

National Punctuation Day promotes good writing

By **THE GARDEN ISLAND**

Schools and businesses celebrate National Punctuation Day Sept. 24. The event founder now wears a red cape to school in honor of the day. Founded in 2004 to promote proper punctuation, this is a day for people who teach and promote good writing skills to take lessons one step further with students and children. It's also a day to remind business people that they are often judged by how well they write.

But just having a day for punctuation listed in “Chase’s Calendar of Events,” and recognized by “The Teacher’s Calendar,” and celebrated in schools and businesses across the country, wasn’t enough for founder and former newspaperman, Jeff Rubin.

So Jeff and his wife, Norma, created Punctuation Playtime, a 45-minute program for children in grades 1-6. Punctuation Playtime features games, activities and storytelling — even a rap song — to reinforce important punctuation lessons in an effort to enhance children’s reading, writing, and communication skills.

Today, the metamorphosis from just another funky calendar event to everyday cause is complete — during the assembly program, Jeff appears as “Punctuation Man,” dressed in a blue super-hero costume with a bright red cape. Teachers love the program and how Jeff and Norma interact with the children.

In addition to the live assembly program, the Rubins offer a DVD that trains teachers how to present punctuation to school children in a fun and exciting way.

To learn more about teaching resources and Punctuation Playtime ideas, visit nationalpunctuationday.com and punctuationplaytime.com.