



# Around the Round!

Round Elementary School  
11550 Hibner Rd, Hartland, MI 48353  
<http://round.hartlandschools.us>  
**Phone: 810-626-2800**

**Absence Line: 810-626-2805**  
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:15 pm

**November 2019**

## Important Dates

### November:

- 11/1 Progress Reports go Home**
- 11/4 Sensei JK-2**
- 11/7 Watch D.O.G.S Pizza with Dads (6 – 7 pm)**  
**Sensei 3-4**
- 11/8 4<sup>th</sup> grade fudge money is due (Mackinac)**
- 11/12 District Highly Capable Parent Meeting (4:30 pm)**
- 11/13 PTO 7pm**  
**High School Band Visits**
- 11/14 Picture Retakes**
- 11/27-12/1 Thanksgiving Break**  
**No School for Staff or Students**

### December:

- 12/9 Sensei JK - 2**
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Santa Shop**
- 12<sup>th</sup> PTO Meeting 4:00 pm**  
**Sensei 3-4**
- 17<sup>th</sup> Staff Cookie Walk provided by the PTO**
- 20<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup> No School for students Holiday Break**

**School Hours**  
Monday -Thursday  
8:50 – 3:50pm

**Fridays**  
**Early Release**  
**8:50 – 2:50pm**

Round Elementary School is an exciting place to learn. The October Fun Run was a huge success. Students, parents, and staff enjoyed the fall weather and raised over \$30,000! These funds are used to purchase chromebooks, take home books, field trips, assemblies, equipment, furniture, rugs etc. Thank you for supporting the Round School and our amazing PTO!

The Halloween parade was a huge success! The students really enjoyed getting dressed up and participating in the parade.

Did you know that November is Diabetes Awareness month? Please consider decorating a circle and donating \$1.00 to support JDF for a cure! We will be sending home more information soon, but be sure and wear “Blue” on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**We have a new safety policy for recess.** Since, our supervisors do not know all of the parents/volunteers, volunteers will no longer be able to attend recess with their children. Recess supervisors have been instructed to notify the office if there are any adults on the playground. As you know, our playground is accessible from both parking lots without entering the building. Again, this is for the safety and security of our students. Please contact Mrs. Hottum if you have questions or concerns.

**Calling all Dads! The WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students) kick-off is November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the library.** Please join us, with your child, for a pizza dinner and lots of fun. WatchDOGS are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each year at school. During the day, WatchDOGS may read and work on flash cards with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways and assist with traffic flow. They actively engage with not only their own students, but other students as well.

Mrs. Dotty Hottum  
Round Elementary Principal



## Bundle Up!



### It's Getting Cold Outside!

Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather with warm coats, snow pants, hats, gloves and boots. Children go outside for recess 3 times a day for fresh air, frequent breaks and exercise.

The district cold weather policy is as follows:

- Wind chill 15 degrees or above = regular outdoor recess
- Wind chill between 0 and 15 degrees = a short recess 5 to 15 minutes long
- Wind chill below 0 degrees = inside recess

*Please be aware that children need a doctor's note to stay in for recess.*



# Safety in the Parking Lot!



The morning “drop off” time before school and afternoon “pick up” time after school has students and parents negotiating a very busy parking lot. PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY and put the safety of our students first. The drop off lane is a “kiss and go lane”, please stay in your car, give them a kiss and a hug, send them out to the sidewalk and keep the line moving. We would like the line to move quickly so parents with other morning commitments can get through the line efficiently. If you want to get out of the car please park. Also, remember to save the parking spaces labeled handicapped for those with the appropriate legal designation.

## Sign Out Procedures – Just a Reminder!

Round elementary is dedicated to a safe and secure environment for students, parents, and staff. The entrance is designed for the safety of our students. Students only exit from the gym and the main entrance at the end of the day. The following procedures will make pick up safe and secure.

- If you are picking your child up at the end of the day (3:50), you can wait for them at the entrance to the building. All students riding the bus will exit the main doors.
- Students being picked up will be dismissed to the gym at 3:40. Parents can sign their child out in the gym using the west parking lot at 3:45. Please call the office or send a note to let us know that your child is being picked up early. We are required to put them on the bus without a note.
- We encourage parents to avoid pick up between 3:30 and 3:40 due to the end of the day routines and procedures. Most teachers are teaching at this time, some students are preparing to go home in the hallway and some students may be returning from their afternoon recess. **We understand that sometimes this is unavoidable and we are happy to have your child sent to the office for you.**

## Sign In Procedures

These guidelines are an important part of ensuring a safe environment for your children. Parents entrust their precious children to us during the school year and we will do everything we can to keep our building safe. Please follow these guidelines to ensure all students are safe at Round.

- If you arrive after 8:50, please walk your child into the office and sign them in.
- If you pick your child up during the school day, please sign them out in the office. We will call them down for you.
- During school hours, all parents and visitors are required to sign in at the office in order to keep everyone safe.
- If you are dropping off items for your child during the school day, please bring them to the office. We will make sure they are delivered promptly.

## Round Revolution at Work!



## Order Scrip for the Holidays

Give thanks for great rebates this fall. Use scrip when you go grocery shopping for holiday get-togethers and help us hit our fundraising goals.

Who doesn't love picking out their own gifts? By giving a scrip gift card to someone you love this holiday, they can do just that while you earn rebates for Round! Of course, if you have the perfect gift in mind for someone, or you have a list of presents to check off for your kids, think ahead and just purchase gifts with scrip and save.

You can sign up on [www.ShopWithScrip](http://www.ShopWithScrip) (Round's enrollment code is: 24D4AC6E14237 )  
OR, if you don't want to create yet another online account, **watch for an order form to come home in backpack mail.**

**Orders will be placed on November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Trish VanTichelt ([trishvant79@gmail.com](mailto:trishvant79@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## **Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying: Defining the Differences**

Signe Whitson Become a fan

Author: Child and adolescent therapist

Posted: 11/26/2012 8:29 pm EST Updated: 08/27/2014 10:59 am EDT

A few weeks ago, I had the terrific fortune of getting to present some of the bullying prevention work that I do to a group of children at a local bookstore. As if interacting with smiling, exuberant young people was not gift enough, a reporter also attended the event and wrote a lovely article about my book and the work I do with kids, parents, educators and youth care professionals. All in all, it was dream publicity and since then, has sparked many conversations with people in my town who saw my photo in the newspaper and immediately related to the examples of bullying that were discussed.

I have been brought to tears more than once since the article ran, while listening to parents share their feelings of outrage and helplessness over their kids' experiences with bullying in school. One gifted but socially awkward middle school student blew me away with his articulate, poised, yet searingly painful accounts of relentless physical and verbal bullying on his school bus. An elementary school aged girl described how she had to learn to shed her Australian accent within a month of entering U.S. schools because of how she was shunned by her classmates. The commonness of it all routinely astounds me with every new account; the pervasive cruelty makes my jaw drop every time.

It is important for me to begin this article by establishing that without doubt, many of the stories of bullying that are shared with me are horrifying and some are unspeakably cruel. But now, I also want to be honest and share that some of the stories are... well... really not so bad.

Take this story recently shared with me by an acquaintance who read about my professional work: "Signe, I saw your picture in the paper last week. Congratulations! I didn't know you worked with bullied students. It's so important that you do -- things have gotten so bad! Last week, my daughter was bullied really badly after school! She was getting off of her bus when this kid from our neighborhood threw a fistful of leaves right in her face! When she got home, she still had leaves in the hood of her coat. It's just awful! I don't know what to do about these bullies."

"Was she very upset when she got home?" I empathized.

"No. She just brushed the leaves off and told me they were having fun together," she said.

"Oh," I answered knowingly, aware that oftentimes kids try to downplay victimization by bullies from their parents, due to the embarrassment and shame they feel. "Did you get the sense she was covering for the boy?"

"No, no. She really seemed to think it was fun. She said that she threw leaves back at him, which I told her NEVER to do again! The nerve of those kids."

"Those 'kids,' I clarified. "Was it just the one boy throwing leaves or were there a bunch of kids all ganging up on her?"

"No, it was just this one boy that lives about a block from us," she assured me.

"Is he usually mean to her? Has he bothered her after school before?" I asked, eager at this point to figure out what the bullying issue was.

"No. I don't think so at least. That was the first time she ever said anything about him. It was definitely the first time that I noticed the leaves all over her coat. But it better be the last time! I won't stand for her being bullied by that kid. Next time, I am going to make sure the Principal knows what is going on after school lets out!"

While I always want to be careful not to minimize anyone's experience (it's the social worker in me!) and a part of me suspects that the sharing of this particular story may have been simply this parent's spontaneous way of making conversation with me in a store aisle, I hear these "alarming" (read: benign) stories often enough to conclude that there is a real need to draw a distinction between behavior that is rude, behavior that is mean and behavior that is characteristic of bullying. I first heard bestselling children's author, Trudy Ludwig, talk about these distinguishing terms and, finding them so helpful, have gone on to use them as follows:

Rude = Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.

A particular relative of mine (whose name it would be rude of me to mention) often looks my curly red hair up and down before inquiring in a sweet tone, "Have you ever thought about coloring your hair?" or "I think you look so much more sophisticated when you straighten your hair, Signe." This doting family member thinks she is helping me. The rest of the people in the room cringe at her boldness and I am left to wonder if being a brunette would suit me. Her comments can sting, but remembering that they come from a place of love -- in her mind --helps me to remember what to do with the advice...

From kids, rudeness might look more like burping in someone's face, jumping ahead in line, bragging about achieving the highest grade or even throwing a crushed up pile of leaves in someone's face. On their own, any of these behaviors could appear as elements of bullying, but when looked at in context, incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone.

Mean = Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice).

The main distinction between "rude" and "mean" behavior has to do with intention; while rudeness is often unintentional, mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone. Kids are mean to each other when they criticize clothing, appearance, intelligence, coolness or just about anything else they can find to denigrate. Meanness also sounds like words spoken in anger -- impulsive cruelty that is often regretted in short order. Very often, mean behavior in kids is motivated by angry feelings and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down. Commonly, meanness in kids sounds an awful lot like:

- "Are you seriously wearing that sweater again? Didn't you just wear it, like, last week? Get a life."
- "You are so fat/ugly/stupid/gay."
- "I hate you!"

Make no mistake; mean behaviors can wound deeply and adults can make a huge difference in the lives of young people when they hold kids accountable for being mean. Yet, meanness is different from bullying in important ways that should be understood and differentiated when it comes to intervention.

Bullying = Intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power.

Experts agree that bullying entails three key elements: an intent to harm, a power imbalance and repeated acts or threats of aggressive behavior. Kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse - even when targets of bullying show or express their hurt or tell the aggressors to stop.

Bullying may be physical, verbal, and relational and/or carried out via technology:

- Physical aggression was once the gold standard of bullying-- the "sticks and stones" that made adults in charge stand up and take notice. This kind of bullying includes hitting, punching, kicking, spitting, tripping, hair pulling, slamming a child into a locker and a range of other behaviors that involve physical aggression.
- Verbal aggression is what our parents used to advise us to "just ignore." We now know that despite the old adage, words and threats can, indeed, hurt and can even cause profound, lasting harm.
- Relational aggression is a form of bullying in which kids use their friendship--or the threat of taking their friendship away--to hurt someone. Social exclusion, shunning, hazing, and rumor spreading are all forms of this pervasive type of bullying that can be especially beguiling and crushing to kids.
- Cyberbullying is a specific form of bullying that involves technology. According to Hinduja and Patchin of the Cyberbullying Research Center, it is the "willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices." Notably, the likelihood of repeated harm is especially high with cyberbullying because electronic messages can be accessed by multiple parties, resulting in repeated exposure and repeated harm.

So, why is it so important to make the distinction between rude, mean and bullying? Can't I just let parents share with me stories about their kids? Here's the thing; in our culture of 24/7 news cycles and social media sound bytes, we have a better opportunity than ever before to bring attention to important issues. In the last few years, Americans have collectively paid attention to the issue of bullying like never before; millions of school children have been given a voice, 49 states in the U.S. have passed anti-bullying legislation, and thousands of adults have been trained in important strategies to keep kids safe and dignified in schools and communities. These are significant achievements.

At the same time, however, I have already begun to see that gratuitous references to bullying are creating a bit of a "little boy who cried wolf" phenomena. In other words, if kids and parents improperly classify rudeness and mean behavior as bullying -- whether to simply make conversation or to bring attention to their short-term discomfort -- we all run the risk of becoming so sick and tired of hearing the word that this actual life-and-death issue among young people loses its urgency as quickly as it rose to prominence.

It is important to distinguish between rude, mean and bullying so that teachers, school administrators, police, youth workers, parents and kids all know what to pay attention to and when to intervene. As we have heard too often in the news, a child's future may depend on a nonjaded adult's ability to discern between rudeness at the bus stop and life-altering bullying.

Signe Whitson is a licensed therapist, national educator on bullying, and author of three books including *Friendship & Other Weapons: Group Activities to Help Young Girls Cope with Bullying*. For more information or workshop inquiries, please visit [www.signewhitson.com](http://www.signewhitson.com)

# Around the Round



# Fun Run!



# Halloween



Wrangler  
had  
Kona Ice,  
Too!

