



Coyote Howler

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Cascade Ridge Families:

November is a month where we traditionally take time to acknowledge and recognize the many things in our life that we are thankful for. The list for us is long here at Cascade Ridge Elementary School.

We begin with Veterans' Day when we have the opportunity to join our country in honoring and thanking all of those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We will take the time to reflect, remember and honor our veterans at our Veterans' Day Assembly on Thursday, November 13th at 10:00 AM. We would like to invite all parents, family members and friends who are veterans to attend our assembly. We would also like to encourage any veterans who are attending our assembly to speak with our students about their military experiences. We know that our veterans have much to offer and can teach our young students about freedom, patriotism and sacrifice for others. Please let us know if you, a family member or friend will be joining us as a veteran at our assembly. We would also like to know if you would be willing to share your experiences.

Recently, we have also had the opportunity to thank our students, parents and staff for all of their hard work at school as we celebrated our recognition by the State Superintendent's office as a "School of Distinction". This award is given to the top 5 percent of elementary, middle and high schools that have shown progress in raising student achievement in both reading and mathematics during a six-year period. We know that improvement over an extended period of time happens when parents, staff and students are working together with the common goal of excellence for all of our students. We are truly a place where life long learners can excel!

November is also a time for us to come together at our Parent-Teacher conferences to share information on how each of our students is progressing in their school work. This is an important opportunity for teachers and parents to communicate and share strategies for student success. We hope that all of you will be able to attend a conference for your child(ren) on November 10th or 12th.

This year report cards will go home on November 26th. You will see some changes in this year's report card including a standardized format for comments and a closer alignment with the Washington State Grade Level Essential Learnings. You can find more information on our school district website under Academics and Elementary Report Cards. The website includes a copy of each grade level's report card and scoring guide.

Finally, a special thank you to all of the parents who contributed so generously this year to our Walk-a-Thon. The programs supported by our PTSA allow us to provide many enrichment opportunities for our students in all subject areas including art, music, and science. Our PTSA and staff work hard to make sure that the programs that are funded benefit as many of our students as possible. Thank you everyone for all of your hard work.

Thankfully yours, Colleen Shields

November 2008

Calendar of Events

November:

- 4: Banking Day
- 5: Reflections Entries Due
- 6: Site Council, 7:45 am
- 7: Dad's Day on the Playground
Food Drive donations due
Winterfest RSVP due
- 10/12: Student Conferences—
No School
- 11: Veteran's Day—No School
- 18: Banking Day
- 22: Barnes & Noble Book Fair
- 25: Banking Day
- 27/28: Thanksgiving Holiday—
No School

December:

- 5: Winterfest

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



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTSA PRESIDENT



WHAT ARE THE MISSION & GOALS OF THE PTSA

The 2008-2009 school year is well under way here at Cascade Ridge Elementary. We welcome new students and their families to the school and greet again returning students and families. Not quite two months into the school year, and your PTSA has been busy getting all the familiar programs up and running and introducing some new ones.

The Cascade Ridge PTSA's continued mission is to advocate for the success of our children by sponsoring, coordinating and promoting high-quality activities that enrich our fundamental curriculum. Our mission is guided by a set of goals that are determined each year and approved by the General Membership at the September meeting. This year, our goals include:

- ◆ Promote the health and well-being of our students and environment.
- ◆ Continue to educate the school community as to how fundraising dollars are spent.
- ◆ Introduce new PTSA programs to highlight our community's growing diversity and multi-cultural basis.
- ◆ Assist staff in reaching their goals by providing financial support through more flexible and grade-specific grant programs.

Already this year, the PTSA has sponsored learning enrichment programs through the kick-off of **Destination Imagination** and the **Reflections** programs. **Art Docents** are bringing the world of hands-on art into our students' classrooms. Volunteers have begun planning the **Science Fair** to be held early next spring, including a kick-off assembly in January to bring the world of science to our students.

To promote school community, we hosted the first **PTSA Back to School Popsicle Social**, a **Staff Appreciation luncheon** on Meet the Teacher Day, and two **Coffees with the Principal**. We held our

first monthly **Dad's Day on the Playground** event in which parents, grandparents and other caretakers can come to lunch recess on the first Friday of the month to simply play with their children. We look forward to our upcoming **Winterfest** in December and a committee of parents have begun planning our first **Festival of Cultures** event.

These activities and events are supported through our fundraising efforts including Coyote Wear sales, Popcorn Fridays, and the amazing success of our recent Walk-a-thon and Fall Carnival. You can read more about this event in this Howler. We're really excited that this will be our only major fundraiser this year. More information about Passive Fundraising opportunities will be coming home this month.

One of our goals is to continue Cascade Ridge PTSA's record of having at least one PTSA member for every student in the school. This equals 100% membership and I'm pleased to announce that we have reached (and surpassed!) this goal already this year. This is quite an accomplishment and sends the message that the Cascade Ridge community is serious about representing every student in our school to ensure that these students are given opportunities to be successful in their academic endeavors.

Finally, I urge you to find a way to get involved in our PTSA. There are volunteer opportunities nearly every month and we do need your support and involvement. Attend a PTSA General Membership—our next one will be in January. Feel free to let me know what you think we're doing well and anything you think we could do differently. Working together, I know we can succeed in reaching our goals!

Susan Sansing
susansansing@comcast.net



WALK-A-THON & FALL FESTIVAL

CASCADE RIDGE 2008

2008 Walk-A-Thon and Fall Festival A Huge Success!
\$38,000 Raised!

We did it! We reached our Goal! \$38,000 was earned from the generous support of Cascade Ridge Families, Friends and Community! Proceeds from this event go directly to our kids! Thank You!

Last Friday, on a crisp October afternoon, a record 90% of Cascade Ridge's 601 students took to the pavement in their orange Walk-A-Thon tee shirts. They ran, walked, skipped and danced their way around the School. The fun didn't end with circling the building though. As darkness fell, parents and kids could still be found eating, talking, playing carnival games, dancing and yes a few die hard walkers still doing laps! All the food that remained was taken directly to a local charity and distributed to the homeless that night!

To our Walk-A-Thon Planning Committee:

Monica Fuddy - Concessions, Betsy Matias - Decorations, Diana Pugh - Carnival Games, Mary Richardson - Communications, Susan Sansing - Volunteers, Stephanie Scott - Communications, Rachel Schnebele - Fundraising, and Julie Anderson - Website and On-Line Donating.

Your dedication and time spent during the planning, preparation and execution of this event paid off! The success of the Walk-a-Thon can be directly attributed to your hard work and the special talents each one of you brought to the committee. We truly appreciate your amazing commitment. Thank You!

To the Walk-A-Thon & Fall Festival Volunteers:

This was truly a community event and not possible to execute without the generous gift of your time and effort. We had over 150 volunteers! Many of you donated items from home to be used during the event and still more bought or made items to be given away or sold. The day of the event many of you worked on Set Up, Clean Up, Cheer/Goodie Stations, Lap Stampers, Kitchen, Concessions, Class Room Reps, Bakers, and Special Requests. Wow! I think we can all be really proud to be a part of a school that has this kind of family involvement! Thank you!

To our Community Supporters:

Issaquah Trader Joe's, Costco, Issaquah Fred Meyer, Klahanie Starbucks and QFC, Redmond Albertsons, Sammamish Rite Aid. Thank you for supporting Cascade Ridge!

Congratulations! To our Scarecrow Contest Winners!

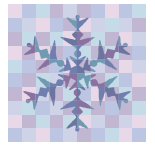
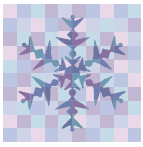
Summer Jones * Mrs. Plude's Kindergarten Class * Hannah & Sarah Hall & Family * Haley Dardis * The Osotio Family * Sydney Ostrander * Dana Hunter * The Schnebele Family * Jacqui Verrue * Megan Hutchison * Sydney Richardson * Melissa Ifft * Katie Gratchner * Jordan Tedesco * Parker Matias * Amber Gude * Angelo & Victoria Saturay

Sincerely,
Jaycee Cooper and Laure Runyan
Walkathon Co-Chairs

Your feedback is welcome as we'd like to make the event even better next year. Please send any feedback you have to jayceecooper@comcast.net.



You are invited to a PTSA-Sponsored Family Fun Event...



Winterfest

When & Where:

Friday, December 5th

6:00—8:00 pm

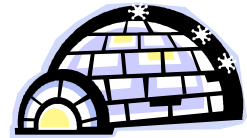
Coyote Café & Gym

What to do:

Make a holiday gift for family and friends

Play fun carnival games

Play the Treat Walk



What to eat and drink:

Uncrustables (PB&J) - \$1.00

Lunchables (Cheese/crackers/turkey) - \$1.00

Clementine Oranges—\$.25

Fun Festive Baked Goodies—\$.50



Hot Cocoa—\$.50

Coffee—\$.50

Flavored Water—\$.50

Plain Water—\$.50

Reserve your spot at Winterfest today!

Send in the RSVP & Event Card Form below with payment
by Friday, November 7th.

Questions? Contact Leslie Hickman-Boyd at 425-557-6536 or
Danna Wickham at 425-605-0998



Winterfest RSVP & Event Card Form

Each Event Card entitles the holder to participate in 5 crafts and 6 games.

Pick up your Event Card at Winterfest when you arrive!

Parent Name _____

Phone _____

Price Qty. Total

\$8.00 X _____ = \$ _____

(Checks payable to CRE PTSA)

PROGRAMS



CARING THRU SHARING HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE



The Cascade Ridge student community has a wonderful opportunity to help brighten the holidays for families in our Issaquah/Sammamish community. This year, our school will be "adopting" families through the Issaquah Food Bank. We will begin in mid November with wish list gift tags in your child's classroom. Please discuss with your child if your family would like to participate and if so, what kind of gift your family would like to purchase. If your child chooses a tag that is not within your family's intended budget for this program, just send it back in an envelope addressed to the teacher. It will be put back and your child can choose another tag. There will also be tags asking

for gift wrap and gift certificates of any denomination.

Bring the gifts to the classroom between **November 24th and December 8th**. Be sure that the gift tag is securely attached to the unwrapped gift.

This is a nice opportunity for our children to experience the empowering and rewarding feeling that comes from helping others. Thank you for helping to brighten the holidays of these families!

Contact Brooke Noone brookenoone@comcast.net or Kirsten Luehmann kirstenlueh@hotmail.com with any questions or to volunteer.

REFLECTIONS ENTRY DEADLINE



REMINDER: Reflections Entries are due **Wednesday, November 5th** based on the category, "Wow!" All entries receive coupons for a McDonalds Value Meal and a free Krispy Kreme Cool Kreme Sundae.

If you have any questions, contact Toni Osotio or Bona Park at osotiot@issaquah.wednet.edu or chris_bona@msn.com.



K-KIDS FOOD DRIVE

Please support the Issaquah Food Bank in their efforts to provide food and provisions to those in need. Bring your nonperishable food items to the school and place them in the box outside of the office. The food drive is being sponsored by the Cascade Ridge K-Kid's club and donations are being accepted through **Friday, November 7th**.

Thank you for your assistance, in a time when it is greatly needed.

LAST CHANCE: YEARBOOKS



If you did not fill out a PTSA order form with a yearbook order for your child please go to the PTSA website under PTSA Membership at <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/>. Fill out the membership order form and send in the form and a check with your child to school. We will not have many extras at the end of the year so please order them now if you wish to have one. If you have any questions please contact Gina Mazzaferro at gmaz4@comcast.net or Christy McCarthy at christy.mccarthy@comcast.net. Thanks!

**Mark Your Calendars
for the Next Dad's Day
on the Playground**

November 7th

**Check out the Cascade Ridge
PTSA website for details.**

MORE PROGRAMS



FESTIVAL OF CULTURES



Bonjour, Hola, Namasthe, Sawubona, Nay ho, Shallom, Guten Tag, Pree-vyet!!

We are incredibly excited to announce the first **"Festival of Cultures"** at Cascade Ridge Elementary on **February 27** from **6:00–8:00 pm**. This is a family fun event and will be a wonderful experience for everyone as well as an incredible learning opportunity for the children. Come and experience new cultures and explore international places. There will be food to sample from exotic places, games to play, crafts to do, artifacts and props to see, costumes and clothes to try, music to listen to, dancing to learn, exploration with books, currency, flags and so much more.

We are recruiting families to help make this first **"Festival of Cultures"** an utterly memorable night. It is the one opportunity we have to extend the curriculum to international areas and create an amazing learning experience for our children. If you and your family share a culture, heritage, background from another land OR if you have an interest in exploring another culture or place, please contact us. We would love to have you share this with everyone. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** as this event cannot happen without you!

Please join Nisha Maharaj, Diana Verrue and Barbara Rigelhof in planning this first ever Cascade Ridge Family Fun Event. If you would like to help, please contact Nisha, nishamaharaj@hotmail.com, 369-6090.

FUNDRAISING



BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR SATURDAY, NOV. 22ND

Give the gift of knowledge. Buy that special someone a book and support the programs and events sponsored by Cascade Ridge PTSA. For one day only, Barnes & Noble will donate up to 20% of sales when you mention Cascade Ridge Elementary. Shop anytime on **Saturday, November 22nd**. As a special treat Mr. Cady's choir will be performing at 10:00 am. We'll see you there! No vouchers necessary – just mention our school. Don't forget to tell your friends, coworkers, and neighbors!!! Anyone can participate.

CAR WASH TICKETS



Get your car washed and help us raise funds. **Tickets are \$5**. Each ticket is good for 1 exterior car wash regularly priced at \$7. Look for order forms coming home soon. For every ticket you purchase **our school receives up to \$4**.

MISS GIFT WRAP?



Innisbrook Gift-wrap will be available online as a passive fundraiser. A percentage of your sale benefits PTSA sponsored programs. Watch for details coming home soon.

Contact Nga Selbig at selbigs@comcast.net if you have questions about any of these passive fundraisers.

COMMUNITY

ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



“NOURISH EVERY MIND” 2008 BENEFIT LUNCHEON



Eight hundred fifty community members and friends converged at the Issaquah Community Center on Thursday, October 16th to support Issaquah School District schools and students at the Issaquah Schools Foundation’s 11th Annual **Nourish Every Mind** Benefit Luncheon. Hosted by the always hilarious Pat Cashman, **Nourish Every Mind 2008** raised **\$324,000** that will be used to fund ISF programs that advance academic achievement, support struggling students and promote professional development opportunities.

Luncheon highlights included presentation of the Corporate Golden Apple Award to John Murphy, Chairman of the Overlake Medical Center Advisory Board, Issaquah High School Physics teacher Tom Haff’s impassioned speech about our children being the nation’s ‘secret weapon’, and Newcastle Ele-

mentary music teacher Robin Wood and students performing music learned during their year-long interdisciplinary Personal Expression through Bluegrass and Folk Arts project—which was funded by an Issaquah Schools Foundation grant.

York Baur, an Issaquah School District parent and past ISF Board President, closed the event with a reminder to attendees that no matter the economic condition, investing in our children today is the best way to secure a brighter future for us all.

We would like to extend a special thanks to all the Cascade Ridge parents and staff members who supported the ISF through their generous donations. For more information on ISF and the **Nourish Every Mind** luncheon, please visit www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org.

A TIP FROM THE READING TEACHERS

Motivating Kids to Read

If reading doesn’t appeal to your child, it’s time to get creative. Kids who enjoy reading tend to read more and for a longer period of time. You might:

- ◆ **Read** a book that’s been made into a movie, and then watch the film together.
- ◆ **Plan** a trip and have your child read about the destination.
- ◆ **Look** for books on science that interest your child such as space or ocean life.
- ◆ **Provide** books about your child’s hobbies and interests, such as dance or a sport.
- ◆ **Add** a link to a paper chain every time your child finishes a book.

- Pat Corra and Sheri Ogilvie

Please Join the Skyline Booster Club at their Annual Holiday Bazaar

Saturday December 6th
9:00 – 3:00 pm
At Skyline High School

Skyline High School
1122 – 228th Ave SE Sammamish

For more information email them at
Skylineboosters@yahoo.com



THANK YOU!

I want to thank the following volunteers for all their help with the Vision & Hearing screening: **Gerrie Koch, Julene Barrett, Pam Horn, Kellie Nadell, Marni Kurtz, Kelly Taaffe, Tracy Myers, Mariana Naslund, Susan Nash, Sarah Walden, Kara Stender, Colette Foreman, Megan Tedesco, Fern Wilson, Lora Wendl, Barb Sicuro, Kristin Hunter, Susan Sansing, Brooke Noone, Lisa Burton, Jennifer Withers, Kirsten Luehmann, Lisa Whatley, Tina Yerges, Cathia Geller** and **Anita Kumar**. I apologize if I forgot anyone. You ladies did an awesome job! We couldn't have done it without you! Many thanks.

Karen Thies, School Nurse
Pam Forquera, SLP.

THANK YOU JAYCEE COOPER & LAURE RUNYAN...

for the countless hours spent planning the Walkathon. Your attention to every detail made for an amazing, fun-filled and highly successful school event and fundraiser. Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of Cascade Ridge and it's students.

THANK YOU

Thank you to—

- Julie Anderson for your work on the PTSA website.
- Diana Pugh for the Coffee with the Principal.
- Amy Simpson & Debbie Rosemont for Logo Wear.
- Krystl McCandlish for the PTSA Directory.
- Mari Jancola & Helen DiMeco for entering and reconciling 726 names into the WA state PTSA database!

VOLUNTEERS

December Coyote Howler

The next issue of the Howler will be delivered **electronically** via Cascade Ridge E-News and posted on the PTSA Website on **Friday, 12/5**. Email submissions must be made to howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org no later than **Wednesday, 12/3** by 5 p.m. Questions? Contact Julie Anderson at larsjulie@comcast.net.