



THE COYOTE CONNECTION

Cascade Ridge Elementary School Newsletter

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www.cascaderidge.issaquah.wednet.edu www.cascaderidgeptsa.org

September 01, 2011

Calendar of Events

Sept 5	No School - Labor Day
Sept 9	1st Day Paperwork/Coyote Wear Orders Due
Sept 13	Curriculum Night 6-7PM K, 1, 2 & LRC1
Sept 13	PTSA General Membership Meeting 7pm
Sept 15	Curriculum Night 6-7pm 3, 4, 5 & LRC2
Sept 15	5th Grade Parent's Meeting 7-8pm
Sept 27	Vision and Hearing Testing
Oct 6	Student Picture Day/Volunteer Picture Day
Oct 7	Dad's Play Day
Oct 14	Walkathon 3-8pm

A NOTE FROM NATALIE

Welcome Back! It is the third day of school and we are already off to a GREAT start! It has been wonderful to see students excited to meet their new teachers, reconnect with old friends, and begin new friendships. The first few days and weeks of school are often filled with establishing routines and expectations, building relationships, and creating a cohesive classroom community. As I walked around the building today, I saw these roots beginning to form and was energized by all the possibilities a new school year brings.

Educators often find the summer is a time of reflection – what should be celebrated, where do we need to put more energy, what can we improve upon? As I had many cloudy July days indoors to reflect on my first year at Cascade Ridge, many celebrations came to mind...

- Our continued high scores on the Stanford Achievement Test and high percentage of students meeting standard on the MSP
- Our building focus on literacy which saw teachers engaging in professional development opportunities and reflective conversations to grow in their instructional practice in reading, the adoption and purchase of our new Science curriculum, thanks to the support of the Issaquah Schools Foundation and our district PTSA's (and a generous donation from our own Cascade Ridge PTSA of \$10,000!),

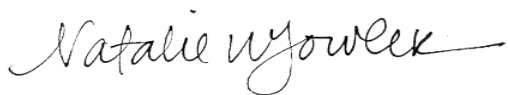
Challenge, Support and Celebrate Each Student

- the GREAT Kid program which gave every student in our school the opportunity to hear what their teacher found “great” about them, building self-esteem and deepening the student/teacher relationship as well as giving me an opportunity to personally connect with every student during the year,
- Working with an amazing staff that cares deeply for our students – academically, socially and emotionally,
- having the privilege of working in a community that TRULY understands the importance of a strong partnership between school and home,

....and the list goes on.

Although Cascade Ridge has much to be proud of, we know there is always room for improvement. This year, our Building Leadership Team, Site Council and PTSA will continue to work on identifying ways to make Cascade Ridge even greater. Policy and systems reviews are part of improving an organization, and you will notice in this Coyote Connection as well as others throughout the year, that we have changed or adjusted some school policies and procedures.

I look forward to another successful and rewarding school year and our continued partnership . Here’s to the 2011-2012 school year!



SCHOOL NEWS

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff to Cascade Ridge:

Nona Wright - returning but as our new Program Assistant and Literary Support	
Becky Quinton - 1st Grade	Holly Wehner - Grade Change to 1st Grade
Ilene DeRemer - Grade Change to 2nd Grade	Quinn Hoefflerle - 3rd Grade
Anjuli Bates - 5th Grade	Alison Cathro - Nurse
Diane Knoll - OT	

Don't Forget Our New Bell times:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri –

Start Time 8:30 AM End of Day 2:55 PM
AM Kindergarten – Start Time 8:30 AM End of Day 11:00 AM

Wed.

Start Time 8:30 AM End of Day 12:45 PM
AM Kindergarten - Start Time 8:30 AM End of Day 11:15 AM

Students are not to arrive at school prior to 8:15 AM unless they are participating in a designated before school program.

Please Review Your Students Family Access Account ASAP!

Please follow the below steps to retrieve **OR** set up your Family Access Log In/Password:

- Log onto the Issaquah School District website: www.issaquah.wednet.edu
- Click the Family Access tab on the left hand side of page.
- Click log in to Family Access on the right hand side of page.
- If you do not know your log in and/or password or you are retrieving it for the first time, click on forgot login and password button.
- Enter your email address (the one provided to the office at time of registration).
- Click on submit button.
- Login and password will be sent to your email address

If you find an error; email changes to kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu.

Attendance:***If your child is ill or going to be late for school:***

Please call the school office prior to school starting at 425-837-5500 and press 2 to leave a message regarding your student's absence **or** you may email our attendance secretary, Jennifer Kirsch, at kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu

If you are going on vacation:

Please submit in writing either by note or email to kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu the following information:

- Student Name
- Teacher
- Reason for absence
- Dates of absence

Messages to your student:

If you need to get a message to your child about a change in end-of-day plans, please call the office, not the classroom. The office makes those calls into the classroom at the end of the day to limit classroom disruptions.
Please help us by limiting these messages to emergency changes only!

Personal Toys or Items:

Cascade Ridge has made a change that was not yet included in "Our Rules";

- Students may not bring personal items from home such as balls, equipment, etc.
- Electronic items are not allowed on the playground.
- The playground supervisor may "take and hold" any appropriate personal toy or item and it will be returned to the student at the end of the day or into the office
- No trading of any kind

We ask that you make your students aware of these new rules.

DISTRICT NEWS

VOICE Mentor Program

I would love to share a volunteer opportunity that is available here at Cascade Ridge if you have an hour a week to share with us throughout the school year. The VOICE Mentor Program, which is funded by the Issaquah Schools Foundation, is a program that matches community volunteers to work one on one with Issaquah students. These students are referred by teachers and counselors as needing extra support, whether it is academic, social or emotional. The Volunteers work in the school setting in partnership with the school staff. While you cannot volunteer within your own child's classroom, you can volunteer to work here at our school and work with a few students who could benefit from your time and interest. Currently we only have two VOICE mentors for our entire school. There are many of our students who are currently not being served, who could benefit from working with a VOICE mentor whether it is in reading, writing or math.

The VOICE mentoring program has been positively received here at our school as students have really appreciated having someone take the time to help them with a writing assignment or listen to them read. Likewise parents and community volunteers have enjoyed getting to know a handful of students and working with them consistently throughout the year.

If you are interested in learning more about the VOICE program, please contact Susan Gierke at 425 837-6801 for additional information.



**ISSAQUAH
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION**

Issaquah Schools Foundation Supports Cascade Ridge Elementary School

As we start the new year, I want to help 'spread the word' about a partner that helps make possible so much of what makes our schools special—the Issaquah Schools Foundation.

The Foundation is a community-supported non-profit that works year-round to raise funds to bridge the gap between the dollars the state provides for basic education and the money our schools require to give students the comprehensive 21st Century education they need for success. With parent and community support, the Foundation is able to fund programs and investments that advance academic achievement, support struggling students, and promote professional development.

From 2009 to 2011, Foundation funded investments at Cascade Ridge include:

- **A NEW – K-5 Science Curriculum adoption to ensure our students meet state requirements and experience the wonder of science from their first day in school.** Working together with the PTSA's, \$438,000 was raised to ensure every grade level would have an engaging, comprehensive curriculum that was aligned with state standards.
- **Portable Technology to Support Elementary Diverse Learners** – iPads and APPS will be used to increase diverse learner's communication, academic and social skills (2010-2011 / \$7,988)
- **District Wide Visual Arts Lessons K-5** – Lesson plans for grades K-5, integrated with ISD Curriculum and aligned to WA State "Arts Framework" for Teachers and Art Docents. (2010-2011 / \$7,500)
- **Learning Music Through Technology** – Music software that provides an engaging way to teach and reinforce a variety of music skills and concepts and help differentiate instruction. (2008-2009 / \$1,250)
- **National Board Certification Scholarships** that give teachers access to the 'pinnacle' of professional development programs; equipping them with the tools to develop inquisitive, engaged learners. **Cascade Ridge currently has two National Board Certified teachers.**
- **VOICE (Volunteers of Issaquah Changing Education)** - a mentor/tutor program that pairs caring community volunteers with struggling students to improve academic performance, boost self-esteem, and help curb the high-school dropout rate. **At Cascade Ridge, seven students are being served by three mentors.**

- **GLAD** – a 'best practices' professional development program that helps teachers reach students of every learning style and help them excel. **Cascade Ridge has 19 GLAD trained teachers!**
- **Nurse's Fund** – Funds for all schools to provide necessary essentials for student learning such as eyeglasses, prescriptions, breakfast foods, etc. \$5,000/yr

The Foundation needs your help to continue providing these programs—and more, to our students. Please consider donating to their **All in for Kids** Annual Fund campaign this fall. Your gift, whether \$5 a month or \$500 will make a tremendous difference in the quality of educational resources Cascade Ridge can make available to your student. **Flyers and information were sent home in student information packets and are available in our office. You may also donate online at www.isfdn.org**

The Foundation is asking every parent to participate and we hope that you do. Together, we can prepare our students for the challenges they will face upon graduation. Thank you for partnering with Cascade Ridge and the Foundation.

Michelle Weldon | Office Administrator

Issaquah Schools Foundation

Helping Students Achieve the Promise of Their Potential

425.391.8557

P.O. Box 835 | Issaquah, WA 98027

mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org | www.isfdn.org

Calling for Kids is now, the **All in for Kids** Annual Fund Campaign. The emphasis is on 'ALL IN'—that means you. Learn more and donate today at www.isfdn.org