



The Ram Report

Rousseau Elementary School – 3701 South 33rd Street – Lincoln, NE 68506

CALENDAR NOVEMBER

10 Character Council Mtg.
 13 Basic Aid Training 4th Gr.
 14 Rousseau Anniversary
 Celebration
 14 Report Cards Sent Home
 15 Bubba's Closet - Pershing
 Elementary 8:00-10:00 AM
 17 PTO Board Mtg. 6:30 PM
 18 Ram Report Deadline
 24 Character Council Mtg.
 25 PLC Early Release at 2:18 PM
 26 **NO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
 27-28 **NO SCHOOL**

LUNCH MENU CHANGE

Monday, Nov. 24th

“Hamburger on a Bun” will be served
 instead of “Hamburger Pizza”



November 25th

Professional Learning Communities
 (PLC) Early Release Day
 K-5 will dismiss at 2:18 PM

STAPH INFECTIONS

You may have read in the newspaper or heard in other media that there have been outbreaks of staph infections in our community and in others. This is not unusual, especially at this time of year. A staph infection can be serious, so we're writing to provide some information that may be helpful to you.

Staph infections, and particularly the MRSA strain, bring questions about the causes of the infection and what can be done to prevent a staph infection.

To prevent staph, or MRSA skin infections, the Center for Disease Control recommends:

1. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
3. Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
4. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

The CDC also notes that, “Staph or MRSA infections in the community are usually manifested as skin infections, such as pimples and boils, and occur in otherwise healthy people.” These skin infections frequently look like spider bites or bumps that are red, swollen, and painful. Please contact your healthcare provider if any family member has a skin lesion that does not heal quickly or if the person has any fever.

LPS Custodial staff clean and disinfect locker rooms, bathrooms and other areas on a regular basis. School Health Office staff members reinforce the above prevention steps and work with students who do have scrapes and cuts to be sure they are cleaned and covered. All LPS staff is encouraged to reinforce the need for frequent hand washing which is the best way to prevent the spread of infections of all types.

Additional information is available at www.cdc.gov/; you are also welcome to contact the nurse in your student's school if you have questions.

Student Corner

Fun Night at School By Finley Peterson 2nd Grade

Fun night is the most fun night on the earth at my school. We get to play lots and lots of games like pig racing, bean bag toss, tattoos and lots of anything. On other nights they serve runzas all the time and I love them and I like the fries and ketchup.

Red Ribbon Week By Skyler & Finley Peterson 2nd Grade

Part of the situation is being drug free. Here are some of the things we have been doing for Red Ribbon Week. We have put on red ribbons, we all said, "I am happy to be drug free". We do lots of fun things like reading with popcorn, book fair bingo, team shirts and Waffleman. I think Red Ribbon week this year was great and I hope you all had a great Red Ribbon week. I liked all of the fun things that we have been doing, how about you? They are all very fun things.



Congratulations to Peterson's Penguins, 2nd grade, winner of the Box Tops contest. They collected 950 Box Tops and a total of 10,968 Box Tops were collected by students.



NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM THE ROUSSEAU PTO...

Tie-Dyed Spirit Wear

We're placing our second, and final, tie-dyed spirit wear order for the school year later this month. Order forms are available in today's Friday Folder. Please return them to the office, along with your payment, on or before Friday, November 21, 2008.

School Directories

School directories are published by the Rousseau PTO and provided free of charge to its members. For those of you who did not receive a directory in today's Friday Folder, but would like to have one, you're in luck! Simply stop by the office, fill out a PTO membership form, and pay your \$7.00 annual fee. It's as easy as that!

Box Tops

A big thank you goes out to Kelly Zoz, our Box Tops Coordinator, for all of the hard work and time she put into last month's collection competition. Its success wouldn't have been possible without her! A big thank you also goes out to all of the families who have been cutting and saving their box tops for the school. Keep it up!

Jenni Jex
Co-President, Rousseau PTO

A NOTE FROM THE ROUSSEAU PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION...

We were hard at work during the first quarter of the school year, collaborating with one another to develop and plan activities and projects for our students and families, and we're excited that things are coming to fruition! Some of the activities and projects that you've already seen and benefited from include landscape upgrades, spirit wear sales, gift sales, school pictures, after school classes, skating parties, room parents, conference refreshments, and book fairs. (Just to name a few!)

PTO VS PTA. As you may know, we recently switched to a PTO from a PTA. We found that the higher levels of modernization and independence sponsored and facilitated by the PTO, versus that of the PTA, are more in sync with our style and purpose. Most of the changes that we will incur involve the technical and legal aspects of our procedures and policies and are transparent to our general membership population. We appreciate your patience as we take care of red tape issues, such as updating our bylaws and changing our checking account.

PURPOSE. The PTO is comprised of parents and teachers who work together to provide a positive support system for our students at home and school. Most of our efforts come by way of fundraising and volunteering, and the combination of the two makes for a well-received and highly effective educational environment for our students and families.

- **Fundraising** allows us to pay for school expenses that are not funded by Lincoln Public Schools. We periodically conduct fundraisers during the school year, such as gift sales in the fall and fun night in the spring. Box Tops for Education is another fundraising program with which we are involved, and it runs throughout the school year.

Our most significant expense this school year, as it is most school years, is the special grant money that we provide to our classroom teachers for supplemental school supplies. Each receives \$325, and it may be used at his or her discretion. In the past, some teachers have chosen to use their grant money to buy magazine subscriptions for their students, thus allowing them to keep abreast of current events. Other teachers have chosen to pool their grant money to buy a large item that benefits an entire grade of students. Regardless of its use, the grant money is an effective tool in the enrichment and enhancement of our students' education. And it's one of our little ways of thanking our teachers for a job well done!

Other big-ticket items that have been budgeted for this school year include technology upgrades (\$10,000), facility upgrades (\$5,000), enrichment programs (\$3,000), field trips (\$3,000), landscaping (\$2,000), fund-a-wish requests (\$2,000), and an art display case (\$1,500). The PTO also pays for teacher appreciation gifts, reading programs, musical concerts, intervention materials, fish tank maintenance, college scholarships, and the biweekly newsletter.

- **Volunteering** allows us to accomplish many wonderful things and is our greatest asset! Volunteers spend countless hours in widespread and numerous ways to help our school be the very best it can be. Whether they spend an hour spreading mulch on the front lawn or a year chairing a committee, we couldn't do the things we do without them. (And that would be a real bummer!) Of course we could never have too many volunteers, and there are opportunities for everyone, so please consider offering your time and talent.

MEETINGS. Most of our meetings take place in the school media center at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of each month. (The specific dates are given in the school calendar.) All members are welcome to attend. If you have an item to discuss at one of the meetings, please notify a board member listed below or the school office at least one week in advance.

CONTACT INFORMATION. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact one of the board members listed below. If you have any special talents or skills, please feel free to contact one of the board members listed below, as well. We're always looking for fun, new ideas to incorporate into our programs and activities!

Co-President

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420-0852
jennijex@hotmail.com

Co-Vice President

Kim Cook
314-1938
kcook@lps.org

Treasurer

Doug Ayars
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Co-President

Barb Solomon
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Co-Vice President

Lori Tackett
314-1731
ltackett@neb.rr.com

Secretary

Melanie Whitmore
450-7258
melaniewhitmore@hotmail.com

Rousseau Spirit Wear - Last Chance!



Our tie-dyed spirit wear is a hit! As requested, we're placing another order for it before the holidays. This is your last chance to join the fashion craze we've created, as we won't be placing another order for it this school year.

Sizes tend to run small. If in doubt, go with the larger size.
Orders are due to the school office on or before Friday, November 21, 2008.

Questions? Contact Jenni Jex at 420-0852 or jennijex@hotmail.com.

Style/Size	Price	Quantity	Total
Red Tie-Dye T-Shirt			
Youth Small	\$11.50	_____	_____
Youth Medium	\$11.50	_____	_____
Youth Large	\$11.50	_____	_____
Adult Small	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult Medium	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult Large	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult X-Large	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult XX-Large	\$12.50	_____	_____
Blue Tie-Dye T-Shirt			
Youth Small	\$11.50	_____	_____
Youth Medium	\$11.50	_____	_____
Youth Large	\$11.50	_____	_____
Adult Small	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult Medium	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult Large	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult X-Large	\$12.00	_____	_____
Adult XX-Large	\$12.50	_____	_____
Blue Tie-Dye Hooded Sweatshirt			
Youth Small	\$24.00	_____	_____
Youth Medium	\$24.00	_____	_____
Youth Large	\$24.00	_____	_____
Adult Small	\$29.00	_____	_____
Adult Medium	\$29.00	_____	_____
Adult Large	\$29.00	_____	_____
Adult X-Large	\$29.00	_____	_____
Adult XX-Large	\$31.50	_____	_____
Grand Total			_____

Please make checks payable to Rousseau PTO.

Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____