



Coyote Howler

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Cascade Ridge Families:

Thank you for your great participation in our Curriculum Nights in September. I was so impressed to see every classroom overflowing with parents. We also greatly appreciated your willingness to stay for our PTSA meeting, staff introductions and state of the school address. We understand the challenges in getting here during your dinner hour and appreciate your support.

Individual student WASL scores were posted on Student Access last week. Many of our families have also requested the WASL report form that we receive from the state for your child. These forms are available in our office. Please be prepared to show picture ID and a copy will be made for you.

You can view our annual Washington State Report Card at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. Our staff will be analyzing our WASL data, Stanford scores and classroom data during our Wednesday afternoon staff in-service opportunities. We use our data to continue to refine and improve our instructional strategies.

Safety Reminders:

- ◆ This year we have had several bicycle accidents involving our students after they have left our school campus. Please remind your students to ride single file and to yield to pedestrians. We are developing a bike safety program for all of our students who ride to school.
- ◆ When picking up your children after school, students are only allowed to enter waiting cars in the parking lot from the sidewalk in front of the building. Please be sure to have your children wait on the sidewalk until you get to the pick up zone. Children crossing through the parking lot are an accident waiting to happen.
- ◆ When in the loading/pick up zone, please continue to move forward to let other cars in behind you. If you stop- everyone stops.

I would like to thank all of you for your warm welcome to the Cascade Ridge Elementary School community. This is a great place to work and learn!

Sincerely,

Colleen Shields, Principal

425.837.5501, shieldsc@issaquah.wednet.edu



HERE'S SOMETHING TO HOWL ABOUT!



The PTSA website is **NEW** and **IMPROVED!**

You'll find the latest news, upcoming events, the latest Howler and Yelp, forms to download, information about programs and fundraisers, a calendar showing all the PTSA activities for the year and SO MUCH MORE!! Check it out at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org

Calendar of Events

October:

- 2: Site Council, 7:45 am
- 3: Dad's Play Day
- 3: 1st Popcorn Friday!
- 3-4: WSPTA Legislative Assy.
- 7: Banking Day
- 8: K-Kids Info Meeting, 1:15, Music Room
- 10: Picture Retake Day
- 13: Vision/Hearing Screening
- 14: Banking Day
- 16: Coffee w/ the principal 9:30-10:00, Cafe
- 21: Banking Day
- 24: Walkathon, 3:40-6:30 pm
- 28: Banking Day
- 29: Howler deadline
- 31: November Howler

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Editor: [Julie Anderson](#)
President: [Susan Sansing](#)



WHERE ELSE DO PTSA FUNDS GO?

We want to thank you for your generous participation in our fund-raising efforts at Cascade Ridge. You may already be familiar with some of our more recognizable programs like Eager Reader, Field Day, Winterfest, Bingo Night and many others. This month, I wanted to take an opportunity to spotlight some other significant ways the money raised by the PTSA helps our school behind the scenes:

- ◆ **STAFF GRANTS:** Each year, the PTSA grants money to every teacher and grade level at the beginning of the school year to use in any way they need to enhance our children's classroom experience. This year, these individual Staff and grade-level grants amount to nearly \$16,000, or 23% of our annual operating expenses of \$67,000. These grants are not only provided to our grade-level teachers, but to other key staff members and specialists that interact with your children every day.
- ◆ **ART/SCIENCE ENRICHMENT GRANT:** At our spring General Membership meeting, we decided to re-allocate \$6,000 to our grade-level teams to use towards Arts and Science curriculum enrichment activities (previously, this grant was used to fund the Art Specialist, Lana Matson). The grade-level teams de-

cide jointly how to spend these funds, either through bringing in a local artist to conduct a special project or towards a program like Kate Poaster's Science-to-Go.

- ◆ **DRAMA PROGRAM:** Through a PTSA grant of nearly \$11,000, or 16% of our budget, every child in Kindergarten through 4th grade attends a 6-8 week drama program with Mrs. Harcourt (ask your child to tell you about Mrs. Hahr-court—say it like a pirate).
- ◆ **BEL or READING EXPLORES GRANT:** The Benchmark Enrichment Learning (BEL) program provides targeted additional academic help to kids in K-2nd grade who need it. This program is funded by the district, with the PTSA providing additional funding of \$2,400 to ensure that every child who qualifies for BEL receives the help they need.

Want to learn more about how we spend PTSA funds? Mark your calendars now for our next **PTSA General Membership meeting, Thursday, January 29 at 9:30 a.m.** We've been carrying a significant reserve for a few years and will be discussing ideas for how to spend down some of those extra funds.

Susan Sansing, Cascade Ridge PTSA President
susansansing@comcast.net



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Hi Cascade Ridge Families,

I am the Emergency Preparedness Chair for the school. I would like you to think back a couple of winters ago when we had our wind storm/power outage. As we climb into fall and then winter, I'd like you to please get your families ready. The best thing you can do is:

- ◆ Have a "grab and go" kit (also called 72 hour kit) for each member of your family.
- ◆ Have additional food, water and supplies in the house that can be used during this time.
- ◆ Please have a plan for your children. Let them know you have a plan.
- ◆ If you have kits already, bravo! Daylight savings is every 6 months, so it's a good time to remember to update clothing and shoes (make sure they still fit) and rotate food. It's also a good time to change batteries in your smoke detectors.

Cascade Ridge has an emergency plan in place as well. If an emergency were to occur during the school day, there will be order and supplies ready to take care of your children. Teachers have been

put into teams to cover all the necessary aspects of an emergency including check out. Please take a minute and go to the Cascade Ridge website and click on **Emergency Information**. There, you can click on **Basic Emergency Preparedness, Daily Emergency Information and Updates**, and **What parents and the community can do in an emergency**. We are lucky to have the staff here that is prepared and ready to take care of our children. When it is time to pick up your child, all children can be matched with their parents or other authorized adults quickest if we follow school procedures.

If you would like me to email you any of the following checklists, you can email your request to suzmcalli@hotmail.com.

- ◆ 72 hour kit checklist
- ◆ 72 hour complete family checklist
- ◆ 72 hour kit letter to child. This is a letter that reassures a child who may be home without your aid and gives them steps to follow if there is an emergency. It is information that you've already taught them but reminds them in their kit of who to call and what to do. There are blanks to fill in with phone contacts and locations where you would meet at if you/they had to evacuate your home.

Thanks and be prepared! Suzanne McAllister



WALK-A-THON & FALL FESTIVAL

CASCADE RIDGE 2008

THIS IS THE BIG ONE FOLKS!

**This will be THE Major Fundraising Event of the year,
provided we meet our goal of \$35,000.**

What should we expect at the Walkathon Fall Festival?

WALKING OF COURSE, and Music, Dancing, Balloon Animals, Free T-Shirts, Face Painting, Carnival Games, Hot Apple Cider, Chili Dogs, A Clown, A Cupcake Walk, Prizes and more!

Where do the funds go that are raised by the Walkathon?

The Walkathon is a fundraiser that allows funds to go directly to programs that enrich our student's education. Some of these programs are:

- ◆ ACE tutoring and BEL tutoring
- ◆ Destination Imagination
- ◆ Eager Reader
- ◆ Classroom Art & Science Programs
- ◆ Field Day
- ◆ Science Fair
- ◆ Math Olympiad
- ◆ Staff Appreciation program
- ◆ Classroom Grants and Grade Level Grants
- ◆ Drama

How much do these programs cost each year?

The annual cost to fund these programs is approximately \$67,000. This breaks down to about \$125 per student.

How much should we donate?

We are hoping that **each family will donate a MINIMUM of \$100**. However, donations of **all** sizes are greatly appreciated and will go directly to support the high quality programs that our PTSA provides at Cascade Ridge. All donations are Tax Deductible.

Your donations will be recognized in the November Howler (with your permission) as well as with "Family Leaves" on our Autumn Tree of Appreciation displayed at the School.

- ◆ Gold Leaf Level: \$ 200
- ◆ Red Leaf Level: \$ 100
- ◆ Green Leaf Level: under \$ 100

Should my child raise money by asking Family and Friends?

You may consider asking family and friends who would enjoy contributing to your child's school.

Should I Pre-Order my Meal?

Yes, please! Hot dogs, Chili and Baked Potato meals will be available for pre-ordering, but bring along some extra change for hot apple cider, hot chocolate, coffee, popcorn and the bake sale!

How do I help out or get more information?

Watch for the Walkathon Packet to come home the 2nd week of October! You may also contact Laure Runyan, lrnyan@isomedia.com or Jaycee Cooper, jayceecooper@comcast.net.



PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES



DAD'S PLAY DAY

Please join us for our first Dads' Play Day on the Playground for the 2008-2009 school year! On Friday, October 3rd, and the first Friday of each month, we invite all dads, moms, grandparents and/or other special guests to join us on the playground for lunch recess. **Please note new recess times below.** If you have not already done so, please fill out the volunteer background check (on the Cascade Ridge PTSA website under forms) and send it in before October 3rd. Due to space limitations in the lunchroom, we are asking that all special visitors sign-in at the table in front of the office, get a visitor's badge, and then join your special student outside for recess. Thanks!!!

New lunch/recess schedule

Recess 4/5: 11:15-11:40
Recess K/1: 11:40-12:05
Recess 2/3: 12:05-12:30

Upcoming Dad's Play Days

October 3rd
November 7th
December 5th
January 9th
February 6th
March 6th
April 3rd
May 1st
June 5th

For questions, contact Lynette Springborn at lynette.springborn@gmail.com or 425.765.7548.



Coffee with the Principal

Thursday, October 16th
9:30—10:00 a.m.
In the Café

Join us for coffee and conversation! Principal Colleen Shields will be discussing the report card grading system and what it means to be "exceptional". She can also answer any other questions you may have about your child's report cards. Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by the PTSA

REFLECTIONS Art Program "Wow!"



The Reflections Program is a National PTA and Washington State PTA cultural arts competition. It is open to **ALL** Cascade Ridge Elementary Students. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. Reflections challenges students to create art that supports this year's theme of **"Wow!"** in the categories of Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Film/Video, and Choreography/Dance. The entries are due by **Wednesday, November 5th**. Entry forms and rules will be sent home with students in early October.

Go to <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Reflections/reflect.htm> where you can find more information. If you have any questions, contact Toni Osotio at osotiot@issaquah.wednet.edu or Bona Park at chris_bona@msn.com.

PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES



WE NEED YOU!

We still need Chairs or Co-Chairs for these really great PTSA programs:

Book Fair
Gift-a-Book
Science Docent Program
Field Day
Issaquah School Foundation
Representative

If you can volunteer, please contact Chrisann Penz at chrisannpenz@yahoo.com.

Banking Day Starts 10/7!



Start Saving Money!

Every Tuesday on the way to recess, Cascade Ridge students can deposit as little as 25¢ into a student savings account. This is a banking program affiliated with Washington Mutual. Your student's account will be an official account through this bank. Your child will be mailed a quarterly bank statement to show how much they have saved. Students can set up their account right at school—no need to ever go to the bank! Kids receive prizes every other time they bring a deposit.

Haven't banked before? Have your student stop by the Banking Day table (by the entrance to the Coyote Café near the Lost & Found) on Tuesday, October 7th to check out the prizes and pick up an enrollment form to get started. Please have them return it to their teacher. As soon as an account number is assigned (usually 2 weeks after receipt of a completed form), your child will receive a banking pouch and register at school. After this time, students can start bringing their money to deposit. WaMu cannot accept any money until an account number is assigned. Students that were already enrolled last year will automatically receive a new banking pouch and register delivered to their class. You don't need to complete the enrollment form again.

So, let's start saving and watch your money grow! Please contact Joan Bear, winebears@comcast.net, if you have any questions.



Come Learn about K-Kids Club

K-Kids will be hosting an informational meeting for parents and students on **October 8th** at **1:15** in the **Music Room**. K-Kids is an after school service club open to 1st - 5th graders and kindergarteners with an accompanying parent. Previous members are encouraged to bring a friend! This will be a great way to learn more about what K-Kids is all about. Parent facilitators are vital to our service projects. We encourage and welcome your involvement. Please join us!

If you have any questions? Contact Marni Kurtz at marni_kurtz@yahoo.com OR Elizabeth Bogardus at brybog@comcast.



Mark Your Calendars
The 1st Popcorn Friday will be October 3rd
Bring your quarters!!

COMMUNITY

ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

“NOURISH EVERY MIND” 2008 BENEFIT LUNCHEON



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Fall is here which means that it is almost time for Issaquah Schools Foundation’s (ISF) “Nourish Every Mind” Benefit Luncheon. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the foundation’s largest and most gala fundraising event. Over 900 of the area’s business and civic leaders are expected to gather at the Issaquah Community Center on **Thursday, October 16th** from **11:00—1:30** to showcase ISF grant recipients (including our own Mr. Cady and his School of Rock!), celebrate the Issaquah School District (ISD) and ISF partnership, and inform guests of the enormous impact private support has on our public schools.

“Nourish Every Mind” proceeds underwrite programs that benefit students across the ISD including the VOICE Mentoring Program, Kateri Brow Big Idea/Biggest Need and Classroom Enrichment Grants, Club 7, National Board Certification Scholarships for teachers, and After School Homework Labs for middle and

high school students.

Your support of the Foundation is needed now more than ever. Schools in general and Issaquah schools in particular are grossly underfunded by the state, and now things like slowing enrollments and higher gas prices are making things worse. The district’s finance officer is anticipating the need for painful budget cuts next year. This is not a threat, it’s a reality. Resources provided to schools through our PTSA’s and ISF are essential to close current and anticipated budget gaps and help deliver vital educational resources to our kids.

A \$150 suggested minimum donation is requested of all attendees. Please contact Susan Sansing, susansansing@comcast.net if you’d like to join us at the Cascade Ridge table. For more info about ISF or to make a donation, call 416-2045 or visit www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org.

A LETTER FROM YOUR PARENT ED REP

My name is Alison Cathro and I wish to introduce myself as your **PTSA Parent Education Liaison** between the families and staff at Cascade Ridge and the Issaquah School District. My goal this year is to help spread word of opportunities for parent education within our school and District with communications in the **HOWLER** and **YELP**.

Information can be found on the District website: <http://www.issaquahptsa.org/parented/main.htm>

and the Cascade Ridge PTSA website— Parent Ed tab.

I would love to hear your ideas about subject matter that would interest you and enhance your parenting style. I will be happy to present feedback to the ISD planning committee for future presentations. Always feel free to say ‘hello’ anytime or contact me with ideas for seminars, suggestions or your experiences with parent education. I can best be reached by email at buddleia69@yahoo.com.



**Register to vote for the November election
online through October 3rd at**

<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx>



Please Check the LOST & FOUND



The Lost & Found outside the entrance to the Café is already getting filled up. Please check the Lost & Found for lost coats, sweaters, sweatshirts and lunch boxes next week. All of the items in the Lost & Found are donated at the end of **EACH** month by Mrs. Fritsch's class to a local clothing bank.

Please be sure and label anything your child has that they may leave lying around the playground or the lunchroom. It will be much easier for you or your child to identify. THANKS!

THANK YOU

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Thank you to—

- The volunteers who helped out at Picture Day: Susan Sansing, Sarah Walden, Suzanne McAllister, Rajeev Goel, Kellie Nadell, Christy McCarthy, Larissa Murphy, Krystl McCandlish, Diane Moore, Claudia Laine, Connie Dardis, Kirsten Leuhmann, Lynn Faciane.
- Debbie Freeman for coordinating the first Coffee with the Principal.
- Klahanie QFC for donating popsicles for our Popsicle Social.
- Kirsten Luehmann for all of your work on the 1st Day Packets.

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THANK YOU

November Coyote Howler

The next issue of the Howler will be delivered **electronically** via Cascade Ridge E-News and posted on the Cascade Ridge Website on **Friday, 11/2**. Email submissions must be made to howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org no later than **Wednesday, 10/31** by 5 p.m. Questions? Contact Julie Anderson at larsjulie@comcast.net or 837-8744.