



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to our Cascade Ridge Students, Parents and Staff and **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!** I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and are ready to dive into another great year at Cascade Ridge. This special edition of the Coyote Howler includes most of the information you'll need to make your way through the first few chaotic weeks of school. It is the PTSA's hope that we can ease you into the transition of school schedules, paperwork, and activities and that you can use this Howler to answer many initial questions. Note that in our continued efforts to minimize paper use and waste, this is the only issue of the Howler that we will print during the year. Future issues will be available for viewing and download from our website at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. We encourage you to mark this website as a "Favorite" and visit it often to stay informed about the PTSA organization and the many programs and events we are planning throughout the year.

As our Board met during the summer to prepare for the coming year, we reviewed the Mission Statement that guides all we do and how we best focus our resources:

The Cascade Ridge PTSA's mission is to support our community, students, parents, and staff as we strive to achieve our shared academic and life-skill goals for all our students. We do this by providing meaningful programs, an enthusiastic volunteer corps, and financial support to our school.

We believe that more than ever before, in these difficult economic times, and with recent state and district budget financial cuts, our PTSA focus must be on supporting the core educational needs of our students while continuing to encourage community involvement and solidarity. Thus, we have diligently worked to develop a budget that focuses on the central requirements of the school based on feedback from our staff and parents. We plan to do this primarily through direct project-specific and grade-level funding and grants as well as programs and community events that meet those needs. It will be a busy and fun year filled with some old favorites as well as new traditions and some important Legislative priorities. Our plans for this year include:

- ◆ Continuing and expanding support of our amazing staff through funding and grants for Art & Science Enrichment, Staff Grants, and much needed Reading Support. In reviewing the budget, we recognized the need to increase the funding in these areas to accommodate expected larger class sizes and increased needs related to state budget cuts.
- ◆ Working with our state and council units to support passage of the very important upcoming Issaquah School Levies, to drive successful legislative focus and prioritization, and to support our Issaquah Schools Foundation.
- ◆ Resuming and expanding many programs that our community has grown

(Continued on page 2)

Calendar of Events

September:

- 2:** First Day, Grades 1-5
- 3:** First Day, Kindergarten
Welcome back Coffee, 9:15
Tea & Tissues, 12:30
- 7:** Labor Day—No School
- 11:** **First Day Packet Paperwork due**
- 15:** Curriculum Night, K-2nd, LRC, 6:00 pm
PTSA Gen. Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 17:** Curriculum Night, 3-5th, 6:00 pm
- 29:** Vision/Hearing Screening

October:

- 1/2:** Picture Days
- 2:** Dad's Play Day

Inside this Issue

PTSA President Message	2
Mark Your Calendar	3
Volunteers	4
Programs & Committees	5
Fundraising	6
Year-at-a-Glance	7

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

to love and expect, such as Reflections, Destination Imagination, Fine Arts Night, Eager Reader, the Science Fair, and more.

- ◆ Bringing the community together through events and fun activities just for the purpose of building friendships and our sense of community. We are bringing back some old favorites like Winterfest, continuing new traditions like Family Bingo Night and Dad's Day, and expanding on our newest community outreach opportunity, Festival of Cultures Night, that brought rave reviews from our first ever event of this type last year.

Of course, these great programs and events are only made possible through your participation in our fundraising efforts. Over recent years, we have received community feedback relating to the support of fewer fundraisers and fundraisers that provide 100% of donations to the school as opposed to production-driven fundraisers where the PTSA receives just a percentage of the funds. In response, last year, the PTSA decided to kick-off the year with a new Walkathon format that (1) brought the community together early in the school year with a fun back-to-school atmosphere and (2) encouraged giving in a single main fundraiser that would collect enough money at the beginning of the year to support the entire year's budget. Thanks to an amazing Walkathon Committee and the overwhelming participation of our parents, staff, and students, our PTSA was very successful in exceeding our program and financial goals (~\$37K), and we received very positive feedback for the format and results of the event. We hope to build on that new tradition this year with active involvement from everyone in the community to have an equally successful Walkathon & Fall Festival in October.

Without a doubt, Cascade Ridge has excelled in parent, teacher, and student involvement, and our success in providing quality educational and social experiences to our school is tied directly to continued enthusiastic participation from all of you. There are many ways to be a part of this shared endeavor, and I encourage you to support our students and school through active involvement:

- ◆ Come to our General Membership Meetings to understand our budget and where PTSA funds are expected to meet our Mission and to impact our children's educational and social experiences. Our first meeting will be on 9/15, immediately following Curriculum Night activities.
- ◆ Proactively seek information regarding our PTSA through the PTSA website, the monthly Howler, and the weekly Yelp.

- ◆ Get to know our PTSA Board members and express your desires, priorities, and interests related to PTSA activities.
- ◆ Participate on committees in areas that excite you. When you see "call-outs" for help in the Yelp and Howler, please find out more and volunteer at an event. Check out our volunteer opportunities listed in the Volunteer Form in your First Day Packet.

I look forward to the year ahead and to getting to know many of you in our community. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns, questions, or feedback.

Here's to a great year!

Tina Yerges,
PTSA President
tinayerges@msn.com, 557-0606

MAKING A DIFFERENCE — ONE MEMBER AT A TIME

When parents are involved with their child's education, the child is more likely to succeed. Joining the PTSA demonstrates your support of the mission and goals of the PTSA and entitles you to "voice and vote". Each year, we aspire to attain 100% membership which means we have an adult PTSA member for every Cascade Ridge student. We are very proud of having achieved this goal each year since Cascade Ridge was chartered! Remember:

- ◆ Joining does not obligate you to do anything more than that. Please join and show that you care and are invested in the welfare of our children.
- ◆ You are not *required* to volunteer – but we'd love it if you did!
- ◆ 100% membership gives credence to our PTSA voice in advocating for our children with the Legislature and sends a message to Olympia that our school and district are made up of parents who are concerned and involved.
- ◆ PTSA is the largest child advocacy group in the United States.
- ◆ Added bonus: All PTSA members receive a copy of the Cascade Ridge Student Directory.

A portion of your membership dues are sent to Washington State PTSA and help offset administrative costs. PTSA Programs at Cascade Ridge are made possible through our fundraising efforts.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



WELCOME BACK COFFEE

**September 3rd
9:15 a.m.
Basketball Court Area**

The start of a new school year brings much excitement and energy, not only to our children, but to the parents as well. It is a time to rekindle old friendships, meet new friends and learn about exciting events and programs ahead. Cascade Ridge's annual Welcome Back Coffee is a great event to do this...where else can you go to eat a scrumptious scone, have a cup of coffee, talk with our Principal and volunteer to support our wonderful school events? Don't be out of the loop, come join us!

PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Everyone is invited to attend the first PTSA General Membership meeting of the year which will immediately follow Curriculum Night activities.

**Tuesday, September 15th, 7:00 pm
Coyote Café**

We will approve the Mission and Goals as presented by the Executive Committee, update the 2009-10 budget and Standing Rules, present the financial review results, and talk about our plans for the year. We would love to see you there!

2009-2010 COYOTE WEAR

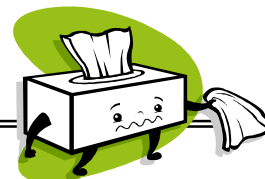


Help your kids show their school spirit and support Cascade Ridge PTSA with your purchase of Coyote Wear 2009. This year we will be offering an updated logo and some fun new items including baseball caps, cargo hats and pajama pants. We will continue to offer hooded sweat-shirts (with the option to have your child's name silkscreened on the back) as well as pigment-dyed t-shirts and basketball shorts for youth and adults. We're excited about the new look and hope you will be too!

Look for an order form in the First Day Packets or in the Front Office.

**Last day to order Coyote Wear is
Friday, September 11th.**

Questions? Please contact Lynette Springborn at lspringborn@gmail.com or Susan Sansing at susansansing@comcast.net.



TEA & TISSUES September 3rd, 12:30

**Parents of new
Kindergartners**

If you are a parent sending your child off to Kindergarten on Thursday, please come by for some tea, tissues, and treats. We'll be there to provide some support and camaraderie as you move through this momentous and emotional milestone. Meet us in the Kindergarten "pod" at 12:30. Hope to see you!

VOLUNTEERS

Meet our PTSA Leadership Team

Our PTSA leadership team has worked hard all summer planning to benefit our school community. If you have a question, idea, compliment, or concern, feel free to contact anyone on the team.

Position	Name	E-Mail	Phone
President	Tina Yerges	tinayerges@msn.com	557-0606
Executive VP	Chrisann Penz	chrisannpenz@yahoo.com	557-9944
Treasurer	Pam Gross	grosspam@msn.com	392-4003
Secretary	Mary Jo Webb	maryjowebb@yahoo.com	677-8494
VP Fundraising	Cathia Geller	cathia@cathiageller.com	837-0321
VP Communications	Sarah Walden	sarahwalden@live.com	427-9992
Co-VP Programs	Danna Wickham Ingrid Sellie	6wickhams@comcast.net selliepr@msn.com	605-0998 369-2180
VP Volunteers	Deanne King	ddaking@yahoo.com	214-1068
Co-VPs Community Relations	Jaycee Cooper Bona Park	jayceecooper@gmail.com chris_bona@msn.com	657-0553 427-9307
Legislative Rep.	Pat Sansing	crptsa.leg.rep@gmail.com	654-1345
5th Grade Co-Chairs	Ashley Anderson Monica Futti	araanderson@comcast.net mfutti@hotmail.com	557-2842 369-0574



PARENT VOLUNTEERS: WE NEED YOU!!



Our kids and Cascade Ridge need YOUR help! We have a variety of volunteer positions open for this fall that are critical to our school and the success of our kids. The following committees need chairpersons ASAP:

Walk-a-thon—October 16
Book Fair—December 9-11
Fine Arts Night/Spaghetti Social—January 29
Festival of Cultures—February 26
Field Day—June

To volunteer, check your First Day Packets for the "Fall Volunteer Form" or download the form from the PTSA website, www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. Chair a committee or grab a friend and Co-Chair. Committees need volunteers as well. Join other parents eager to help make Cascade Ridge an even better school for our kids. Volunteer forms are due back with your First Day Packets on September 11.

If you have any questions, please contact Deanne King, ddaking@yahoo.com, 214-1068.

PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES



PTSA PROGRAMS



Our PTSA provides many popular programs to benefit the children of Cascade Ridge. Here are a few of the programs you and your child can look forward to this year:

Reflections: A national PTSA arts education contest that challenges students to create art that supports a specific theme. This year's theme is "Beauty is...." Students submit entries in visual arts, musical composition, photography, literature, film/video or choreography/dance.

Eager Reader: A reading incentive program designed to make reading fun.

Art Docent Program: Famous works of art and fun hands-on projects presented to students on a monthly basis at the classroom level.

Enrichment: Before and after school programs providing extracurricular learning for students. Watch for upcoming info on these activities.

Caring Through Sharing: A holiday gift-giving program which helps out needy families while demonstrating to Cascade Ridge students the importance of charitable support.

K-Kids: An after-school program where kids participate in community service activities.

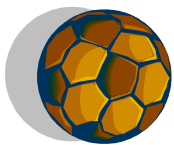
Gift-a-Book: A monthly program encouraging children to donate a book to the Cascade Ridge library to commemorate their birthday.

Destination Imagination (DI): A national creative problem-solving program where children work in teams of their peers to solve a multi-dimensional challenge.

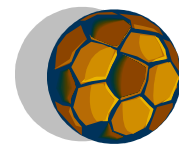
Science Fair: The fair is held each year in March and all students are encouraged to participate by entering a science project. Come experience hands on science experiments and exhibits as well.

Fine Arts Night: Art projects from all classrooms and students are displayed for the community to view and enjoy.

Opportunities to volunteer with these programs will be listed in upcoming issues of the Howler. If you would like more information, please contact Danna Wickham, 6wickhams@comcast.net, 605-0998 or Ingrid Sellie selliepr@msn.com, 369-2180.



DAD'S PLAY DAY



Please join us for Dads' Play Day on the Playground for the 2009-2010 school year! On the first Friday of each month, we invite all dads, moms, grandparents or other special guests to join us on the playground for lunch recess. If you have not already done so, please fill out the volunteer background check (on the Cascade Ridge PTSA website under forms) and send it in to the office or return it to your child's teacher. Due to space limitations in the lunchroom, we are asking that all special visitors sign-in at the table in front of the office, get a visitor's badge, and then join your special student outside for recess.

LUNCH / RECESS SCHEDULE

Recess 4/5: 11:15-11:40 * Recess K/1: 11:40-12:05 * Recess 2/3: 12:05-12:30

UPCOMING DAD'S PLAY DAYS

October 2 / November 6 / December 4 / January 8 / February 5 / March 5 / April 9 / May 7

Questions? Contact Lynette Springborn at 765-7548 or lspringborn@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING



FALL FESTIVAL & WALK-A-THON

OCTOBER 16TH

3:40–6:30 PM

DON'T MISS THIS ONE— OUR SCHOOL'S BIGGEST EVENT!!

The FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL was received so well last year that we have decided to do it again. This is an event for the whole family so plan to stay for dinner, watch your kids play carnival games, and catch up with neighbors and friends.

Come and join our core seasoned team already in the initial planning phases for the 2nd Annual Fall Festival & Walkathon. Your ideas, craftiness, and extra hands are very welcome during our coordinating efforts. Fall is a super fun theme to plan around and we'd love to have you! Our kids deserve a knock out, super event that is not only fun but raises a ton of money for important programs. Our PTSA is responsible for making many programs possible at our school: ACE and BEL tutoring, Science Fair, Destination Imagination, Math Olympiad, Eager Reader, Staff Appreciation program, Classroom Art & Science Programs, Classroom Grants and Grade Level Grants, Field Day, and Drama to name just a few.

Most of the funding for these programs is derived from this one event each year. We hope to hear from more of you - together the task is easier and the results more spectacular. So come and make new friends - a little of your time will go a long way to enriching our kids' school year!

To volunteer for the event day or the planning phase, contact Cathia Geller at cathia@cathiageller.com or 445-7046.



ECO CHIC REUSABLE BAGS



Eco Chic Reusable Bags are being offered this year. These fun bags are 100% polypropylene – in other words, very durable! Reuse them again and again in grocery and in department stores. These bags set themselves apart from all other reusable bags. They come in several handy sizes and many beautiful and seasonal designs. Consider using them as gifts, for travel, toys, going to the beach, or as filing, book, and project bags just to name a few. We will have bags on display at the school and order forms will be included in your First Day Packet. Come take a look - you will love these bags!

CASCADE RIDGE 2009-2010

YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

- 2 First Day for Grades 1-5
- 3 First Day for Kindergartners
Welcome back coffee, 9:15
"Tea & Tissues", 12:30
- 7 Labor Day—NO SCHOOL
- 11 **1st Day Packet Paperwork and Coyote Wear Orders Due**
- 15 Curriculum Night, 6 pm: K-2nd, LRC
PTSA General Membership Mtg., 7 pm
- 17 Curriculum Night, 6 pm: 3rd-5th
- 29 Vision/Hearing Screening

OCTOBER

- 1-2 School Pictures
- 2 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 2-3 WSPTA Legislative Assembly
- 16 Walkathon, 3:30-6:30 pm

NOVEMBER

- 3 Conference Day- NO SCHOOL
- 4 Conference Day- NO SCHOOL
- 6 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 11 Veteran's Day- NO SCHOOL
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Break- NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER

- 4 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 9 Book Fair, 1:30-7:00
- 10 Book Fair, 3:45-7:00
- 11 Book Fair, 5:00-7:00
- 11 Winterfest, 6:00-8:00
- 21 1st Winter Break starts- NO SCHOOL

JANUARY

- 4 School Resumes
- 8 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 18 Martin Luther King Day- NO SCHOOL
- 28 Coffee with the Principal, 9:15
General Membership Mtg, 9:15
- 29 Fine Arts Night & Spaghetti Social, 6-8

FEBRUARY

- 2-12 K-5 Stanford Achievement Testing
- 5 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 15-19 Second Winter Break- NO SCHOOL
- 26 Festival of Cultures, 6-8

MARCH

- 5 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 18 Science Fair
- 24-26 2nd grade CogAt testing
- 29-31 Spring Break- NO SCHOOL

APRIL

- 1-2 Spring Break- NO SCHOOL
- 9 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 16 Family Bingo Night
- 22 PTSA General Membership Mtg, 9:15

MAY

- 7 Dad's Play Day on the Playground
- 27 PTSA General Membership Mtg, 7 pm
- 28-31 Memorial 4 Day Weekend- NO SCHOOL

JUNE

- 17 Last day of school

