



THE COYOTE CONNECTION

Parent Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 02

April 21, 2011

Cascade Ridge Elementary School

2020 Trossachs Blvd. SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

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Office Phone: 425/837-5500
Report an Absence: 425/837-5500 press 2
Or email kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu



A NOTE FROM NATALIE

As we head into the home stretch of this school year, we also begin to look forward to the next. I wanted to communicate with you a few changes to Cascade Ridge's Class Placement Process for next year. On the next page of the Coyote Connection, you will find a letter from me detailing the process parents will need to follow in regards to student placement input. This letter will also be posted on our website.

Again, thanks for all your support. The partnership between parent and school is vital to student success.

Natalie Fowler

Challenge, Support and Celebrate Each Student

Calendar of Events

April

4th-29th Eager Reader
18th-28th Spelling Bee
21st Parent Preview of FLASH Curriculum-IVE 6pm
23rd Parent Preview of FLASH Curriculum-IVE 9am

May

3rd 3rd Grade Concert 6:30PM
5th-27th Measure of Student Progress (MSP) Test
6th Dad's Play Day
24th New Kindergarten Open House 5-6pm
30th Memorial Day-No School

June

1st-3rd 5th Grade Camp
3rd Dad's Play Day
8th Chorus Concert 6:30pm
9th Marimba Concert 6:30pm
16th Last Day of School



Cascade Ridge Elementary Student Placement Process

April, 2011

Our staff takes the task of placement very seriously. We assure you that each grade level team (with assistance of specialists, guidance team, etc.) takes much time, effort and care in developing class rosters that result in offering all children a quality educational experience. Following are factors that are taken into consideration as class rosters are developed:

- the program needs of the child
 - a balance of academic achievement levels
 - behavior factors regarding each student
 - social needs and the compatibility of students with others in the classroom (i.e., separating students who have not worked well together in the past)
 - independent work habits and leadership skills
- information provided by the teacher

Once balanced rosters are created and staffing is finalized, teachers will be assigned.

As parents you may have pertinent information about your child that you would like considered in the placement process. Examples of information staff find helpful are: "Please separate my twins, Sally and Suzie," or "Please do not place my son Joey in the same class as Fred as we are neighbors and they are together all the time," or "My child has only been in the United States one month and needs ELL support".

Examples of comments that we all agree upon are: "We want a warm, nurturing, caring environment for our child," "We want our child challenged," "We want our child in a structured classroom". We take these comments as a given; it is each teachers' responsibility to provide a nurturing, challenging, safe environment for every student. The task for the current year teachers is to develop balanced classrooms based on the knowledge they have about the students, not the teachers at the next grade level.

If you choose to provide specific information regarding your child that the teacher does not have or may be unaware of, please provide a written letter in a sealed envelope (**no e-mail will be accepted**) addressed to the Principal. Letters may be mailed to the address below or delivered to the office by parents. **WRITTEN LETTERS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY APRIL 29TH, 2011.** *Please note we do not accept letters that specify individual teachers by gender, experience level, or name.*

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support of this process and be assured we will do all we can to insure thoughtful placement of each child.

Natalie Fowler, Principal
2020 Trossachs Blvd. SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

SCHOOL NEWS

MSP Schedule for Testing:

MSP testing will begin Tuesday, May 3rd. Third Grade students will take a Reading and Math assessment. Our fourth grade students will have three assessments; Reading, Writing (2 days), and **NEW THIS YEAR**-4th Grade Math will be given online. Fifth graders will have Math and Science assessments using testing booklets, but will take their Reading assessment online. All testing will start first thing in the morning. Please note the calendar below.

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
No Testing	May 3 4 th Grade Reading 5 th Grade Science	May 5 3 rd Grade Reading	May 6 4 th Grade Writing #1
May 9 5 th Grade Math	May 10 3 rd Grade Math 4 th Grade Writing #2	May 12 Mrs. Perea—Reading Computer Lab	May 13 Mrs. Schaffer—Reading Computer Lab
May 16 Mrs. Page/Redmon-- Reading Computer Lab	May 17 Mr. Bishop—Reading Computer Lab	May 19 Mrs. Trudeau—Reading Computer Lab	May 20 Mrs. Montgomery—Math Computer Lab
May 23 Mrs. Springborn—Math Computer Lab	May 24 Mrs. Wehner—Math Computer Lab	May 26 Mrs. Morrison—Math Computer Lab	May 27 Mrs. Fritsch—Math Computer Lab

Families and students are welcome to go online to explore state provided online demos. This provides the opportunity to become familiar with the format and tools of the testing software. Here is the link: <http://wa-online.caltesting.org/tutorials/student/wa.html> It requires Flash v7r63. If you need to upgrade this Flash version go to: <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

Thank you for helping your child be prepared for test days by making sure he/she has had a good night sleep, breakfast, and is at school on time. Paper and pencil make-up tests will be given through May 17th and online make-ups until the end of this testing window, should your child miss school or arrive too late to take a test.

If you are volunteering in the building during this period, please do not enter any classroom that has a **Testing-Do Not Enter** document posted on the door. We appreciate your sensitivity to the quiet, testing environment we provide during MSP.

REMINDER TO VOLUNTEERS:

It is important to both sign in when you arrive at school **and** sign out when leave. It is imperative that we know at all times who is in the building in case of emergency/disasters.

**THANK YOU TO KIM ANDERSON AND THE 2ND GRADE PARENTS
FOR THE WONDERFUL LUNCH**

DISTRICT NEWS**FLASH & HIV/AIDS Curriculum Information Sessions for Grade 5 –****Briarwood, Cascade Ridge, Clark, Cougar Ridge, Endeavour, Grand Ridge, Issaquah Valley, and Maple Hills**

Your child's teacher will be teaching the district adopted FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health) and HIV/AIDS curriculum during this school year. To allow you an opportunity to examine the instructional materials and view the videos that may be used, there will be two public viewings of the materials at Issaquah Valley Elementary Multi-Purpose Room on the following dates:

Thursday, April 21, 2011**6:00 pm****Saturday, April 23, 2011****9:00 am**

At the appointed time there will be an informal presentation with viewing of video(s). Curriculum staff and a teacher will be available to answer your questions.

FLASH Instruction:

Under the Federal Hatch Amendment of 1974, all sexual education instructional materials must be available for parent inspection. Parents have the right to exempt their child from sexual education instruction at any time. The public viewings provide a centralized opportunity to do so.

HIV/AIDS Instruction:

In recognition of the significant threat that the HIV/AIDS virus presents to the health of the people of our nation, the Washington state legislature passed the Omnibus AIDS Bill in 1988. This law directs local school districts to provide yearly instruction to students in grades 5-12 about the pathology and prevention of the HIV/AIDS virus. This is the twenty-second year of such instruction.

It is not necessary for parents to attend a public review session if they do not intend to exempt their children from HIV/AIDS instruction. The Washington State Omnibus AIDS law requires a parent to attend a public viewing session and review the materials before such an exemption may be requested or granted. Being familiar with the curriculum will enhance your ability to talk with your children about this serious health threat.

Session Location:**Issaquah Valley Elementary School
555 NW Holly St.
Issaquah, WA 98027**

SCHOOL NEWS



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

IN HONOR OF
Betty Gilstrap
AND
Anne Henigson

**IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATION TO THE STUDENTS AND
FAMILIES THEY ENRICHED THROUGHOUT THEIR TEACHING CA-
REERS**

**THURSDAY, MAY 26TH
CASCADE RIDGE LIBRARY
3:30-4:30**

*“Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.”
~Dr. Seuss*

