



THE COYOTE CONNECTION

Parent Newsletter

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Cascade Ridge Elementary School

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DISTRICT NEWS

Calendar of Events

March

4th
7th
9th
9th-23rd
15th
16th
16th
21st
24th
28th
31st

Dad's Play Day
Site Council 6:00pm
FDK Lottery 2:00pm
CogAT Testing-2nd Grade
4th Grade Concert 6:30pm
Modified Bell-time Schedule
Science Tech Informational Night 6-7pm
PLMS Visit- for 5th Grade attending PLMS in 2011/2012
Science Fair 6-8pm
BLMS Visit-For 5th Grade attending BLMS in 2011/2012
5th Grade Concert 6:30pm

April

1st
4th-8th
15th

Dad's Play Day
Spring Break—No School
Festival of Cultures 6-8pm



Special Education Parent Night Meetings

Special Education Parent Night Meetings have been scheduled at all the middle schools throughout the district in March and April. It is an opportunity for special education parents at every level (Early Childhood through 21 years) to come have a conversation with the district's special education administrators (Marilyn Holm - Executive Director, Diane Roth – Asst. Director and Susan Wolever – Supervisor of Secondary Education). The meetings will be from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Parents are welcome to attend whichever date/location is convenient.

March 10th	Pacific Cascade Middle School Library
March 24th	Issaquah Middle School Library
March 28th	Maywood Middle School Library
April 11th	Pine Lake Middle School Library
April 25th	Beaver Lake Middle School Library

A NOTE FROM NATALIE

This week we are celebrating Read Across America and the birthday of Dr. Seuss! Dr. Seuss's wonderful books, with their whimsical illustrations and characters and engaging rhymes, have inspired generations of young readers. I'd like to share with you the school improvement goals we have set as a staff for improving the achievement of our young readers at Cascade Ridge. Although our official goal is to improve the reading performance of our students on the state assessment, our overall goal goes well beyond that – we want to develop readers that love to read, can think critically about their reading, and enjoy sharing their thinking about reading with one another. Over the next three years at Cascade Ridge, we will be applying several research based strategies to improve the reading performance of our students:

- We will use explicit strategies to teach students to read with accuracy, fluency, and deep comprehension.
- We will use ongoing formal and informal assessment tools to monitor individual student progress in reading
- Our students will be given easy access to books at their “just right” level and plenty of time to read them.

You might be wondering what a “just right” book is. Teachers are working to determine the type of book in which each child can do his/her best learning. We call these books “just right,” because closely matching students to books at their level will enable them to make the most reading progress.

What is a just right book? This means that your child:

- is interested in the book
- can read and figure out almost all the words
- understands what he or she is reading (can tell you what the story is about or what he or she is learning)
- can read the book smoothly so that it sounds like he or she is really telling the story

Decades of internationally-based research show that children who read more, read better. This is particularly true for students who have daily opportunities to read “just right” books. It may seem that reading challenging books would cause a child's reading progress to accelerate. However, research actually shows that children make the most reading progress when they spend a significant amount of time reading books in which they encounter very, very few difficult words – books they can read with 99% accuracy. It is tempting to think that such books would be too easy. Not true. In order to be a fluent, comprehending reader, a child must be able to read most words in the text with little effort or attention. That way, the focus is on the meaning of the text rather than merely reading the words. Highly accurate reading leaves brain space available for the important strategies and meaning-making that readers need to be proficient and motivated.¹

Think of it this way...if a child is reading a chapter book that is 300 pages in length, he or she would encounter over 1000 challenging words, even if he/she is reading with 99% accuracy. If the reader had a lower rate of accuracy, say 95%, the reader would encounter more than 5500 such words. That is way too many hard words! Or, imagine a shorter book such as *The Magic School Bus*, by Joanna Cole. Even at 99% accuracy, a child would come across almost 50 hard words in that 40-page book!¹

Think about the reading you do as an adult, either for pleasure or for your work. How often do you come across a word that you do not know? Most adults do not choose to read books in which they struggle through many hard words. We prefer to read texts that can be read smoothly and accurately, because that way we can focus on enjoyment and thinking about the story or focus on understanding and applying the content. What we want for our own reading as adults turns out to be the very best reading for our children, too.

Sometimes children are highly interested in a particular topic, book, or author. In this case, if your child cannot read a book smoothly with a high level of accuracy and understanding, it would be a great book for you to read aloud to your child. That way, you are doing the work of getting the print off the page, and your child can simply focus on thinking about the story or learning new information. Even children who can already read on their own enjoy and benefit from others reading to them.

One way you can help us with our school reading goal is to help your child find time to read each day at home, and help your child select books that are just right. Reading just right books is the best way for your child to enjoy reading and make rapid progress. Also, have conversations with your child about what he or she is reading. Rather than quizzing him or her, keep your conversations relaxed and informal, focusing on what you and your child think and wonder about the story, characters, or information. Talk about what YOU are reading with your child, too! I hope that your family will count reading as one of the special things you do together. Thank you for encouraging your child to become a successful and motivated reader!



¹

Source: "Matching Reader at Text Level," by Richard Allington. [What Really Matters in Response to Intervention](#), 2009.

SCHOOL NEWS**Site Council Meeting, March 7th – Special Speaker**

The Cascade Ridge Site Council will be meeting Monday, March 7th at 6:30pm. Community members are invited to attend the first thirty minutes as Emilie Hard, Director of Teaching and Learning, will be speaking about the district literacy initiative, science curriculum changes and other academic issues. Please join us!

Modified Bell Schedule - March 16 - Mark your calendars now!

Our school will operate on a modified bell-time schedule on Wednesday, March 16, to comply with mandatory state testing requirements during the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) administration window.

School day will start at 8:30 AM and will end at 12:53 PM
AM Kindergarten will start at 8:30 AM and end at 10:33 AM
There is no PM Kindergarten

Science Technology Informational Night for Students Entering Fall 2011

Science- Technology Programs located at Briarwood, Clark and **Cascade Ridge** are hosting information nights in March. Families interested in enrolling their student in this program must attend one of the **mandatory informational meetings**—unless they have previously had a student enrolled in this program.

For more information go to <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/Programs/ScienceTech/Default.aspx> Go to the "Program Information" link above for meeting dates, times, and locations.

Parent Preview Night for Cascade Ridge is **Wednesday March 16 at 6:00 PM** in the Café.

From Our Library:

On March 9th at 7pm come join me and meet author Jon Scieszka at the Sammamish Library! Jon Scieszka will be talking about his latest book SPHZD #1. He is also the author of other great picture books such as the Stinky Cheese Man, The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, Math Curse, and the Time Warp Trio. In library 1st and 2nd grade students heard and loved his book Truckery Rhymes which is nominated for the Washington Children's Choice Award. Scieszka's hilarious memoir Knucklehead: tall tales & mostly true stories about growing up Scieszka is nominated for the Sasquatch Award and both my copies are always checked out.

Zana Moore
Teacher ~ Librarian

Meet the Author

Jon Scieszka



SPACEHEADZ

EXTRAVAGANZA

Wednesday, March 9, 7pm
Sammamish Library

Meet the author of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, *Math Curse* and his newest book, *SPHZD #1*, the story of real aliens who have invaded our planet in the form of school children and a hamster. Their mission: to convince 3,140,001 kids to BE SPHZD.

As their official spokesman, Jon Scieszka encourages audience members to bring personal items, like notebooks, t-shirts and skateboard decks that have been SPACEHEADZ'D along with original art and stories about SPACEHEADS.

Visit www.SPACEHEADZ.com for more information.

Books will be available for sale from the Secret Garden Bookshop for signing.

Refreshments provided by Sammamish Friends of the Library.

Registration not required. Please arrive early, space may be limited.

This event/activity/offer is NOT sponsored by the Issaquah or Lake Washington School Districts, and these districts assume no responsibility for the conduct or safety during the event/activity/offer. In consideration for the privilege to distribute these materials, the Issaquah or Lake Washington School Districts shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including all costs, attorney's fees and judgments or awards.

Sammamish Library • 825 228th Avenue SE • 425.392.3130
Monday-Thursday, 10am-9pm • Friday, 10am-6pm • Saturday, 10am-5pm • Sunday, 1-5pm



5th Grade Visits to Middle School and 5th Grade Parent Orientation Nights

Please note that this year we have students attending other middle schools in our district:

On **March 21st all 5th graders who will be attending Pine Lake Middle School** next year will be visiting the middle school campus with their teachers.

All parents of 5th graders who will be attending **Pine Lake Middle School** next year are invited to the 5th Grade Parent Orientation and Curriculum Night on **March 21** at 6:30 p.m. This evening is for **parents only** as students will visit during the school day.

On **March 28th all 5th graders who will be attending Beaver Lake Middle School** next year will be visiting the middle school campus with their teachers.

All parents of 5th graders who will be attending **Beaver Lake Middle School** next year are invited to the 5th Grade Parent Orientation and Curriculum Night on **March 28** at 6:30 p.m. This evening is for **parents only** as students will visit during the school day.

Safety Reminder!

Crossing Guards do not get to their designated spots until 8:15am. If your child is crossing the street prior to 8:15am, please know they are doing so without the assistance of a crossing guard or EA supervision.