



# Radnor Township School District

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Ithan Jumps for Health

*Ithan Elementary hosts Cirque du Soleil artist for Ropeworks residency*

Ithan will host a unique residency featuring five-time world jump-rope champion and coach/artist with Cirque du Soleil, Rene Bibaud. This residency, which will begin Mon., Sept. 22, is funded by the Ithan PTO and the Radnor Educational Foundation, with a donation from the Evans Foundation.

Bibaud, who reaches out to youngsters through her company [Ropeworks](#), is an educator, motivational speaker and entertainer with a special focus on youth fitness.



“We have heard outstanding accounts about just what a phenomenon Rene is in terms of motivating students to take up this oldest form of exercise,” said Ithan PTO cultural arts chair Amy Goldman. “She allows children to believe in their abilities to do it well, no matter what hesitations or limitations they might have.”

In this era of concern about childhood obesity and fitness, the jump-rope residency fits in very well with Ithan’s program of wellness. REF is helping support the residency, and the Evans Foundation made a donation for jump ropes for all IES students.

“This donation has enabled us to purchase a jump rope for every student in the school, so that they will have the opportunity to continue to practice the jump roping skills they have learned long after Rene has left,” said Goldman. “We hope that this simple form of exercise, presented by such a dynamic and accomplished woman, will provide children with the motivation to exercise on a regular basis and to interact with one another on the playground and elsewhere in a healthy and positive way.”

#### Residency schedule:

##### **Mon., Sept. 22:**

Two introductory assemblies (9 a.m. for grades K-2, 10 a.m. for grades 3-5.)  
After the assemblies, Bibaud will help conduct gym classes for the rest of the day, teaching students one-on-one.

IES Back-to-School Picnic (Picnic begins at 5 p.m.; Bibaud will perform at 5:45.)  
Bibaud will give a glimpse of what the children will be experiencing during the week.

##### **Tues.-Fri. Sept. 23-26**

Bibaud will work in each gym class with our phys.-ed. teachers.

##### **Fri., Sept 26**

Any wrap-up assembly?