

coyote Howler



A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Cascade Ridge Families:

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! Our staff and PTSA have been working very hard this summer to prepare for the new school year. Many of our teachers have been attending classes and workshops, our office staff has been busy registering new students, our custodians have been working hard to be sure our beautiful building sparkles for the first days of school, and all of our teachers have been setting up their classrooms. Cascade Ridge is truly an amazing school with an incredibly hard working staff!

This year, for the first time, class assignments were announced using our Family Access system. We will continue to honor the process for classroom assignments that has been established here at Cascade Ridge. Parents had the opportunity in the spring to provide us with information in writing regarding the placement of their child for the following school year. Our staff thoughtfully reviews this information as part of our process. Our teachers spend a significant amount of time creating preliminary class assignments in the spring. As enrollment changes occur in the summer, we make some changes in our class lists to ensure that our classrooms are well-balanced. We have established a very clear process to consider any requests for changes in classroom placement. Please refer to our website for copies of the "Classroom Placement Policies and Procedures."

We know how important communication is to the success of a school community. Every Friday beginning in August, our office staff sends out important information and reminders through Yelp which is distributed through the E-News data base. You can subscribe to E-News at www.cascaderidge.issaquah.wednet.edu and click "Sign Up for E-News" on the left. Watch for our email each Friday!

The Cascade Ridge tradition includes a dedicated staff, strong community involvement, high expectations, and a strong academic curriculum. It has been a joy as your new principal to see this tradition in action. Our school is a great place to learn and work. I look forward to an outstanding year of learning at Cascade Ridge Elementary!

Sincerely,
Colleen Shields, Principal
shieldsc@issaquah.wednet.edu



REMINDER:
First Day Packet Paperwork is due
Friday, September 12th!

Cascade Ridge
Elementary School
Sammamish, WA
425-837-5500

September 2008

Volume 8, Issue 1

IMPORTANT DATES:

September:

- 4: Welcome Back Coffee, 9:15, Multipurpose Rm.
- 9: Picture Day
- 12: Coyote Wear orders & First Day Packet paperwork due
- 16: Curriculum Night, K-2, LRC2, 6-7 pm
- 16: PTSA General Membership Mtg., 7 pm
- 18: Curriculum Night, Grades 3-5, 6-7 pm
- 24: October Howler deadline

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Please recycle
this newsletter.



WELCOME BACK! FROM THE PTSA

A Letter from your PTSA President

Dear Cascade Ridge Students, Parents and Staff,

Welcome back to school! This special edition of the Coyote Howler includes most of the information you'll need to make your way through the first few weeks of school. This is the only issue of the Howler that we'll print this year; future issues will be available for download from our website at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. We encourage you to visit the PTSA website. As we continue to strive towards "paperless" communications, this is where you'll be directed to download forms and find information on all our upcoming programs and events.

Cascade Ridge's Board has been hard at work this summer preparing for the new school year:

- We will be bringing back and expanding the programs that our school community has grown to love and expect—programs like Eager Reader, Destination Imagination, Fine Arts Night, Science Fair, and many more.
- We've planned family fun events which will focus on simply gathering together as a community around a fun activity. We're bringing back some old favorites like Winterfest; continuing new traditions like Family Game Night, Bingo Night, and Dad's Day; and finally, introducing a new community event, the Festival of Cultures.
- We'll continue to support our amazing staff through the BEL reading program, the Drama program, and through generous staff and grade level grants. We've modified the Art Specialist grant and given the grade-level teams the ability to determine where their allocated funds should be directed—they will be able to take advantage of many outside Science or Art enrichment programs available throughout the area, depending on their grade-level's area of focus.

As always, these great programs and events are made possible through your participation in our fundraising efforts. By way of a Parent Survey last spring, we asked what type of fundraising efforts our school community prefers. The majority of the parents responded that they prefer fundraisers where our PTSA would receive 100% of the donations, as opposed to a product-driven fundraiser (e.g., giftwrap, magazines) where the PTSA would receive only a percentage of the funds.

Accordingly, we have decided to try something new this year and kick-off our fundraising for the year with our **Walkathon**

on Friday, October 17. In moving it to the fall, we hope to collect enough money at the beginning of the year to fund the entire year's budget (and perhaps take advantage of some better weather). **Our revenue goal for the Walkathon is \$35,000 or a suggested donation of \$100 per family.** If we meet our goal, the plan is to conduct only one major fundraiser this year. Look for more information on the Walkathon in this Howler.

It's going to be a busy, but fun year. One thing is for certain, our success in achieving our goals for our students is tied to the enthusiastic participation of all of you. We invite each of you to join us in becoming an active part of this shared endeavor. What's the best way to join in? Look at the Fall Volunteer form in your First Day Packet. There are lots of opportunities to fit your interests and schedules.

Sincerely,
Susan Sansing, President
susansansing@comcast.net
961-0651

Making a Difference — One Member at a Time

When parents are involved with their child's education, the child is more likely to succeed. Joining the PTSA demonstrates your support of the mission and goals of the PTSA and entitles you to "voice and vote". Each year, we aspire to attain 100% membership which means we have an adult PTSA member for every Cascade Ridge student. We are very proud of having achieved this goal each year since Cascade Ridge was chartered!

- Joining does not obligate you to do anything more than that—just join and show that you care and are invested in the welfare of our children.
- You do NOT need to volunteer.
- 100% membership gives credence to our PTSA voice in advocating for our children with the Legislature and sends a message to Olympia that our school and district are made up of parents who are concerned and involved.
- PTSA is the largest child advocacy group in the United States.
- **Added bonus:** All PTSA members receive a copy of the Cascade Ridge Student Directory.

A portion of your membership dues are sent to Washington State PTSA and help offset administrative costs. PTSA Programs at Cascade Ridge are made possible through our fundraising efforts.

VOLUNTEERS

Meet our PTSA Leadership Team

Our PTSA leadership team has worked hard all summer planning programs and events to benefit our school community. If you have a question, idea, compliment, or concern, feel free to contact anyone on the team.

President	Susan Sansing	susansansing@comcast.net	961-0651
Exec. Vice President	Stephanie Scott	stephoscott@gmail.com	657-0663
Treasurer	Pam Gross	grosspam@msn.com	392-4003
Secretary	Claudia Laine	claudialaine@comcast.net	313-0112
VP, Communications	Christy McCarthy	christy.mccarthy@comcast.net	837-1837
Co-VPs, Community Relations	Tina Yerges Diana Moore	tinav@microsoft.com jndmoore@comcast.net	557-0606 369-2257
Co-VPs, Fundraising	Nga Selbig Rachel Schnebele	selbig@comcast.net rachelschnebele@comcast.net	391-3659 837-3694
Co-VPs, Programs	Julie Gall Lisa Burton	juliepgall@yahoo.com lisabinwa@comcast.net	427-9403 392-8386
VP, Volunteers	Chrisann Penz	chrisannpenz@yahoo.com	557-9944
5th Grade Committee Chair	Aimee Kooley	aimee@nwlinc.com	313-1711



PARENT VOLUNTEERS: WE NEED YOU!!



Our kids and Cascade Ridge need YOUR help! We have a variety of volunteer positions open for this fall that are critical to our school and the success of our kids. The following committees need chairpersons ASAP:

PTSA Directory
Art Docent Chair
Legislative Representative
Book Fair (held in April)

To volunteer, check your First Day Packets for the "Fall Volunteer Form" or download the form from the PTSA website, cascaderidgeptsa.org. Chair a committee or grab a friend and Co-Chair. Committees need volunteers as well. Join other parents eager to help make Cascade Ridge an even better school for our kids. Volunteer forms are due back with your First Day Packets on September 12.

If you have any questions, please contact Chrisann Penz, chrisannpenz@yahoo.com, 557-9944.

UPCOMING EVENTS

First PTSA General Membership Meeting!

Everyone is invited to attend the first PTSA General Membership meeting of the year which will immediately follow Curriculum Night.

**Tuesday, September 16
7:00 p.m.
Coyote Café**

We will approve the Mission and Goals as presented by the Executive Committee, update the 2008-2009 budget and Standing Rules, and present the financial review results.

PLEASE JOIN US!!


Walkathon October 17th

Don't miss this one—
mark your calendars now!

**The Cascade Ridge Annual Walkathon is
Friday, October 17th from 3:40-6:30 pm.**

This is an event for the whole family! To commemorate the Walkathon's move to the Fall we have selected **FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL** as this year's theme. We are busy planning and working on activities and food to go along with our Autumn theme. Plan on staying for dinner and catching up with neighbors and friends. Our kids deserve a knock out, super event that is not only fun but raises a ton of money for important programs! So, save the date and help out if you can. Pledge forms will come home in October.

We need you! The planning committee is still forming and day of the event volunteers are needed too. Please contact Laure Runyan, lrunyan@isomedia.com or Jaycee Cooper, jayceecooper@comcast.net to get involved.



20 **Coyotes** 08 Coyote Wear

Help your kids show their school spirit and support Cascade Ridge with your purchase of Coyote Wear 2008! This year, we will be offering an updated logo and some great new colors including "Spartan Green" for you Skyline fans! **In addition, this is the first time we are offering an optional "field trip tee" for K-2!** This brightly colored tee shirt will help your student's chaperone keep their group together more easily and will help identify our school as an entire group when they are on a field trip. Among the items offered this year will be sweatshirts (with an option to have your child's name silk screened on the back), tee shirts and basketball shorts for boys, girls and adults.

Look for an order form in your student's First Day Packet or in the front office. You can also check out samples of the items at the Coyote Wear display table at our Back To School day Tuesday, September 2nd and in our front hallway.

**Last day to order Coyote Wear is
Friday September 12th!**

Questions? Please contact:
Amy Simpson at amysimpson4@mac.com OR
Debbie Rosemont at debbie@itssimplyplaced.com



Welcome Back Coffee

**Thursday, September 4th
9:15 a.m.
Multipurpose Room**

Don't forget to come to the Welcome Back Coffee to catch up with friends and meet our new principal, Colleen Shields.

Sponsored by the PTSA

WHY DO WE FUNDRAISE?

Why does the PTSA conduct fundraising activities?

Our PTSA is an independent non-profit organization with a mission to enhance and support the educational programs and environment at Cascade Ridge. To provide the support to our school and children, we need to raise money. In order to raise the funds, the PTSA conducts a variety of fundraisers.

Where does my money go?

Cascade Ridge PTSA funds over \$50,000 in [programs](#), equipment, classroom supplies, and services each year that benefit our students. Here are some examples of where your dollars will go:

Art Enrichment Fund (\$6,000); Drama Program (\$10,600); Eager Reader (\$4,000); Fifth Grade Enhancement (\$1,500); ISF/Calling for Kids (\$1,250); Kindergarten Assessment (\$1,250); Math Enhancement (ACE) (\$3,000); Reading Explorer Grant (BEL) (\$2,400); Staff Grants/Curriculum Specialist (\$15,805).

What fundraisers can I expect this year?

The main fundraiser for this year is the Fall Walkathon and Barbecue on October 17th. Details are in this Howler. All remaining fundraising will be passive fundraising which is explained below.

PASSIVE FUNDRAISING

Passive fundraisers are usually through shopping, clipping labels, or supporting local businesses.

Below are this year's passive fundraising opportunities for Cascade Ridge PTSA.

- ☑ **eScrip**
Register your credit cards/Safeway card with [eScrip](#) and participating merchants contribute each time you make a purchase. Safeway will be donating 10% of your purchase of participating products to Cascade Ridge PTSA every time you shop **August 6th-September 9th**. Check your First Day Packet for more info.
- ☑ **Box Tops**
Collect "Box Top" labels and deposit them in the box in the front lobby. **New this year:** Please put Box Top labels in Ziploc bags and put student's name on Ziploc bag only – no need to put student's name on each label.
- ☑ **Campbell's Soup Labels**
Clip and save UPCs and caps from participating Labels for Education brands. These can be redeemed for classroom maps, books, and learning materials. See www.labelsforeducation.com for more information.
- ☑ **Target**
Sign up for a Target credit card at [Target](#) and designate Cascade Ridge. Every time you use the Target credit card, Cascade Ridge will receive up to a 1% donation on whatever you spend.
- ☑ **GoodSearch.com**
Select Cascade Ridge PTSA as the charity and every time you use the GoodSearch.com search engine the PTSA earns money.
- ☑ **WaMoola**
If you are a WaMu Bank customer, enroll at www.wamoolaforschools.com. You will earn points for our school when you use your Wamu cards.
- ☑ **Office Depot**
Shop at [Office Depot](#) during their "Back to School" program. Buy qualifying supplies and then designate Cascade Ridge which will receive 5% of your qualifying purchase in credits the school can use for free supplies!
- ☑ **Issaquah Press**
When you subscribe to the Issaquah Press, a portion of the money goes to Cascade Ridge. Please see flyer in the PTSA First Day Packet for details.
- ☑ **Parents and Community for Education (PACE)**
Register your VISA/MasterCard at www.4PACE.com and \$10 of your \$25 membership fee goes directly to Cascade Ridge PTSA. You save 20% at hundreds of local restaurants and retailers when you pay your bill with your registered credit card. No coupons or discount cards required. Cascade Ridge PTSA earns 5% of every purchase. Program kick off is in November.
- ☑ **Brown Bear Car Wash**
Get your car washed at Brown Bear Car Wash and help us raise funds. Tickets are \$5 each. For every ticket you purchase, \$3 goes to support the programs at Cascade Ridge. Tickets will be available for purchase at most PTSA sponsored events.
- ☑ **Reusable Shopping Bags**
Help the environment and Cascade Ridge PTSA by using our Coyote reusable shopping bags. They are \$2 each. Coyote bags will be available for purchase at most PTSA sponsored events.
- ☑ **Gift Wrap**
For families who like Innisbrook paper and products, they will be available for purchase online. A percentage of your sale benefits PTSA sponsored programs. Detailed information will be available in October.
- ☑ **Corporate Matching Gift Program**
Does your employer participate in a matching gift program? If so, please help the PTSA benefit. Simply ask your human resource department for information, fill out the proper forms, and return to Cascade Ridge PTSA. Check your First Day Packet for more info.

Questions? Contact Nga Selbig selbigs@comcast.net.

Cascade Ridge 2008-2009 Year-at-a-Glance

A PTSA Calendar is updated regularly on the PTSA website. Check out www.cascaderidgeptsa.org and click on the Calendar link on the top menu bar.

SEPTEMBER

- 3 First Day for Grades 1-5
- 4 First Day for Kindergartners
- 4 Welcome back coffee, 9:15
- 9 Picture Day
- 12 1st Day Packet Paperwork and Coyote Wear Orders Due
- 16 Curriculum Night, 6 pm: K-2nd
- 16 PTSA General Membership Mtg., 7 pm
- 18 Curriculum Night, 6 pm: 3rd-5th

OCTOBER

- 3-4 WSPTA Legislative Assembly
- 17 Walkathon

NOVEMBER

- 10 Conference Day- NO SCHOOL
- 11 Veteran's Day- NO SCHOOL
- 12 Conference Day- NO SCHOOL
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday- NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER

- 5 Winterfest
- 22 1st Winter Break starts- NO SCHOOL

JANUARY

- 5 School Resumes
- 19 Martin Luther King Day- NO SCHOOL
- 29 Coffee with the Principal, 9:15 am
- 29 PTSA General Membership Mtg., 9:15 am
- 30 Family Bingo Night, 6-8 pm

FEBRUARY

- 2-13 K-5 Stanford Achievement Testing
- 16-17 Second Winter Break
- 26 Family Game Night, 6-8 pm

MARCH

- 20 Learning Improvement Day- NO SCHOOL
- 24 2nd grade CogAt testing begins
- 27 Science Fair

APRIL

- 1 2nd grade CogAt testing ends
- 6-10 Spring Break- NO SCHOOL
- 13 WASL testing begins
- 23 PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7 pm
- 29-30 Book Fair

MAY

- 1 Book Fair/Fine Arts Night
- 1 WASL testing ends
- 22-25 Memorial 4 Day Weekend- NO SCHOOL
- 28 PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7 pm

JUNE

- 15 Last day of school

