



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome back from what I hope was a restful and family-oriented vacation for everyone in the community! It's amazing to me to think that it's a new year and already a new decade; it seems like yesterday that we were worrying about "Y2K" computer issues that never materialized!

Kudos to our wonderful chairpersons and volunteers who so passionately provided time and energy to our events and activities in December. Our **Caring Through Sharing** program was another amazing success that provided us all with the opportunity to give from our hearts to those who so desperately need help. The **K-Kids Operation Sack Lunch** field trip was well-attended and the children came back with a stronger understanding and appreciation for how fortunate our community is. In addition, we received feedback regarding much excitement around our seasonal **Winterfest** and the **Book Fair**. As you know, we decided to combine the timing of both events in order to gain some synergy between them and to enable people to do some holiday book shopping. We thought this was a great idea and we had some great results. However, we also found that in a year when we're struggling to get broad community involvement in the activities, we had significant overlap with our volunteers between the two events which made for some scheduling challenges and many very exhausted volunteers. We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback regarding any of these programs so we can continue to improve and ensure we are providing what our general community desires.

Hopefully, you have been starting to hear and read about the three school levies coming up for vote on February 9th. Go to <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/levy/Default.aspx> for more information about these levies and the criticality of passing them. It is important to note that these are considered renewal levies and will simply renew existing and expiring levies. Read on in the Howler to find out more about how you can spread the word to all voters during a "Get Out the Vote" Calling and "Honk and Wave" events in the coming weeks. We need everyone's help to gain the success needed to ensure a continued solid education for our children.

We are already almost to the halfway mark of the school year, and we have a lot of exciting activities ahead for the school community. This month, we will have our annual **Fine Arts Night and Luau** on **January 29th**. It will be a great evening providing the opportunity to eat a tasty meal and wander the halls to enjoy all the amazing art that our students continue to create. We are also hosting an important Parent Education program titled "**Understanding Teenage Stress**" on **January 13th**. Our kids are growing fast and will soon be in the teenage category and it's never too early to learn and prepare. Be sure to stay "in the know" about these events via our website, Howler, and Yelp.

Also, and very importantly, we have our second **General Membership Meeting** of the year on Thursday morning, **January 28th** starting at **9:15**, right after student drop-off. We would love to have a big crowd for this. We try to mix our meetings between the morning and evening to gain broad participation, and for those heading into work, we hope you can find flexibility to join us on your way to the office. We will include "Coffee with the Principal" at the same time to give you more bang for your buck as we understand how important your time is. Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend to gain additional insight into all the important events happening in the school and to gain more understanding of what our PTSA contributes. Here's to the beginning of a new calendar year (and decade) and the rest of a great school year!

Tina Yerges, PTSA President

January 2010

Calendar of Events

January:

- 8:** Dad's Day—Playground
- 11:** Eager Reader Starts
- 13:** K-Kids Meeting, 1:15
Parent Ed: "Understanding Teen Stress, CRE
- 18:** MLK Day—NO SCHOOL
Olympia Focus Day
- 19:** Eager Reader Tally Day
- 20:** Fine Arts Luau Dinner
RSVPs due
- 25:** Eager Reader Tally Day
- 28:** PTSA Membership Mtg &
Coffee, 9:15 am
- 29:** Fine Arts Night & Luau
February Howler

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President: [Tina Yerges](#)



BUDGET CONCERNS AND HOW IS ALL THAT WALKATHON MONEY SPENT?

As budgets continue to be tightened, not only within the PTSA budget but also in the district and in the school, everyone is being forced to rethink and reconsider how funds are being spent. With this tightening of the belts often comes concern and angst, and our Board members have been hearing different conversations at the school related to the potential of the PTSA funding miscellaneous areas of tightening such as supplies and copying needs.

In addition, with the success of the Walkathon, there has also been talk that people might think that the PTSA is “rolling in the money”, when in fact, that is not the case. As a result of these conversations and concerns, I wanted to explain how the PTSA budget works.

In our budget, the funds that are made from the Walkathon (and other, mostly passive, fundraisers) are meant to fund the items that we already have budgeted during the year. These are the items that the General Membership (GM) must and has approved in order for us to spend the money, such as Staff Grants, Drama Program, Art & Science Enrichment, Reading Support, Fifth Grade Enhancement, Destination Imagination, Eager Reader, Reflections, Science Fair, Field Day, Staff Appreciation, Caring Through Sharing, K-Kids, Festival of Cultures, Fine Arts Night, Winterfest, Dads’ Day, Family Bingo Night, Book Fair, Gift-a-Book...and the list continues. The budget is loaded with many excellent and enriching programs, contributions, and events!

In addition, our current year bottom line budget is currently set to be *in the red* by \$15K. This is not unusual; typically, with our budget, we are expected to be in the red by a few thousand dollars, and if we do poorly on fundraising, we will either have to dip into our reserves to cover the budget or cut programs that have previously been planned in the budget. However, if we can manage to do well (as expected or better) with our fundraising during the year, we hope that we can break even with the budget, fund all the programs that we

have budgeted and had approved by the GM, and ultimately leave the reserves intact for future years. That is our hope and plan again this year thanks to our successful Walkathon.

If and when we determine that we have extra funds to use on other items than what we have budgeted, there is a process that is followed to get ideas and recommendations, both from the school staff and the community. That is the process that we went through last year in deciding to fund the active boards. This process includes research of the options, discussion, and General Membership approval.

So, all that detail to say...basically, the PTSA does not have a lot of extra cash to simply pick up the miscellaneous, unplanned school-budget issues, and unless the GM determines that there is a need to adjust the budget to cover these areas over the other planned programs, we are unable to write extra checks to cover these needs. Instead, we all need to be a part of a community that continues to plan and spend wisely and to get creative during times of financial stress and concern.

The best way to be a part of that community, to provide recommendations, and to have a voice into this decision-making is to be involved in the organization. Great first steps are to attend the General Membership meetings (the next one is Jan. 28th at 9:15 am), to stay informed through all our means of communications—our PTSA website, Howler, and Yelp—and to get involved. Some current opportunities for that include involvement in the Board Nominating Committee (see the related article in this Howler), the PTSA Board for next year, and the numerous chair opportunities throughout the school year. I invite you to learn more and will be happy to discuss with you further!

Respectfully,
Tina Yerges, PTSA President
tinayerges@msn.com



EAGER READER!!

The Eager Reader program is about to begin! On **Friday, January 8th**, your child will bring home a Ziploc bag labeled with their name. Inside you will find an instructional letter that should answer all your questions. In addition, there is a Tally log inside which you and your child will use to record all their reading minutes. Be sure to send your child's Tally log to school in the labeled Ziploc bag on the dates listed below, to be sure that your child gets a prize for reaching the goal minutes.

Tuesday, January 19
Monday, January 25
Monday, February 1
Monday, February 8

To encourage all children in each class to participate, we have a special prize for any classroom that has 100% participation...a special lunch with our Principal, Colleen Shields!

Questions? Please email Laura Fortner, laura-fortner@gmail.com

FINE ARTS NIGHT & LUAU



Catch a wave in the Tropics of Cascade Ridge

Friday, January 29th 6:00—8:00

We will greet you in the Hawaiian tradition with a lei and a Luau Teriyaki dinner catered by Yoko's in Klahanie. \$4 per person includes chicken teriyaki, rice, potstickers and vegetables (dinner is optional). **An order form is included in this Howler. Please fill out the form to reserve your meal and turn into the PTSA Lockbox by January 20th.**

After a yummy dinner you can limbo your way to the beaches of Cascade Kiki and take in the artwork of the 5th grade and 3rd graders and make your own sand art; climb Cascadauea volcano to see the amazing artwork of the 3rd and 4th graders and make your own volcano; swim in the bays of Hanauma Ridge while observing the artwork of 1st graders and color a sea creature or two; also explore the warm tropics to view Kindergarten and 2nd grade artwork and create some bugs and flowers. Don't forget to stop by the big city of Trosachs-lulu to help in the Lego construction of this amazing island city. Aloha from your PTSA Art Docents.

For questions or volunteer info, please contact the Fine Arts Chair, Toni Osotio, osotio@comcast.net

PASSIVE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



Box Tops Earn Cash for Our School!

So look for the products with the Box Tops when you shop, clip and drop them off in the large clear box in the School entry (next to the PTSA lockbox). Contact cathia@cathiageller.com.



We'll recycle your Ink Cartridges!

Please continue to bring your ink (**not toner**) cartridges for recycling to the collection bin in the PTSA area near the office. The refund will benefit the school and you will help the environment. Contact cathia@cathiageller.com.



Brown Bear Car Wash Gift Certificates!

With the winter upon us, our cars are getting dirtier faster! Stock up on these car wash certificates for yourself as well as plenty to give to friends as *thank yous*. Our school will benefit from every certificate. Please send your order for the \$5 Brown Bear Car Wash Gift Certificates via email to Nga Selbig at selbig@comcast.net.



GIFT-A-BOOK CLUB GROWING

Gift a Book Club continues to expand the selection of great books in our school library. Welcome our most recent members and honorees: Caeley Hunter, CJ Moore, Rachel Moore and Elena Runyan

These students have had a book donated in their name to the Cascade Ridge’s library to commemorate their birthday or to celebrate another special occasion. **THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS!**

If you would like to join the Gift-A-Book Club, please look for instructions and an order form on the PTSA website (located under forms), on the PTSA bulletin board by the stairs, or contact Laure Runyan lrnyan@isomedia.com or Diane Moore indmoore@comcast.net.

K-KIDS UPDATE & MEETING REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who participated in and contributed towards December’s Operation Sack Lunch service project. Nearly 70 K-Kids traveled downtown in December and passed out sleeping bags, blankets, socks and hygiene kits to the homeless. We also provided cookies and helped to serve a warm lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience first hand the difference that they can make to those in need. Many thanks to the parents who coordinated our efforts and to Mr. Cady for accompanying us downtown to lead us in holiday song.

If you think your child would be interested in participating in service projects to help others in our community, it’s not too late to join. Our next K-Kids meeting is **Wednesday, January 13th from 1:15–2:15** in the Music Room and all are welcome. This month we will be “Thinking Green” and focusing on projects to help protect our environment. Future service projects include blanket making for Children’s Hospital and a trip to the Humane Society.

For more information about K-Kids, please contact Susan Sansing susansansing@comcast.net or Lynette Springborn lspringborn@gmail.com.


FESTIVAL OF CULTURES



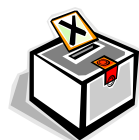
The 26th of February is not too far away folks, and we have France, Italy, Kenya, Iran, India, Korea, Venezuela, Canada and many more countries already being represented. Volunteers are eagerly preparing artifacts, food samples, music, dance, poster boards and many other splendid things for this fabulous night of education, entertainment and information. It is a global journey for the whole family in a single evening.

We are still recruiting more volunteers to help that night and more hosts to represent countries. We would love to see New Zealand, Australia, more African countries, the United States and many more cultures present there too – PLEASE help us by hosting a booth and proudly represent your home country or one that you have a special connection to. It is so simple to do with much help and support from us, yet you will make a HUGE difference in the lives of the children who attend. Many students who attended last year, more than half the school, said it was the best event they attended at Cascade Ridge and they learned so much about the world. Many students talked about helping in 2010 with showing off more countries. Please help our students realize this goal!

For questions or to volunteer, please contact Diana Verrue, dverrue@msn.com, 837-5313.



ATTENTION:
5th Grade Parents
 Mark your calendars
 for an important
5TH GRADE CAMP
Parent Meeting
February 2nd, 6-7 p.m.
Coyote Cafe



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

The Issaquah School District Levies will be on the ballot this February. Our current levies are due to expire, and the levies on the ballot will replace them for Maintenance and Operations, Transportation, Technology and Critical Repairs. The levies are critical to the funding for our district. They will renew existing and expiring levies.

You can find information about these at www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/levy.

These ballots will be mailed to all registered voters between Jan. 18th and 20th so watch your mail for your ballot. If you are not a registered voter, you have until Jan. 11th to mail in your registration or register online at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Elections/Registration.aspx>.

We need your help to make sure people remember to vote. Every school in the district is providing volunteers to make "Get Out the Vote" phone calls. Cascade Ridge volunteers will be making phone calls from the Costco Call Center starting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13. These calls usually take about 2 hours to complete. Training will be provided and you will be given a script (and snacks!).

If you can help that evening to make sure voters remember to send in their ballots, we could use your help. Please contact Susan Sansing susan-sansing@comcast.net for more information.



ISF NEWS

Why Pay a Tutor? Use After-School Homework Labs and Club: Help your middle or high school student start 2010 at their academic best. Remind them to use the ISF's FREE After-School Homework Clubs and Labs. Both offer teacher-assisted tutoring in the core areas of math and science. Some sites even have writing labs. Contact your school for a schedule.

Twenty-One More NBC Teachers: Congratulations to our 21 new National Board Cer-

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: An Opportunity to Plan for Times of Need!

Did you know that all our classrooms are stocked with critical food and sanitary items that would be needed in case of an emergency at the school? These items include perishable items that must be restocked each year and our PTSA manages this process. Toward the end of this school year, items will need to be replenished and old items donated to food shelters. We need someone to drive that process. It's a straight-forward and manageable job that is also very important and has the potential to impact every student at Cascade Ridge.

If you are interested in taking this on, please contact Tina Yerges at tinayerges@msn.com. Your help with this will be much appreciated!

PTSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Are you interested in having a say in who is on the PTSA Board next year? If so, now is your chance to become involved in the process!! It's hard to believe, but it is already time to find members for our nominating committee that will be responsible for recommending next year's Board officers. The real work won't start until February, but we need to develop our nominating committee in the coming weeks.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Tina Yerges at tinayerges@msn.com.

tified teachers. National Board Certification is considered the pinnacle of professional development. The voluntary assessment program recognizes and rewards great teachers. ISF is pleased to contribute grants of up to \$1,500 to each NBC prospect. This grant, combined with a zero-interest loan from the District, can cover nearly the entire cost of the NBC process. What a great investment!

There's Always a Reason to Shop: Remember to log on to Amazon.com through the ISF website to earn up to 8% of your purchase price for the Foundation. There is no cost to you. The donation will automatically be calculated and forwarded to ISF upon checkout.

PARENT EDUCATION

Check out these exciting Parent Education opportunities.
Go to <http://www.issaquahpts.org/parented/>
for details and to print out flyers.



PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CLASS	CONTACT
1/12	7-8:30 pm	Issaquah H.S.	What are Teens Really Doing Today??	Stacy Smith, 425-392-7294
1/13	7-8:30 pm	Cascade Ridge Coyote Café	Understanding Teenage Stress	Alison Cathro, 442.2704 buddleia69@yahoo.com
1/21	7-8:30 pm	Skyline H.S.	What are Teens Really Doing Today??	Debbie Dodd, 425-313-8844
1/25	7-8:30 pm	Newcastle E.S.	Unplugging Power Struggles: Resolving Emotional Battles with Kids	Kristine Blik, kris.blik@comcast.net
1/27	7-8:30 pm	Liberty H.S.	What are Teens Really Doing Today??	Robin Callahan, 425-557-6663



READING TIP

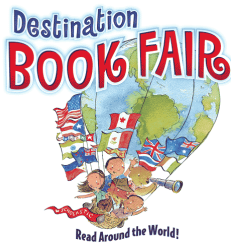


The holidays are behind us and it's time to send thank you notes for all of the thoughtful gifts that you received. Help your child design a **Letter Box**.

- Provide your child with an address book.
- Choose a fun box to hold your utensils.
- Fill the box with colored pens, markers, pencils, stationary, cards, post cards, stickers and envelopes.
- Don't forget a trip to the post office for interesting stamps.

Allow your child to choose fun materials from the box to write their thank you notes.

- Pat Corra



1317 BOOKS FIND HOMES!!

Thank you Cascade Ridge Families for a Wildly Successful Book Fair 2009!

Once again, our wonderful families showed that they place a premium on education and literacy making our Book Fair one of the most successful in our area and surpassing our own original goal of 1000 books. It started with the great efforts of our Librarian Ms. Moore who got the kids excited about the Book Fair and continued with all of you who rolled up your sleeves and helped set up this mammoth event! The great crowds that came in each day after school and in droves on the last Friday of the Fair forming those long lines at the cashiers brought smiles to all of us! It was even more gratifying to see the excitement build each day among the kids. There was a buzz throughout the school that *the Fair was coming*. Thanks to your support of this Fair, we were also able to gift the Library and our new Book Room with a generous donation of Scholastic dollars with which to buy books that *all* our students can benefit from! Thank you!

We started this year with a stroke of luck in securing a passionate, experienced Chair, **Ali McKerlich**, for our Book Fair. As the saying goes, however, *life got in the way* and Ali was taken ill and hospitalized as we got closer to the Fair. The good news was she had already laid the groundwork *and* ordered the Fair, and thankfully, in true Cascade Ridge fashion, our parent volunteer community

came to the rescue and we were able to pull off one of our most successful Book Fairs ever!

I'm writing this piece on behalf of the Book Fair's official Chair, Ali McKerlich, who is still in recovery but unable to write it herself. In speaking with her tonight, she had this message to pass on: "I was overwhelmed by the support people gave to make this Fair such a success when I had to step out of the process to go to the hospital. Everyone worked harder than I could have imagined possible and I am grateful to all the volunteers, in particular my friends **Molly Baker** and **Laura Fortner** and *you!*" Thanks Ali, but we could not have done it without the help of so many, so I will list them *all*, so they can take well-deserved credit for their hard work!

Betty Sur, Connie Dardis, Donna Hentges, Erin Rooney, Fern Wilson, Julie Grubb, Karen Mangold, Kathy Boll, Kirsten Luehmann, Krystl McCandlish, Larissa Murphy, Laure Runyan, Leslie Hall, Lisa Hunt, Marni Kurtz, Pam Gross, Peggy Rodman, Susan Sansing, Tara Dail, Tina Yerges, Melanie Carbon, Laura Gaviglio, Meghan Poole, Jeannine Regis, Linda Yee, Lisa Von Burkleo, Tamera Strandwold, Diana Verrue, Mary Fassio, Gail Talbot, Katy Chung, Sam Ledet, Angela Gale.

Thank you!!! - Cathia Geller, *PTSA Fundraising VP*

The PTSA thanks the following volunteers:

- Erin Rooney, Nancy Ifft, and all the classroom volunteers for their help with Caring though Sharing.
- Toni Osotio for all her work on the Reflections program
- Danna Wickham, Leslie Hickman Boyd, and all the classroom volunteers for a successful Winterfest event.
- Ali McKerlich, Cathia Geller, Molly Baker, Laura Fortner, and all the volunteers that made Book Fair a rousing success.
- Kellie Nadell for coordinating the Holiday Cookie Bake for the Staff.



Come Catch a wave and lots of fun at the

PTSA Hawaiian Luau and Arts Night



WHEN & WHERE ?

Friday, January 29th
6:00-8:00

On the beaches of
Cascade Ridge Elementary

Questions? Contact Toni Osotio at
osotio@comcast.net

WHAT TO DO ?

- Join in a Luau Teriyaki Dinner
- Go site seeing around the islands to see amazing art work by our own Cascade Ridge Students
- Create your own art
- Help build an island Lego City
- See artists in action

Dinner is optional you are welcome to just come walk on the beaches, see the sites, and play
Hawaiian Luau Teriyaki Dinner Catered by Yoko's in Klahanie
RSVP by **Wednesday, January 20th**



Dinner includes: Yoko's Teriyaki Chicken, rice, potstickers and vegetables

Parent Name _____ Price x Qty. = total

Phone # _____ \$4.00 x _____ = _____



(Check payable to CRE PTSA)

RSVP: Wednesday, January 20th