



# Rib Lake Elementary

## January Newsletter

# 2026



### **Elementary School**

#### **Parents:**

Please send your child to school wearing their snow pants if they do not eat breakfast at school. The doors open at 7:45 am with many busses arriving close to that time. Students are to go outside for morning recess or go to breakfast. If the student comes without their snow pants on they will need to put them on before going out to recess and this is very difficult for the younger students. Thank you for your help!

School policy is that children will be going outside for recess as long as the temperature is 5 degrees or warmer for PreK - 2nd grade and 0 degrees or warmer for 3rd - 5th grade.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Jan. 26-29.....NorthLakes Dental Clinic  
Jan. 28.....School Board Meeting @ 6:30pm  
Feb. 2.....Open Enrollment Begins  
Feb. 2-6.....Soup-er Bowl (non-perishable soups & crackers to be collected for local food pantry)  
Feb. 9-13.....Kindness Week  
Feb. 18.....Opera of the Young in the RLES Gym from 1:30pm-2:30pm  
Feb. 19.....Early Dismissal @ 12:15pm for Elementary & P/T Conferences from 1-6pm  
Mar. 9-13.....No School, Spring Break  
Mar. 17.....Spring/Kindergarten Graduation Picture Day  
Mar. 20.....End of Quarter 3, Early Dismissal at 12:15pm/ Teacher Record Keeping  
Mar. 23-27.....Spring Book Fair  
Mar. 24.....Family Reading Night 6-7:30pm

### **Student Absences:**

Cold & flu season are upon us!!! Sadly, with that, your student may not be able to attend school because he/she is not feeling well. **Please remember to call the school at 715.513.7573 before 9 a.m.** and let us know that your child will be out of school. Without a note or phone call, your child will be marked unexcused for that day. Thank You! 🤒



# Community Christmas Caroling

Our community Christmas caroling looked a little different this year as the weather didn't want to cooperate. Even so, we were still able to spread plenty of holiday cheer! Students had the opportunity to carol at the local nursing home, bringing smiles to residents and staff. We also invited community members into the school so our PreK–5th grade students could still sing and celebrate the season together!





## Become a Redmen

If someone you know would like to attend the Rib lake School District, the open enrollment period has begun. Please have them contact Amy Foster at 715.513.7573 or [afoster@riblake.k12.wi.us](mailto:afoster@riblake.k12.wi.us) for more information. We would love to help them become a Rib Lake Redmen!



## Open Enrollment

The application period for the 2026-27 school year is **February 2 - April 30, 2026**. Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend a school other than the one in which they live. Parents must complete an online application no earlier than February 2, 2026, and no later than April 30, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. The DPI website to complete an online application is: <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>

At this time, once a student is accepted to attend the Rib Lake School District under open enrollment, the student may continue to attend the district without having to reapply every year. For more information, please contact Amy Foster at 715.513.7573 or [afoster@riblake.k12.wi.us](mailto:afoster@riblake.k12.wi.us)

## Tuition Waiver

If your family is moving out of the district but wishes to continue at the Rib Lake Schools, you will need to fill out an open enrollment tuition waiver or alternative application. Please contact Amy Foster at 715.513.7573 or [afoster@riblake.k12.wi.us](mailto:afoster@riblake.k12.wi.us) for assistance.

## Child Development Day – March 5, 2026

Mark your calendars! Child Development Day will be held on **March 5, 2026** for children **ages 2½ to 4** who have **not previously been screened**. Please contact Amy Foster at 715.513.7573 to schedule your child's screening. This is a great opportunity to support your child's early growth and development.



# Reminders on When to Keep Your Student Home

Sometimes it's hard to know if your child is really sick. It's important to protect your child from illness exposure and to prevent them from exposing others to an illness. Here are some guidelines to help you make the best choices.



## Keep your child home from school:

- **FEVER:**

If the oral temperature is **100.4 degrees or higher** (*before taking medication such as Tylenol or Advil*). If a child has a temperature under 100 degrees and otherwise seems OK, they can probably go to school. If the child seems pale, lethargic or irritable, they should stay home from school.

***When at school, if your child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, we will call you to take them home.*** The child should remain home from school until they have not had a fever **for 24 hours** (before taking medication such as Tylenol or Advil).

- **VOMITING:**

If your child vomits in the last 24 hours. The child should remain home until they are back to eating a regular diet, at least 24 hours since the last vomit episode.

- **DIARRHEA:**

If the child has had watery stools, the child should not return to school until it has been 24 hours since the last watery stool.

[Diarrhea that is bloody or there is also fever, belly pain or vomiting should be checked out by your doctor.]

- **COMMON COLD:**

If your child has thick yellow or green nasal discharge.

If your child has a bad cough that has a lot of phlegm or is having trouble breathing, a doctor should check it out right away.

[If symptoms last for more than two to three days, or there is also fever, see your doctor.]

- **SORES on the skin or mouth:**

If your child has sores on the skin or mouth that are crusty, yellow or draining. They may be contagious and should be checked out by the doctor before sending the child back to school.

- **RASHES:**

If your child has a rash that is itchy or scaly. The rash may be contagious and should be checked out by your doctor before sending the child back to school.

If there are also symptoms such as trouble breathing or swallowing, fever, or ill appearance, a doctor should be seen.

***If your child develops a rash illness at school, they will be sent home. They should not return to school until your doctor says it is not contagious, or until the rash has gone away.***

# When to Keep Your Student Home Continued...

- **CONDITIONS:**

- o **Ear infections:** Your child needs to stay home if the infected ear is draining, or the child has not been on antibiotics for 24 hours since it was draining, and/or the pain is severe.
- o **Strep throat:** Your child needs to stay home until taking antibiotics for at least 12-24 hours as long as they are fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- o **Chicken pox:** Your child should remain home until all chicken pox lesions are crusted over – no draining lesions. This will take about seven days.
- o **Red eye(s) with crusting or green or yellow discharge or drainage:**
  - Recommended to see an **eye** doctor.
  - If the infection is **bacterial**, your child should stay home from the time the eyes are red and draining until 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
  - If the infection is **viral**, we encourage preservative free artificial tears and washing of bedding and pillowcases.
  - If your student is unable to avoid touching their eyes they should stay home.
- o **Lice:** Your child can return to school after their hair has been treated, they are free of live lice and all procedures have been done as directed by the school's lice treatment information.
- o **Scabies:** Your child can return to school after medical treatment is prescribed by the doctor and complete
- o **Mononucleosis:** Your child can return to school according to the doctor's recommendations.

**Call your doctor's office for advice if you aren't sure about your child's condition or have questions about whether to let the child go to school.**

**If your child appears to be really sick, keep him/her home and contact your doctor that day. If you are very concerned, either call 911 or bring your child to the nearest emergency room to be evaluated.**

Remember to provide the school with a copy of the physician's recommendations about returning to school, and if there are any activity restrictions or modifications. *It is your responsibility to let us know.*

**The most important thing that can be done to prevent the spread of infections is *hand washing*.** This protects your family as well. We recommend that you teach your children to wash their hands regularly. Other safe practices to prevent the spread of illnesses include blowing noses into tissues and covering mouths when coughing or sneezing. Even so, sometimes staying home from school is the better way to protect them, ourselves and our communities.

For more information or questions, contact District Nurse, Maris Pernsteiner RN, BSN at 715-513-7573 ext. 1040





# *Opera for the Young!*

“Opera for the Young brings live, professional opera to elementary school audiences with annual Fall and Spring tours. Students appear onstage in chorus and cameo roles, performing for their peers right alongside OFTY’s professional artists. All productions are fully staged, sung in English and adapted especially for kids.”

Opera for the Young will be an all school event. This opportunity is a great way to involve the whole school and provide them with an experience they may never have imagined before! Students will learn about stage productions and dive deeper into the world of opera. They will also learn the chorus songs and perform as a school!

For more information about Opera for the Young, go to the following website:

<https://www.operafortheyoung.org/>



A big thank you to Lakewood Credit Union for their generous donation of over 100 mittens/gloves along with some hats/headbands! RLES is so grateful to have received many warm mittens to help keep our students cozy this winter.

## RLES Spring Picture Day is Coming! Tuesday, March 17, 2026

### How It Works:

#### 1. Pre-order online at [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com)

- Create an account or log in using your Picture Day ID
- **Picture Day ID: EVTN673PX**

#### 2. Students are photographed at school on Picture Day.

#### 3. Orders will be sent home with your student after Picture Day.

### Questions?

Visit [lifetouch.com/support-us](https://lifetouch.com/support-us) and select **K-12 School Photography** for assistance.



# Redmen Readers



I'm sure many parents thought very carefully when deciding on a first and middle name for their child. Perhaps there's a special grandparent, aunt or uncle who shares the same name. A name is part of a person's identity in this big, beautiful world. Does your child know how to correctly spell their first, middle and last name? If not, it might be something easy and fun to practice and make a priority in this month of setting goals. It's actually surprising how many students aren't able to write their full names with no errors. Speaking of surprising things that we might take for granted...the 26 letters of the alphabet are the magic recipe for making every word in English. I'm sure your child, no matter their age, can sing the /ABCs/, but can they write all 26 uppercase and 26 lowercase letters in order with no mistakes? Challenge your child to do so in under 5 minutes. It's not as easy as you'd think. Often, the /l,m,n,o,p/ portion gets scrambled up with the /n/ forgotten or a /b, d, p, q/ are written backwards. Even the hook on the /g/ or /j/ gets turned around sometimes. Some kids have to restart singing the song from /Aa/ many times to remember which letter comes next. If you accept my challenge to have your child write their first, middle and last name along with a complete set of 52 /ABCs/ from memory, send me an email how it goes. I'd love to hear if it was tricky or as easy as slurping alphabet soup.

😊 Mary Hessefort, Reading Interventionist, [mhessefort@riblake.k12.wi.us](mailto:mhessefort@riblake.k12.wi.us)

A heartfelt thank you to Taylor Credit Union for their thoughtful donation of mittens, gloves, and winter accessories!

Your generosity will help keep our students warm and comfortable

throughout the winter season!







*Congratulations,*  
**RIB LAKE ELEMENTARY &  
RIB LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL!**

Rib Lake Elementary and Rib Lake Middle School have each been named one of U.S. News & World Report's Best Schools! To be selected, a school must place among the top 40% of schools in the state of Wisconsin. A school's ranking is based on student proficiency in math and reading, as measured by state assessment tests, as well as performance within the context of the school's socioeconomic demographics.

To learn more about each school's statistics and ranking factors, please click the links below.

Rib Lake Elementary School:

<https://bit.ly/3N5aa3E>

Rib Lake Middle School:

<https://bit.ly/4bhrjB4>

This recognition reflects the strong commitment of our students, staff, and community.

## Counselor's Corner

Happy New Year! With the start of a new year, many are setting New Year's Resolutions. Many REACH classes worked through their own 2026 resolutions that they would like to aspire to over the next year. The character trait for the month of January was perseverance. Students learned that perseverance is the ability to keep trying and not give up, even when things get challenging. Developing skills and working towards a goal requires perseverance and a growth mindset which is something we have been working on all year! We want to help our children develop this trait so they can grow into their fullest potential!

Happy New Year!

- Brittany Allen, RLES Counselor



As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child's social and emotional well being, please do not hesitate to reach out at 715.513.7573 or [ballen@riblake.k12.wi.us](mailto:ballen@riblake.k12.wi.us)