



# Coyote Howler

## A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

### The WASL

A special thank you to all of our parents for your support during Stanford testing this month. We greatly appreciate all of your efforts to be sure that your children arrived at school on time each day and were not absent except for illness. Make-up tests are very time consuming for our staff. Hours that are spent by students and staff involved in make-up tests are precious hours that could be devoted to new learning. Of course, we always want students to stay home when they are sick but we greatly appreciate everyone's efforts to not schedule appointments or travel during our assessment times.

Next up in our state assessment world will be the WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Several important changes were made in the WASL last spring that will affect the WASL format this year. These changes occurred before our new Superintendent of Public Instruction was elected. The changes that began last spring include the following:

- The WASL test has been shortened in all grades. There will be fewer short answer items and no extended response items in Grades 3, 4 and 5 in reading, mathematics and science.
- The number of sessions in Grades 3, 4, and 5 in mathematics and science have been reduced from 3 sessions to 2 sessions.
- The number of days required for testing and the length of the testing sessions have also been reduced in Grades 3, 4, and 5.

Our testing schedule this April 2009 will be:

Third Grade	Reading	April 14 & 17
	Mathematics	April 21 & 23
Fourth Grade	Reading	April 23 & 24
	Mathematics	April 15 & 17
	Writing	April 14 & 21
Fifth Grade	Reading	April 15 & 17
	Mathematics	April 23 & 24
	Science	April 14 & 21

We greatly appreciate your help in making sure that your students attend school on the WASL testing days for their grade level! Mark your calendars.

## Calendar of Events

### March:

- 2: Eager Reader Tally
- 3: Banking Day
- 4: Kindergarten Reg., 2-6 pm
- 5: Kindergarten Reg., 10-3 pm  
Site Council, 7:45 am
- 6: Dad's Day on the Playground
- 9: PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Eager Reader Tally
- 10: Banking Day
- 11: K-Kids Meeting
- 16: Eager Reader Tally
- 17: Banking Day
- 19: Science Fair
- 20: Learning Improvement Day—  
NO SCHOOL
- 23: Final Eager Reader Tally
- 24: 2nd Gr. CogAt testing starts  
Banking Day
- 31: Eager Reader Ice Cream Social  
Banking Day

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Editor: [Julie Anderson](#)  
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# MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTSA PRESIDENT



## SEARCH ON FOR 2009–10 PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At our recent General Membership meeting in January, we spent the bulk of our meeting discussing ideas for how to spend \$20,000 in grants to Cascade Ridge. January's Howler contained detailed information on the ideas that were presented.

In addition to this, we elected our Nominating Committee. These members are responsible for presenting the slate of officers for the 2009-2010 Executive Committee by April 23<sup>rd</sup> for a vote by the General Membership. The membership voted Joan Bear, LeeAnn Howe, Chrisann Penz, Rachel Schnebele, Diana Verrue, and Tina Yerges to this committee.

If you're looking for a way to get involved at Cascade Ridge and to have a direct and meaningful impact on your child's education, I would like you

to consider serving on the PTSA Executive Committee. There are several positions open for next year and the Nominating Committee is actively seeking out people to help us. If you're concerned with the time commitment, grab a friend and consider co-chairing a position. If you're worried that you don't know enough about PTSA policies, there are many training opportunities available and current Board members eager to help bring you up to speed.

The PTSA provides many services and activities to the Cascade Ridge community and we need your help to continue the great tradition. If you would like to learn more about the opportunities available within the Cascade Ridge PTSA Executive Committee, feel free to contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee.



Don't forget to mark  
your calendars!

**PTSA General Membership Mtg.  
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
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. In addition, we will be announcing the Golden Acorn award recipients and discussing ideas for a spring Parent Survey.

## Calling all Health & Wellness Professionals!

The PTSA is looking for a health professional – nutritionist, pediatrician, mental health worker – to speak at our April or May General Membership meeting. One of this year's PTSA goals is to host events that inform our community about child-related health topics.

If you or someone you know might be interested in speaking to our community, please contact Julie Gall at [juliep-gall@yahoo.com](mailto:juliep-gall@yahoo.com).

# SCIENCE FAIR

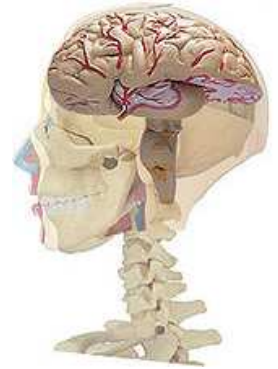


## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cascade Ridge Science Fair

**Your cerebral cortex will be blown away!**

**March 19, 6-8pm**

**Cascade Ridge Gym**



- It's our biggest fair ever with 250 amazing student projects!
- Freeze in your tracks with dry ice demonstrations!
- Get up close and personal with your favorite insects and bugs!
- Watch a robot attempt to write your name!
- ... and many other surprises! (Hint: one of them involves the second element of the periodic table.)
- Admission is free and open to all Cascade Ridge families and friends. Food and drinks available for purchase.

### **But....we need volunteers!**

To make the science fair a rewarding experience for our kids, we need judges on the morning of March 19. The kids really value the opportunity to explain their findings to an adult. It's not difficult, requires no prior experience or knowledge, and only takes an hour or two of your time. Plus, you're guaranteed to learn a lot! Please consider helping us out, as we can't make this happen if we don't get enough people. Visit the science fair website for details or send mail to [sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org](mailto:sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org).



Reminder to parents of young scientists ... take photos of your child at work and send them in to us, so they won't be left out of the slide show!

**Website, info, registration, project boards:**  
**Questions, photo entries, volunteering:**

<http://www.cascaderidgepts.org/ScienceFair2009>  
**Email:** [sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org](mailto:sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org)

# PROGRAMS & EVENTS



## POPCORN VOLUNTEERS

We need more volunteers for our Popcorn Fridays. This is a lot of fun and the kids really look forward to it. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Sarah Walden at 425-427-9992 or [sarah-walden@live.com](mailto:sarah-walden@live.com).

The next Dad's Day on the Playground is March 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.

## RECIPES



If you have sent in a main dish, soup, salad, cookies, etc., for any of the staff lunches this year, or if you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with us, please e-mail recipes to [lyn-ette.springborn@gmail.com](mailto:lyn-ette.springborn@gmail.com). Thanks!

# PARENT EDUCATION

## A TIP FROM THE READING TEACHERS

### Fun Conversations Build Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension skills can be developed using a **before-during-after approach**. Below are a few suggestions that will help build comprehension skills.

**Before**--Your goal is to help your child build an understanding of and purpose for what they're about to read. Look at the book's cover. Ask, "What do you think this book might be about? Why? Can you make some predictions?" Guide your child through the pages, discuss the pictures, and brainstorm what might happen in the story. Talk about any personal experiences your child may have that relate to the story.

**During**--Your goal is to help your child be an active reader. Read together and talk about what's happening as they're reading. Stop and discuss tricky vocabulary words, surprising passages or confusing parts. Help them visualize parts of the story. Ask your child, "Do you understand what's happening? What do you think will happen next?" If your child seems unsure, stop, go back and reread if necessary.

**After**--Your goal is to help your child reflect on what they've read. Share your favorite parts of the book. Have your child rate the book on a scale from 1 to 10 and say why. Have your child reread their favorite part or act it out.

- Pat Corra & Sheri Ogilvie

## PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC	CONTACT
3/9	7:00—8:30 pm	Issaquah H.S.	What are Teens Really Doing Today?	Robin Callahan 557-6663
3/23	11:30—1:30 pm	Sahalee Fire Station	The Total Transformation (continued)	Cherry O'Neill <a href="mailto:Dwo-mci@msn.com">Dwo-mci@msn.com</a>

# FROM THE OFFICE



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Wednesday, March 4th, 2-6 pm**  
**Thursday, March 5th, 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>

## FROM THE NURSE: HEAD LICE ADVISORY



**Attention Parents:** Head Lice are alive and well in all elementary schools! Please check your child's hair regularly to make sure they have not acquired these annoying pests! Live head lice are hard to spot without a very strong light. Nits are the eggs and are easier to see and these frequently look like dandruff. The difference is nits stick to the hair shaft and you cannot just "flick" them off. If you think your child has acquired head lice, but you're not sure, ask your friendly school nurse to check. If your child does have head lice, there are products to help get rid of it, but parents must take the time to go through their child's hair picking out the nits and any live lice.

Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions.

# Thank you Volunteers

Thank you to—

- ◆ Lora Wendl for chairing Family Bingo Night which was a raving success!! Lora took this on with short notice and quickly pulled together a fun-filled evening of Bingo with our CRE families. We had great feedback for an evening that was an inexpensive and enjoyable evening for dads, moms, and kids. Nicely done, Lora!!
- ◆ The Green Team, parent volunteers, and staff who have helped to make the food waste/compost program a huge success. The program began on February 23rd, and we have been able to cut our garbage output in half! Fabulous job!

## April 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, 3/27**. Email submissions must be made to [howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org](mailto:howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org) no later than **Wednesday, 3/25** by 5 p.m. Questions? Contact Julie Anderson at [larsjulie@comcast.net](mailto:larsjulie@comcast.net).