



Coyote Howler

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Last week, Superintendent Steve Rasmussen, was able to provide us with more specific information about our District's financial outlook for the upcoming school year. We were all very happy to learn that most of the certificated employees who received a RIF notification letter in April would be recalled for the 2009-1010 school year. While our district still faces significant reductions in the amount of state revenue we receive, more than a third of the District deficit will be covered with the \$2.2 million in offsetting, non-classroom related reductions. The remainder of the deficit will be addressed through a one-student increase in class-size ratio average across the district.

Next year at Cascade Ridge we will have one fewer class at each of our grade levels except for fifth grade. In kindergarten, we will have one ½ day session in the afternoon and two full day sessions. We will have four classrooms at the first, second, third, and fourth grade level. This past year, we had five classrooms at each of those grade levels. Our fifth grade class size will remain constant with four classrooms scheduled for the 2009-10 school year. The reduction in the number of classrooms at each grade level also means increased class size. We are very fortunate to have a highly skilled teaching staff at Cascade Ridge who will continue to deliver outstanding instruction for your students. It is important to remember, however, that increased class size does affect the amount of individual attention that we can provide for each student and family.

I would like on behalf of the entire staff to thank our parent community for your incredible spoiling of us all during Staff Appreciation Week! The flowers, treats, food-food-food, gifts and thoughtful notes were so greatly appreciated. A special thank you also to the local girl scout troops who provided baked goods, cards and notes on Wednesday. THANK YOU!!

Colleen Shields
Principal, Cascade Ridge

**ONLY 13 MORE
DAYS OF SCHOOL!**

Calendar of Events

June:

- 1:** June Birthday Celebration
5th grade camp pics due
- 2:** Kindergarten Open House
4-5:00 pm
July Birthday Celebration
- 3:** August Birthday Celebration
- 4:** Site Council, 7:45 am
- 5:** Last Popcorn Day
- 8:** 5th grade photos with teachers
- 9:** Final Staff Luncheon
(Volunteers needed)
- 12:** Field Day
School supply paper orders due
- 16:** 5th Grade Castoff
- 17:** Last Day of School!
- 19:** School supply online orders due

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTSA PRESIDENT

PTSA SURVEY RESULTS



Thank you to everyone who was able to complete our recent PTSA survey. We had 80 responses and received some great feedback. As we begin our budgeting and planning for next year, we intend to incorporate many of your suggestions. There were a few areas that I wanted to highlight:

- **FUNDRAISING:** The response was overwhelmingly positive in support of a single Primary fundraiser, in this case our fall Walkathon, and we plan to continue this next year. A couple respondents mentioned that they missed the gift wrap and we wanted to let you know that we planned to offer it in the fall as a passive fundraiser—i.e., we would distribute a link to the website and provide you with a school code so that you could order gift wrap and have it shipped directly to your home. Our PTSA would receive a portion of all sales and no children would need to be involved.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Generally, respondents felt well informed. A few people asked that we bring back the paper copies of the Howler. Going to electronic communications was one of our specific goals the last two years—not only is it more “green”, it actually saves us about \$2000 in copy expenses. We are going to work with our electronic communications to see if we can provide more information in the actual body of the emails that are sent out, for example, direct links to individual articles within the Howler. On another note, we’ve been utilizing our room coordinators more to email directly to our parents and hope that you’ve found this beneficial.
- **SIMPLIFY:** It comes as no surprise that many comments related to “cutting out the fluff” and that’s exactly what we intend to do next year. We’ve been fortunate that our fundraising has been successful and we’ve not found ourselves needing to cut programs to save expenses; however, we’re finding that there are some programs that maybe our school has outgrown. One example that we’ve discussed is our Eager Reader program. Everyone enjoys this program, but we’re looking at ways to simplify this and make it easier for everyone—online tallying, fewer prizes, shortened duration, etc. We are looking at combining events in new ways (Book Fair and Winterfest) and taking a break from some of the volunteer-intensive programs we’ve supported such as weekly popcorn sales. We recognize that budgets and people’s schedules might be tighter next year and want to respect that.
- **KEEP ON DOING WHAT WORKS:** We have an amazing community at Cascade Ridge. Our parents and staff are very involved and committed to supporting our students. We want to keep offering the quality programs that you’ve come to expect. Our Science Fair and Festival of Cultures were huge successes this year and we look to continue this focus.

In closing, I would like to encourage you to continue to provide feedback to the PTSA directly on any areas you would like to discuss. You can contact any member of the board directly or please come to a General Membership meeting. These meetings are open to all and we welcome your attendance and involvement.

FIELD DAY IS COMING!



JUNE 12

GRADES K-2: 9:15–10:45

GRADES 3-5: 1:45–3:15

A super fun day is planned for the kids to end the year. Volunteers are still needed. The popular water balloon toss is back. We need volunteers to take a bag of water balloons home, fill them up, and bring them back to school on Thursday, June 11.

Please let Chrisann Penz know if you can help the day of and/or fill water balloons. chrisannpenz@yahoo.com



SCHOOL SUPPLIES: ORDER ONLINE!!

The 2009/2010 school supply list has been finalized! There is a link on the PTSA website home page as well as on the PTSA Forms page. This year, we have negotiated significantly lower prices through a new vendor, School ToolBox. Through the PTSA, you can order school supplies for next year online using a credit card, or complete the form that can be found on the last page of this Howler and send into the office with a check. The form is also linked to the website home page and PTSA forms page. **Paper orders** are due by **Friday, June 12th** and **online orders** can be made through **Friday, June 19th**. The school supplies will be available for pick up in the gym during the "Meet the Teacher Day" next fall.

**This month's Dad's Day
on the Playground is being
combined with Field Day.**

Please join us June 12th!!

OPPORTUNITIES GALORE: SPRING VOLUNTEER FORM



The Spring Volunteer form has gone home with your kids. It is also available on the PTSA website under "PTSA Forms." This form includes some of the things we would like to get up and running at the beginning of the school year. There will also be a Fall Volunteer form sent home in September which will include other events. Please take a look and see where you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

5th GRADE PARENTS



CONGRATULATIONS 5TH GRADERS!



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- June 1:** Pictures from Camp due to Ms. Trudeau (put on disk)
- June 8:** Photo with teacher day (may send in change of clothes)
- June 16:** Castoff Ceremony, 9:30 am—party immediately following

If you would like to help out at the Castoff Ceremony,
please contact Brooke Noone, brookenoone@comcast.net

OR

Castoff Party, please contact Shelli Dean, shellidean@comcast.net

MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!!



6TH GRADE IMMUNIZATIONS



Please schedule your child's appointment for 6th grade immunizations, if you have not done so already. State law requires your 11 year old have a Tdap before entering 6th grade.

Please also pick up your camp medications from the health room. Medications must be picked up by an adult. Any medications not picked up by the last day of school will be destroyed.



EMERGENCY CHECKLISTS



As the school year comes to a close, we can all be grateful for another safe year without major disasters. Hopefully, you did not experience minor personal ones. If you did experience any, great lessons are learned and with experience, wisdom is gained. Children, especially, learn from us how we deal with life's lessons. Make sure that you take advantage of teaching them during these times.

I will be moving out of state soon and this will be my last letter. From the beginning of this school year until now, I've made available various documents that are helpful for different emergencies. Listed below are the names of these documents with a small description. If you are interested in any of these, please feel free to email me and I will send them out to you, suzmcalli@hotmail.com.

Lost or Stolen Wallet Fill in: This will give you one place to store all the information you normally keep in your wallet: credit card numbers, driver's license, library card, grocery cards, insurance policy numbers and phone numbers, school phone numbers, emergency numbers etc.

Our Neighborhood contact list: If you woke one morning and noticed that a home on your street was burned to the ground or broken into, who would you call to know if your neighbors were out of town, didn't make it out or safe at another location? It contains home and cell phone numbers, local and out of state contact names and numbers.

Emergency Progressive Dinner: This night is designed to "walk through" various disasters in different locations in your home (while eating different courses of dinner). This will help children RE-MEMBER where to go in the event of an earth-

quake, fire, carbon monoxide smell, where to locate the flashlights and fire extinguishers, what evacuate means and to have the confidence to do what is needed in these emergencies.

72 Hour Kit Checklist: A checklist of items that should be placed in each member's bag

72 Hour Kit Letter: This letter is placed in each family member's 72 hour kit bag. It helps remind each person of all the things that you have practiced: who to call, where to go, how to leave communication. In an emergency, this will give you peace of mind.

Suzanne's Suggestions: These are tips that I've learned over the years as I've tried to keep up with local and state emergency planners. These are also things I've learned from what kind of bag works best for our 72 hour grab and go kits, how to keep everything dry, how to rotate the food, how to keep it organized when we use some of the items for other uses (camping etc.) and great ideas I've learned from other people.

Your Family Disaster Supply Kit: The Red Cross suggested Plan.

Building up a Supply In One Year: This is new. Over the course of one calendar year, you can build up a supply of food and household products that you normally use to store for the purpose of saving money and having these items on hand in the event of a financial/natural emergency.

Summer emergencies usually occur around water, fireworks and lack of supervision. I wish you a safe and wonderful summer.

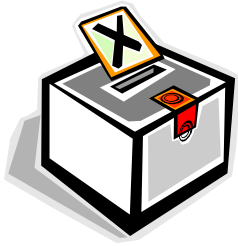
A TIP FROM THE READING TEACHERS

Summer Learning, Side-by-side

Summer brings an opportunity for interesting games, activities and family outings. These may lead to lots of questions from your kids:

Where do thunderstorms come from? Who made the rules for baseball? Why does it stay light for so long? How do you make ice cream? Where do the colors from fireworks come from? What will happen if I swallow a watermelon seed?

Grab hold of one of your child's questions and start discovering together!



LEVY PROPOSAL FOR FEBRUARY 2010 BALLOT

NO INCREASE IN TAXES

School districts are funded from three main sources: The state, the federal government, and local levies and bonds. Many basic needs, such as textbooks and technology to help students learn, are not fully funded by the state or federal government. Nearly all of the state's 295 school districts must ask their local communities to cover about 20 percent of basic needs by approving local levies. By asking the taxpayers to approve a levy, the district is saying that the funding from its other sources (state and federal funding) does not cover the cost of offering the quality of education that it wants to provide the community. It is asking the taxpayers to kick in additional funds to fill the gap. The state limits the term of these levies to four years, which means that the district will have to go back to the voters every few years to retain the same level of spending and standard of education. These levies support instruction, smaller class sizes, school bus transportation, safety and health, and technology for student learning.

A community Levy Development Committee met in April and May 2009 to form a recommendation of three levy packages for the February 2010 ballot. The Levy Development Committee considered and extensively debated the proposed content, total cost, and tax impact of three levies: Maintenance and Operations Levy, Capital Levy (technology and critical facility repairs), and Transportation Levy. Considering the current economic climate, Committee members formed levy packages that include funding essential to:

- Ensure the Issaquah School District has all the resources possible to meet its

- mission and Ends student learning goals;
- Safely and efficiently maintain facilities and property according to state and District use standards and schedules.

The Committee presented its recommendation to Superintendent Steve Rasmussen, who brought a final recommendation to the Issaquah School Board for approval. The School Board will vote after board members have had time to study the proposal and take community input. If authorized by the school board and approved by voters in February 2010, the whole levy package would collect about \$193 million over the next four years.

The proposed tax rate would be \$3.83 per thousand of assessed value in 2011. The proposed tax rate does not increase the already approved levy that is currently collected; it replaces the current levy when it expires. **Therefore, no tax increase over current tax rates is being requested.** Many times a bond is proposed to the voters at the same time a levy is proposed. In February, a bond will not be voted on, only a levy. Details of the contents of the levy package and the work of the Levy Development Committee can be found at the Issaquah School District Website <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/levy/committee.aspx>

Voting to approve the levies in February 2010 will continue the level of education and services the community expects. Watch for additional information on how you can help to get the word out about the levy and the benefits it provides our schools, students and community.



STAFF APPRECIATION



LAST LUNCHEON JUNE 9TH

The Staff Appreciation Committee would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of the families who have contributed items for lunches and special treats this year. The teachers and staff love it!

We have one final staff lunch for this school year. **Tuesday, June 9th** will be a salad and appetizer lunch. If anyone would like to contribute a salad, dessert or appetizer please contact Kellie at momtobobby@yahoo.com. Your help is appreciated!

Thank you Volunteers

Thank you to—

- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make Book Fair a success. Ashley Anderson, Angie Arvizu, Joan Bear, Kathy Boll, Connie Dardis, Aiwon Guo, Lisa Hunt, Marni Kurtz, Kimberly LaMure, Suzanne McAllister, Krystal McCandlish, Christy McCarthy, Ali McKerlich, Larissa Murphy, Laure Runyan, Susan Sansing, Stephanie Scott, Angela Strawn, Danna Wickham, Fern Wilson, Tina Yerges. Also, a special thanks to Zana Moore for accommodating the disruptions to the library schedule and to Marcie Trudeau and her students Joseph Chauvin (aka Liz the lizard), Nate Fischer, Bailey Erwin and Jack Simpson for the awesome morning advertisements.
- Megan Tedesco & Toni Osotio for a great Fine Arts Night.
- Nga Selbig & Rachel Schnebele for a super Book Fair.
- Kellie Nadell for such great support of our staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Final 2009-10 Coyote Howler

The final issue of the Howler will be delivered **electronically** via Cascade Ridge E-News and posted on the PTSA Website on **Tuesday, June 16**. Email submissions must be made to howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org no later than **Friday, June 12** by 5 p.m. Questions? Contact Julie Anderson at larsjulie@comcast.net.

CASCADE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASIC SCHOOL SUPPLY PRE-ORDER PACKS FOR THE 2009 – 2010 SCHOOL YEAR

We have switched vendors and negotiated lower prices!

Complete this form and return it in by Friday, June 12th with your check payable to “Cascade Ridge Elementary PTSA.” Orders received after this date will NOT be accepted.

SHOP ONLINE! It’s easy and convenient! The link will be available on our website soon! Orders online can be completed thru **Friday, June 19th**.

I want to order the following basic school supply pack(s) for the 09-10 school year

GRADE LEVEL	QUANTITY	COST PER PACK	TOTAL PRICE
<i>Kindergarten 1/2 day</i>		\$43.00	
<i>Kindergarten full day</i>		\$43.00	
<i>1st Grade</i>		\$62.00	
<i>2nd Grade</i>		\$44.00	
<i>3rd Grade</i>		\$53.00	
<i>4th Grade</i>		\$45.00	
<i>5th Grade</i>		\$60.00	
		<i>Grand Total</i>	

Note: Pack costs vary according to different grade level requirements and teacher preferences.

Parent’s Name	
Address	Phone
Student’s name	Grade next year
Student’s name	Grade next year
Student’s name	Grade next year

Supply packs, including those ordered online, will be available for pick up in the gym during the “Meet the Teacher” day next Fall.

If you have any questions, please contact Kellie Berndt at 427-8030 or kellie.berndt@comcast.net

Note: This is a small fundraiser for Cascade Ridge Elementary. It is a service provided to Cascade Ridge families by the Cascade Ridge PTSA. Supplies are name brand and prices are comparable to Office Depot or Target.

CASCADE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL