



# Coyote Howler

## A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

The first week of February, we begin our first round of standardized testing as all of our K-5th grade students will be taking the *Stanford Achievement Testing*, Tenth Edition (Stanford 10).

The Stanford 10 is a norm-referenced standardized test. This means that your child's scores provide a comparison of his or her performance to that of children in the same grade across the country who took Stanford 10 at the same time of year. The results will also show which tested skills your child has learned and what your child has not yet mastered. The publishers of the Stanford test remind us that no one "passes" or "fails" the Stanford 10.

We are frequently asked why we administer both the Stanford 10 and the WASL. There are several differences between the two assessments which provide us different information about how well our students are learning. The Stanford 10 is a multiple choice test while the WASL contains both multiple choice and short response items. The WASL test is designed to measure how well students are doing at meeting our state standards for student learning. Items on the assessment are aligned with those standards and results from the WASL assessment tell us if students are meeting those standards. The Stanford 10 test has items that have been selected to measure what students are learning not just in relationship to our state standards but in comparison to students across the country. Students are not expected to be able to answer all of the questions on the Stanford. We make sure that our students know that they may encounter items that are too hard for them because there are some items on each grade level's test that are expected to be too difficult for most students at that grade level to answer. Unlike the WASL, student reports do not indicate if students are meeting or exceeding standards but instead tell us how students scored on a percentage basis in comparison to students across the country.

Here are some basic test taking strategies for your students provided by the Stanford guides: **REST** - Get a good night's sleep before taking the Stanford 10. **EAT** - A good breakfast on the morning that you take Stanford 10 is important. Activities such as those on the Stanford 10 use a lot of energy. **TRY**- Do your best. You are not expected to know the answer to every question. Some of the questions may seem hard, but keep trying and don't give up. **These are great strategies for school every day!**

## **BINGO NIGHT IS TONIGHT!** **6 - 8 PM COYOTE CAFE**

If you did not pre-register, you are still welcome to join us. Bingo cards will be available for sale at the door for \$1. We will have a limited amount of extra pizza slices for sale and a concession stand with other snacks and drinks. Hope to see you there!

## Calendar of Events

### February:

- 2-13: Stanford testing  
K-Kids clothing drive
- 3: Banking Day
- 5: Site Council 7:45 am
- 6: Dad's Day on the  
Playground
- 9: Eager Reader begins
- 10: Banking Day
- 16-17: Winter Break—No school
- 20: Golden Acorn Nominations  
Due
- 24: Banking Day
- 26: WPTSA Focus Day (Olympia)  
Parent Info Night 7-8 pm  
(Kindergarten)
- 27: Scoliosis Screening (5th)  
Festival of Cultures 6-8 pm
- 28: DI Regional Tournament

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



# MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTSA PRESIDENT



## JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY HOW TO SPEND DOWN OUR \$20,000 RESERVE

On January 29th, the PTSA held its second general membership meeting of the year. In addition to getting through the basic business of the PTSA and electing our Nominating Committee, the bulk of the meeting was spent discussing "how much" of our current reserve to spend and hearing ideas from the membership about what to spend reserves on.

The purpose of the meeting was to generate ideas and begin prioritizing the ideas based on the estimated amount of the available grant. After reviewing our financial history and spending patterns, the membership agreed to make available approximately \$20,000 to re-invest in our school this year. This amount will allow us to retain at least one year's reserve in savings to cover our average operating expenses for next year.

There were several ideas generated from the Cascade Ridge team, as well as a few items brought forward by parent members. The top ideas that are being researched and will be presented to the General Membership at our next meeting on Monday, March 9 are:

- ActivBoards for classrooms that do not currently have them
- Software programs and curriculum materials for students with Dyslexia
- Additional curriculum materials for the Reading Explorers program
- Playground equipment

- Additional Kate Poaster science labs
- Workbooks to support the Handwriting without Tears cursive curriculum

Thank you to the Cascade Ridge community for your contributions to our fundraising efforts over the past years. These contributions allow the PTSA to invest in our students, school and community. Your participation at the general membership meetings ensure that the wishes of our members are being fulfilled.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for **Monday, March 9 at 7:00** in the Coyote Café. This will be your chance as a member to vote on the ideas that you feel are most important to you, our school, and the community.

Finally, a special thank you to Suzanne McAllister, our Emergency Preparedness chair, for a very informative program with ideas for how our families can prepare for Emergencies. She presented some valuable information on items every family should stock to survive 72 hours in an emergency, as well as great ways to teach our children what to do during an emergency. Look for this valuable information on our Cascade Ridge PTSA website soon.

For more information about the spending options or to provide input into the process, please contact Susan Sansing, PTSA President, at [susansansing@comcast.net](mailto:susansansing@comcast.net).

# PROGRAMS & EVENTS



## EAGER READER STARTS FEB. 9TH!

The PTSA Eager Reader program starts on **February 9<sup>th</sup>**! This PTSA sponsored 6-week program encourages and rewards reading. Just record your daily reading on the provided logs and turn in weekly for prizes, such as terrific books, toys and more! Look for logs and information packets that will be coming home with your child next week. So get ready, the countdown has started. Blast off on a reading adventure!

For more information, contact Roberta Renton at [robertarenton@comcast.net](mailto:robertarenton@comcast.net).

## HELP FOSTER KIDS: DONATE CLOTHES



Would you like to help Seattle's many foster children? During the first two weeks of February, Cascade Ridge K-Kids will be collecting **gently used and new children's clothing (ages newborn through 18)** to be donated to Seattle's Treehouse organization. The clothing will be sold at the Treehouse store and proceeds will benefit the many foster children currently living in Seattle.

Please drop your donation outside the office in the K-Kids box by **February 13<sup>th</sup>**. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.



## DESTINATION IMAGINATION TOURNAMENT—FEBRUARY 28TH

Cascade Ridge students will be competing against other local schools in the DI tournament on **February 28** at **Pacific Cascade Freshman Campus**. Our students have been working hard for several months to complete their challenges and now it's time to show the judges. The tournament begins at 8:00 am and runs until 5:00 pm. To see specific times that each team competes, check the website <http://www.cascaderidgedi.org/>. Come and cheer them on!

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

Recess 4/5: 11:15—11:40

Recess K/1: 11:40-12:05

Recess 2/3: 12:05-12:30

Check out <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/> for details.

# FESTIVAL of CULTURES



## *Festival Of Cultures*



CASCADE RIDGE PTSA 2009

***Hello, Bonjour, Hola, Namasthe, Sawubona, Nay ho, Shallom, Mzuri, Hej, Sabaai-dii, Malo, Han-gul, Chao ong, Myshbezi, Konnichi wa, Goeidag, Buon Giorno, Haileo!!***

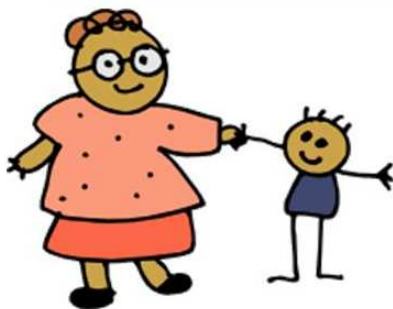
You will be greeted in 18 languages, taste exotic foods, learn new information from around the globe, see amazing displays, touch artifacts, be dazzled by entertainers from Ireland, India, Korea and Cascade Ridge's very own choir.

We invite you and your family to join us and have a memorable evening with a ticket around the world in one night!

Please join us for a fun, exciting, educational and entertaining evening .

**27TH FEBRUARY 2009 6-8 PM**

Admission is free!



# SCIENCE FAIR



## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CASCADE RIDGE SCIENCE FAIR IS MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00PM

Question:	What is the Cascade Ridge Science Fair?
Hypothesis:	We predict that Cascade Ridge Science Fair 2009 will be one of the most exciting and fun events of the school year, and that we will all learn a ton about science!
Materials:	Project board, imagination, and a willingness to explore and experiment.
Procedure:	1. Think of a project topic. 2. Work on your project at home between now and the fair. 3. Display your project proudly at the fair for the world to see. 4. Walk around and see the great work done by your fellow students.
Data:	Thursday, March 19, 6:00p-8:00p in the Cascade Ridge cafeteria and gymnasium.
Conclusion:	Science rocks! ;)

**Calling all young scientists!** It's time for Cascade Ridge's 8th annual Science Fair! All students K-5 are highly encouraged to participate by working on a science project at home between now and mid-March, and displaying it proudly at the fair for the world to see. We have a great website that is bursting at the seams with information, so definitely check it out at <http://www.cascaderidgepts.org/ScienceFair2009>. Get started on your project this weekend!

**Register to participate.** All young scientists wishing to display a project at the fair must register in advance through **an online form**. We strongly encourage early registration in order to reserve your space and your **project board**.

**Need help choosing a topic?** When it comes to choosing a topic, the sky is the limit! What have you wondered about? The best topics come from your own genuine curiosity about how something works, or why something is the way that it is. But if you have trouble thinking of something on your own, we have great page full of **resources to help you choose a topic**. And for K-3 graders, we have a **special page** just for you to help you get started. You'll soon see that doing a science project doesn't have to be difficult, complicated, or expensive!

Questions? Contact the Science Fair committee at [sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org](mailto:sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org).

# PARENT EDUCATION

## A TIP FROM THE READING TEACHERS

**Help your child become happy, confident readers and writers!**

The suggestions below offer some fun ways you can help your child read, write, and tell stories:

- **Use a writing checklist.** Have your child create a writing checklist with reminders such as, "So all of my sentences start with a capital? Yes/No."
- **Create a writing toolbox.** Fill a box with drawing and writing materials. Find opportunities for your child to write, such as the shopping list, thank you notes, or special occasion cards.
- **Do storytelling on the go.** Take turns adding to a story you make up while riding in a car or plane. Try making the story funny or spooky.
- **Exchange "lunchbox notes."** Put notes in your child's lunchbox. You might write "I hope you're having a great day" or include a joke he or she can share with their friends.

## WHAT ARE TEENS REALLY DOING WHEN THEY ARE OUT OF YOUR SIGHT?



A sobering Panel Discussion for parents of Middle School & High School students led by Issaquah, Sammamish, and King County Police Officers. All times are 7-8:30 pm.

**February 2 - Issaquah H.S.**

**February 9 - Skyline H.S.**

**February 23 - Liberty H.S.**

## TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT EMERGENCY SITUATIONS THIS MONTH!



For this month, I'd like to introduce a fun way to teach your children about different emergency situations during a progressive dinner in different locations inside your own home. As you eat a sample of your 72 hour kit food in each room, you will be teaching them about what the smoke detector sounds like, what natural gas smells like, where to go in your home when there is an earthquake, where to find flash lights and fire extinguishers, what to take when there is an evacuation order and how to use their local and long distance emergency contacts and more. By having this activity, you will get a

glimpse of what emergency foods your family likes and dislikes, if you have enough food, how your family will bond by working together, ending with an evacuation drill that can take you to your favorite dessert place (Krispy Kreme, Jamba Juice, Cold Stone etc.) Children will remember these teachings much more if you go through the drill with them, talking about them as you eat and act out the emergencies.

If you are interested in this activity please email me at [suzmcalli@hotmail.com](mailto:suzmcalli@hotmail.com) and I will send you this 5 page Emergency Preparedness Progressive Dinner Activity.



## SEEKING OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS FOR CASCADE RIDGE *GOLDEN ACORN AWARDS 2009*



The Golden Acorn is a PTSA award given every year to outstanding volunteers for their service to our school and community. The Golden Acorn specifically recognizes the contributions individuals have made at Cascade Ridge Elementary and within our local community. This is an excellent way to honor our most dedicated volunteers.

Recipients of the Golden Acorn Award are given a gold pin in the shape of an acorn and a special certificate. In addition, their name is added to the Golden Acorn plaque displayed in the front hall of our school. We also contribute \$65.00 in the person's name to the Washington State PTA Financial Grant Foundation. This foundation provides grants to freshman students entering post-secondary education.

Golden Acorn Award recipients from all over the Issaquah School District also will be honored at a special awards ceremony March 24th.

Please help us select outstanding volunteers from the Cascade Ridge community to receive a Golden Acorn Award this year by filling out the Nomination form attached to this Howler. A form is also available on the PTSA website under "**PTSA Forms.**" The PTSA Golden Acorn Awards Committee will review the nomination forms received and make the final selections. Please feel free to contact Chrisann Penz, [chrisannpenz@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisannpenz@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**Nomination forms must be turned into the school office no later than February 20<sup>th</sup>.**



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Focus Day is the PTA event when members visit their legislators in Olympia—a day where we discuss one-on-one with our elected leadership our most important education issues. **There will be big changes this year** to our member-hosted, annual advocacy event in Olympia. This year we'll be out in the open up front of the Capitol Dome – a noontime **Rally On The Steps!** It is time to be a part of a visible change, and definitely not a time to leave it up to someone else. **This is your time to act with your WSPTA!**

The release of the final report by the legislature's Basic Education Finance Joint Task Force (BEF) will make 2009's Focus day different. This is the year we want the media, people of influence and *everyone* to know where WSPTA stands on their mandate.

The Rally features the Governor and elected officials. Advocacy partners for children's issues and

education will join us too. Around the Rally will be member activities in the basement of the Capitol Dome, where attendees may meet throughout the day.

Our legislative Top 5 Issues determined at Legislative Assembly are the focus of WSPTA's advocacy – *our showing up in Olympia for a public conversation* emphasizes the pivotal role members contribute to their legislator's focus around the issues.

**Mark your calendars for Thu. Feb. 26 for the 12:00-1:00 PM Rally.** For more information or if you would like to attend (we're setting up a carpool), contact Cascade Ridge Legislative Chair, Erik Landahl [landahl1@comcast.net](mailto:landahl1@comcast.net). You can learn more about our legislative issues at <http://www.wastatepta.org/legislation.htm>.

Thank you for sharing this day, and for all you do every day for your children and communities.

# FROM THE OFFICE



## KINDERGARTEN PARENT NIGHT



Reminder: There will be a **New Parent Information Night** on **February 26th** from **7:00—8:00 pm** at Cascade Ridge for parents of new kindergartners.

Kindergarten registration dates are:

**Wednesday, March 4th from 2-6 pm**

**Thursday, March 5th from 10-3 pm**

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>



## SCOLIOSIS SCREENING 5TH GRADERS

Scoliosis screening of all 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take place on Friday, 2/27. This is a state-mandated screening that takes place in grades 5, 7 & 9. It takes a few minutes, is private and non-invasive. Parents are notified by mail if their student needs further follow up with their licensed health care provider.

If you choose not to have your 5<sup>th</sup> grader screened, send a note to the school nurse or an email to [thiesk@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:thiesk@issaquah.wednet.edu).

If you have any questions, call the school nurse at 425-837-5506.

## March 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, 2/27**. Email submissions must be made to [howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org](mailto:howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org) no later than **Wednesday, 2/25** by 5 p.m. Questions? Contact Julie Anderson at [larsjulie@comcast.net](mailto:larsjulie@comcast.net).

# CASCADE RIDGE GOLDEN ACORN AWARD NOMINATION FORM

I recommend that \_\_\_\_\_ be awarded the 2008/2009 Golden Acorn Award given by the Cascade Ridge Elementary PTSA. He/She has demonstrated an outstanding personal commitment this past year to improving the lives of our youth in the following ways:

*(Please be as specific as possible. Each nominee is scored based on a rubric using the criteria below. Additional pages may be submitted.)*

**PTSA Service: (Board member, committee chair, etc)**

**Volunteering at Cascade Ridge (e.g. classrooms, book order volunteer, Site Council, tutoring, etc.)**

**Service to the broader school community (not just Cascade Ridge):**

**Non-school community-wide service: (e.g. coaching, Scout Leader, Church, etc.)**

*Please complete the following information in case we need to contact you for additional information or clarification on your nominee:*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your tel.# \_\_\_\_\_

**Turn forms into the school office by February 20th, 2009.**

**Questions? Contact Chrisann Penz 425.557.9944 [chrisannpenz@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisannpenz@yahoo.com)**