truck and trailer for our use for the float and letting the committee decorate and store the float in their warehouse. We need to locate the Redwood sign to put on the float. Redwood children are all welcome to walk with and ride on the float. There will be a poster contest for the classrooms. Decorating of the float will be Sunday the 26th at Cutting Edge. Nikki sent the registration form into the parade chair/committee so we are registered. Still need a small child from Redwood to wear the Raccoon costume and ride on the float.

Sutsko reported that we have a new raccoon on the spirit wear this year.

Announcements listed on the agenda:

September 24, school picture day – September 27-October 1, PTA Scholastic Book Fair – October 2, Homecoming Parade – October 9, Pumpkin Festival – October 13, PTA Meeting at Redwood

Newcomers introduced themselves. Motylewski suggested a welcome buddy system through the PTA to help families that are new to Redwood, patterned after Welcome Wagon. Discussion ensued regarding multiple documentation going home with students who have siblings in the building. Tax exempt forms are available for anyone that needs them.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tari Belpulsi

Congratulations, to our PTA membership raffle winner Stacy Jolly. She won four tickets to the Indians game September 27th. Fan Appreciation Night.



Jr. Tree House Club (Ages 6 & 7)

Halloween Mobile – Tuesday, October 12 from 4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Make a Halloween mobile, using an origami witch, bat, ghost and pumpkin. Registration begins Wednesday, October 6 in DiscoveryWorks or by calling 440.933.7848.

Tree House Club (Ages 8-11)

Egg-stravaganza – Wednesday, October 20 from 4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Egg-splere science with egg-ceptional egg-speriments with egg-straordinary eggs. Registration begins Wednesday, October 13 in DiscoveryWorks or by calling 440.933.7848.

Evening with the Stars

On Monday nights with clear skies in **October**, DiscoveryWorks will set up their telescope outside the west end of the Library across from the tennis courts. From 8:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m., stop by and take a look at whatever interesting stars or planets are visible.

Halloween “Spooktacular” Party (Grades 1-3)

Thursday, October 28, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Join us for an after school Halloween costume party! (No MASKS, please.) Enjoy gruesome games, scary stories a creepy craft and rotten refreshments! Registration is required in the Children’s department or by calling 440.933.8128 x253.

October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2 Homecoming Parade
3	4 Avon Lake Fire Department talks with students about fire safety 	5 3 rd Gr. students take the Reading portion of the Ohio Achievement Assessment	6	7	8 PTA Fundraiser orders & unsold books due!	9 Pumpkin Festival 11 am to 3 pm 
10	11	12	13 PTA Meeting 9:30 AM	14	15 N.E.O. E. A. Day No School for students	16
17	18	19	20	21 Candid Picture Day	22	23 Start Red Ribbon Week- Drug Awareness
24	25	26	27	28	29 Costume parades 9:00 am (1:00-for PM classes) End of 1 st Grading Period	30
31 						