



Coyote Howler

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Cascade Ridge Families:

This fall, we received notice from the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) that we had been selected by their office as a School of Distinction. We were very proud of the hard work of students, staff and parents that made receiving this award possible.

We just received notice in December that Cascade Ridge Elementary School is one of only seven schools in our state to be nominated by OSPI to apply for the **2008-2009 Blue Ribbon School Award**. Our official letter from the United States Department of Education inviting us to apply for the 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools Award has arrived and we are busy completing the application. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools across the country that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. We were nominated for meeting the academically high performing schools criteria. Staff, parents, and students at our school should be very proud of this nomination.

Here is additional information on the program contained in our letter from the US Department of Education:

- ◆ Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools. A Blue Ribbon School flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence, a symbol of quality recognized by everyone from parents to policymakers in thousands of communities. In 2002, the program was renewed to connect it with goals of the No Child Left Behind Act.
- ◆ The No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools Program sets a high standard for all schools that strive for excellence. For the past 26 years, this prestigious program has honored more than 5,800 of America's most successful schools.

We greatly appreciate all of the support from our Cascade Ridge families. Your support helps us all make Cascade Ridge a great learning place for our students!

Colleen Shields, Principal

Calendar of Events

January:

- 9: Dad's Day on the Playground
- 13: Banking Day
- 16: Choir/Marimba Concert
- 19: MLK Day—NO SCHOOL
- 23: Bingo Night RSVP due
- 27: Banking Day
- 29: PTSA Membership Mtg, 7:00 pm
- 30: Bingo Night, 6-8 pm

February:

- 6: Dad's Day on the Playground
- 9: Eager Reader starts

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTSA PRESIDENT



Welcome back to school and Happy New Year to all our Cascade Ridge families. It's always tough to make the transition back to school from the December break. We think we can help you with your January doldrums, however, by reminding you of the many fun activities sponsored by the PTSA coming up in the next few weeks and months. Here are some highlights:


- ◆ On January 30, we're having our 2nd annual PTSA **Family Bingo Night** from 6-8 p.m. This is an event for the whole family. Read more about it in the Howler.
- ◆ Our **Eager Reader** program returns beginning on February 9th. This is a great opportunity to get the kids back in the habit of reading—children will have the opportunity to earn fun prizes, featuring FREE BOOKS!
- ◆ Our first annual **Festival of Cultures** will be held February 27 from 6-8 pm. We're really looking forward to learning about the many cultures and interests represented by our families at Cascade Ridge. This will be an incredible learning opportunity for the whole family.

- ◆ The **Science Fair** is Thursday, March 19.


On the business side of things, we've got an important General Membership meeting this month on **Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 pm** in the Café to elect our Nominating Committee. This committee works together for a short time over the next two months to nominate a slate of candidates for next year's PTSA Executive Committee. If you've thought of getting involved with the PTSA, this is a great way to dip your toe in. If you would like to be on the Nominating Committee or want to know more about it, please let me know.

At this meeting, we will also be soliciting ideas from the membership on how to spend down some of our excess reserves. We'll vote on the top ideas and then form committees to research the ideas and present at our next General Membership meeting on Monday, March 9th for a vote. Please plan to join us and participate in this exciting opportunity.

Here's to a fun and enriching 2009 for all of us!
Susan Sansing susansansing@comcast.net
PTSA President



**THE NEXT
PTSA GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
JANUARY 29TH AT 7:00 PM
COYOTE CAFÉ**



PROGRAMS & EVENTS



The Cascade Ridge PTSA sponsored **Family Bingo Night** is back again this year!

**Friday, January 30th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Coyote Cafe**

This event is a fun filled night for the whole family. Besides bingo games and prizes for the winners, we will also be offering pizza and snacks. Please look for the flyer coming home with your child and complete and return it with your pizza and bingo card order by **Friday, January 23rd**.

We will be accepting donations of gently used toys to use as prizes. More details about when and where to make your donations will be coming soon.

Hope to see you all there!

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS FOR
THE BIG BANG!**



**THE 8TH ANNUAL
CASCADE RIDGE SCIENCE FAIR IS
MARCH 19TH, 6:00 – 8:00PM.**

This year, we're going wavelength 510nm! (Translation: we're going green!) Most communication about the science fair, including registration, will be handled electronically through the PTSA website and newsletters. The next Howler will contain the official kick-off announcement and tons of information, so stay tuned! 4th and 5th graders are required to participate, and you will be receiving details from your teacher soon if you haven't already. In the meantime, get those creative juices flowing and think of that brilliant idea for a science project!

Questions? Please feel free to email sciencefair@cascaderidgeptsa.org.

**The next Dad's Day
on the Playground is
February 6th**

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

**DO YOU WANT TO
BE A POP STAR?!**



Thanks to all those that have volunteered for Popcorn Fridays so far! There are lots of open spots available to volunteer again starting January 9th. It's great fun and the kids really love it!

If you'd like to be a "Pop Star", contact Sarah Walden, 425-427-9992 or sarahwalden@live.com.

PARENT EDUCATION

A TIP FROM THE READING TEACHERS

Choose a Reading Resolution for 2009

This could be a weekly, monthly or annual goal. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Read more, watch TV less
- Read the book before seeing the movie
- Find a new author, series or genre from what you usually read
- Caldecott/Newberry Challenge—booklists are available online or through the library
- Read Around the Country/World Challenge—read a book with a setting from a different state/country
- Numerical Challenge—read a certain number of books (fiction or nonfiction) or pages
- Dewey Decimal Challenge—how many different classifications can you read?
- Every Month is a Holiday Challenge—read a book a month each having to do with a traditional or obscure holiday
- Keep a reading journal
- Read a little everyday

We each have a reading resolution for the New Year. What will yours be?

- Pat Corra and Sheri Ogilvie

Check out the Cascade Ridge PTSA website, www.cascaderidgeptsa.org and click on **Parent Ed** for the latest Parent Ed classes available.



WINTER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Winter is here and we've already seen some damage to property and trees from the strong winds. Luckily we didn't lose power! I'd like to re-invite you to request information for putting together your 72 hour emergency kits (Grab and Go Kits) and "Suzanne's Suggestions" from things I have learned in the past 10 years of practicing these procedures. I would also like to encourage you to get to know your neighbors this month. Find out who lives alone or who has special medical needs, i.e. is there anyone with diabetes who needs their medication refrigerated. Who is home bound or elderly; who has children home alone for several

hours a day. Find out who has generators, who knows how to fix plumbing problems, who has carpentry skills, who has a chain saw that can help when a tree falls. Does anyone have pets that would need help if owners were not home? Have a little brunch and discuss these matters. Become a "neighborhood family" to each other so that you can rely on each other during a disaster. Put together a phone list of Emergency Contacts and keep them in a handy place near the phone.

If you want more information, please contact Suzanne McAllister, suzmcalli@hotmail.com.

FROM THE OFFICE



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Wednesday, March 4th from 2-6 pm and **Thursday, March 5th from 10-3 pm** are Kindergarten registration days at Cascade Ridge. New kindergarten students must turn 5 years old by August 31, 2009.

Go to the Issaquah School District website for all of the information you need to register your child for kindergarten:

<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/roundup.aspx>

There will also be a **New Parent Information Night** on **February 26th** from **7:00—8:00 pm** and a **Kindergarten Open House** on **June 2nd** from **4:00—5:00 pm**. Please mark your calendars with these important dates!

CONGRATULATIONS



REFLECTIONS WINNERS



WOW! Congratulations to all the participants who entered the PTSA Reflections Art Contest. We had 101 entries and the following 12 student's art work went on to the District level.

Photography: Mallory Hunt, *Fall Raindrops* and Annie Mazzaferro, *Falling Out of a Tree*.

Literature: Alexander Park, *Cascade Ridge My School* and Megan Titus, *Magic*.

Visual Arts: Nabiya Alam, *Visited Tulip Festival*; June Chong, *The Animal Park*; Isabella Cooper, *The Life of Dolphins*; Danika Kwak,

Fireworks; Perrihan Mercer, *Fan Tail Goldfish*; Annette Guo, *Wow, My Art is Scenic*; Taylor McKerlich, *Latte Love*; and Sara Isaacson, *Swirls*. Annette Guo's entry received an Honorable Mention at District.

And now a drum roll please.... Out of those students along with all the other students across the Issaquah School District, we had two students from our school chosen to go onto the state finals. Congratulations to June Chong for her Visual Arts entry and Mallory Hunt for her photographic entry. Way to go, Cascade Ridge!



K-KIDS THANKS YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in the Operation Sack Lunch outreach. K-Kids passed out over 200 pairs of socks, 120 backpacks, 300 cookies and various blankets and sleeping bags to a large group of homeless men and women. Thanks also to Mr. Cady for accompanying our group and leading the students in holiday songs. Your generosity is most appreciated.

CARING THRU SHARING THANKS YOU!



We want to thank the entire Cascade Ridge Community for supporting over 23 families through the Caring Thru Sharing program. A heartfelt thank you to all the classroom representatives! It would not be possible to effectively run the program without you. Happy New Year everyone!

Kirsten Luehmann and Brooke Noone

Thank you Volunteers

Thank you to—

- ♦ **Danna Wickham & Leslie Hickman Boyd** for chairing an amazing Winterfest. Thanks to their expert coordination and planning, 219 kids and a bunch of parents enjoyed crafts and activities in a festive and well-planned family fun evening.
- ♦ **Brooke Noone & Kirsten Luehmann** for chairing the Caring Through Sharing Holiday Gift Drive.
- ♦ **Marni Kurtz, Elizabeth Bogardus, KKids & families** who spent their time participating in Operation Sack Lunch.

February 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, 1/30**. Email submissions must be made to howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org no later than **Wednesday, 1/28** by 5 p.m. Questions? Contact Julie Anderson at larsjulie@comcast.net.