



# THE COYOTE CONNECTION

Cascade Ridge Elementary School Newsletter

2020 Trossachs Blvd. SE Sammamish WA 98075 (425) 837-5500  
www.cascaderidge.issaquah.wednet.edu www.cascaderidgeptsa.org

**March 29, 2012**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 29	Science Fair 6-8pm
March 30	Birthday Cupcakes for March
April 2	Site Council 6:00pm
April 5	5th Grade Concert 6:30pm
April 6	Dad's Play Day
April 9-13	Spring Break—No School
April 19	PTSA General Membership & Coffee with Principal 8:30am
April 24	Caring Coyote Meeting 3:00pm
April 26-27	Talent Show 6:00pm
April 27	Birthday Cupcakes
May 4	Dad's Play Day
May 7	Site Council 6:00pm
May 15	Camp Chaperone Meeting 6:00pm
May 17	3rd Grade Concert 6:00pm
May 17	PTSA General Membership Meeting 7:00pm

## A NOTE FROM NATALIE

As many of you already know, we have moved to assigned seating at some of our lunches (2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade lunch and K/5<sup>th</sup> lunch). After repeated discussions with students both in the lunchroom and in their classrooms, school staff felt that the general student behavior had deteriorated to such a degree that the group had lost the privilege of free seating.

We recognize the lunchroom is a noisy, busy place. Please understand that the reason students lost the privilege of free seating was not due to simple talking with their friends. A large number of students are choosing to engage with their peers by yelling (sometimes across multiple tables), screaming, throwing lunch items such as food and/or trash, or getting out of their seats. In addition, when an adult gets on the microphone to share information with students, students are choosing to continue talking instead of giving their attention and respect to the adult (whether it is an EA, a parent volunteer, me, etc.). While not every student is being disrespectful every day, it has been happening consistently enough that we felt it was time to take action. Enough students have taken part in the inappropriate behaviors that we feel comfortable making this change for the entire lunch.

*Challenge, Support and Celebrate Each Student*

The lunchroom EAs and I have worked closely this year to analyze ways that we can make lunch a positive experience for everyone. We know that in addition to the 45 minutes a day they have at recess, lunch is a time for students to relax and socialize with friends who might be outside their classes. We have worked hard to “monitor our air time” on the microphone and give students as much uninterrupted time as possible to visit. We have changed some of our dismissal procedures and expectations to allow students more freedom so they may continue visiting while cleaning up at the end of lunch. In addition, we have looked at ways to better communicate the lunchroom behavior expectations to ensure students clearly understand what is expected of them while in the Coyote Café.

Assigned seating serves several purposes. First, it reinforces to students that privileges are earned. Next, it better allows EAs to determine whether or not the negative behaviors are present throughout the general group or are specific to a classroom or classrooms. EAs and teachers can then work together to speak to students in an effort to correct behavior and help students make better choices.

Students do have the opportunity to earn back the privilege of free seating on Fridays and we encourage them to work towards this each week. We will continue to monitor our lunchroom policies and be responsive to the needs/challenges a roomful of 180+ students presents. Thank you for your support.

*Natalie Yowlek*

## DISTRICT NEWS



### GET Information Seminar

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sunset Elementary School

4229 W. Lake Sammamish Pkwy. SE, Bellevue 98008

Hosted by Sunset PTA

Learn more about saving for college through **Washington's Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program**. If you want to ask questions, understand how the program works, or simply find out how it can help your family save for a college education ... plan on attending this seminar. Enrollment materials will be available. GET enrollment is open until May 31, 2012. If you have any questions, please email [GETOutreach@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:GETOutreach@hecb.wa.gov) or call 1-800-955-2318.



Washington State's  
529 Prepaid College  
Tuition Program



## **Flash & HIV / AIDS Curriculum Information Sessions for Grade 5**

**Briarwood, Cascade Ridge, Clark, Cougar Ridge, Endeavour, Grand Ridge, Issaquah Valley and Maple Hills Only**

**Thursday April 19 at 6:00 PM**

**Saturday April 21 at 9:00 AM**

**Issaquah Valley Elementary Multi Purpose Room**

Notice of the sessions will be posted in the April 11 and 18 editions of the Issaquah Press. Parent Reviews for all other Elementary Schools were held in January.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Next Dad's Play Day - Friday April 6**

If you are ordering a lunch from the Café for Dad, please do so by 8:00 AM in the morning of the event. You will need to give your name **and the lunch choice you are making**. Lunch choices for our April Dad's Play Day on April 6th are the following:

#1 Chicken Rings w/homemade Whole Wheat Roll

#2 Southwest Chicken Salad

#3 Yogurt Lunch

#4 Baked Potato

Salad Bar

Milk

Please call lunch orders to Sheri Studer (425) 837-5541.

### **Lost And Found**

Please check the Lost and Found for any items your child may have misplaced. It is full of winter coats, sweaters, and other miscellaneous items. All remaining Lost and Found items will be donated to a local charity on Friday April 6th, the day before Spring Break.