



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As usual, the school year has flown by and I find myself wondering where the time went. Thankfully, I also find that as I look back on the school year, I am gratified in knowing that our PTSA has filled the year with many positive accomplishments and impacts for our school and children. Of course, these accomplishments are due to the continued and passionate involvement of the many dedicated families and staff of our school and I continue to value and appreciate everyone who contributes in so many ways to our success. Each and every one of you who has contributed in ANY way is appreciated. A special thank you goes out to those who chaired events and who served on the Board.

As we move into the summer (and hopefully some warmer summer-like weather), our new Board will be planning for the upcoming year. We have many more things to accomplish in the coming year and we'll be ready. As you probably noticed, we sent out our Spring Volunteer Form to solicit interest in the many areas of need to ensure another successful year for the PTSA. Thank you to everyone who is already thinking ahead as to where you can contribute and be a part of our upcoming successes.

Two areas that we are specifically trying to fill soon are the Coyote Howler chairperson and help with coordinating the Walkathon. If you are interested in helping our school in these areas or if you would like to know about other areas where we need specific help, please contact our VP of Volunteers, Deanne King at ddaking@yahoo.com.

As our last few days of school fly by, don't forget the last few events that will fill the days!! This week our 5th graders are enjoying Camp Warm Beach and their last few days before moving on to middle school. We are proud of every 5th grader and we congratulate you on completion of an important milestone. Enjoy your ceremony and celebration on June 15th.

We will also have our final Dad's Day on the Playground as well as Field Day on June 11th. It should be an exciting day for the kids and parents who will have the opportunity to play with the kids and volunteer for one final event.

Finally, and very importantly, please join us to say goodbye to our wonderful Principal, Colleen Shields, as she takes her family on new adventures in California. We'll meet in the library on June 16th at 1:15 to wish her luck and bid her a fond farewell.

Here's to a great and restful summer for all. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the Fall. Don't forget that school will start BEFORE Labor Day on Tuesday, August 31st. This seems especially early and the week before we will start getting things rolling. Be sure to stay in touch through our August communications and via our website at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. We are planning to continue our new tradition of having a quick Popsicle Social the day before school starts and we hope to see you there.

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

Calendar of Events

June:

- 11:** Field Day
- 15:** 5th Grade Cast-off
- 16:** Mrs. Shields Farewell, 1:15-2:00, Library
- 17:** Last Day of School
- 30:** School Supplies Order deadline

August:

- 30:** Meet the Teacher/ Popsicle Social
- 31:** First Day, Grades 1-5

September:

- 1:** First Day, AM/Full Day K
- 2:** First Day, PM K
Welcome Back Coffee
- 6:** Labor Day, No School

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Editor: [Julie Anderson](#)
President: [Tina Yerges](#)



PTSA SURVEY RESULTS



Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our community PTSA survey. We had 89 responses and truly appreciate the feedback we received as a result of your comments. We used the survey results to prioritize and incorporate many of your suggestions into our planning and budgeting for next year. Some of the feedback you provided included the following:

COMMUNICATIONS: In general, those who responded to the survey felt well informed about PTSA events and activities. 96% responded “yes” to feeling adequately informed. The most effective forms of communication are The Yelp, class newsletters/emails, The Howler, classroom representatives, and word of mouth (in that order). This is great news for us because we have consciously moved away from paper communications in favor of electronic. We know this electronic shift is the right way to go, yet we continue to hear periodically that some people in the community would still like to get the paper copies of our communications. From a financial and environmental perspective, we recognize that it is not responsible to shift back to the old way. We do all we can to utilize our website and classroom reps to keep all info current and available to the community. I invite everyone who understands this direction to continue to spread the word and encourage others to utilize the website & read the Yelp and Howler emails.

PRIORITIES: In our survey, we asked you to rank the various Curriculum and Community Programs that we have funded through the year. Having this information is key for us in planning for the coming year, and according to your answers, generally, we have been focusing on the areas that are important to you. Based on Survey Feedback, we will continue to fund the Arts & Science Grants, Reading Support, and Staff General Grants, among others. We will also continue to focus on Student and Community programs such as the Science Fair, Eager Reader, and Festival of Cultures. We also heard that you would like us to change the format and value of Eager Reader to better meet the needs of our students and to encourage our kids to read throughout the year. We also heard you recognize the value of supporting and appreciating our staff, and we will continue to encourage and support that.

We also heard about other programs that you would like for us to offer that we have not funded/

sponsored in the past. The biggest program suggested was a foreign language offering, and we have incorporated this idea into the budget and will research options during the summer. We are also working to add other programs to encourage learning for our kids through spelling, geography and math Bees.

FUNDRAISING: We asked about participation in our various fundraising activities. This year, we continued in the path requested in previous years that we focus our fundraising efforts to a single primary fundraiser. We also combined our Walkathon with a community event to bring everyone together and meet our fundraising and socializing needs early in the year. Our survey told us that 93% of the community participated in this event and 91% said you prefer to have only one “active” fundraiser during the year. In addition, 78% responded that this combination of a fundraiser and community event is your first choice. With these responses, we plan to continue in this direction for fundraising in the coming year. We will also continue to offer the other “passive” fundraising opportunities such as the Book Fair, Coyote Wear, Car Wash tickets, our new environmentally-friendly “Mixedbags”, and we will continue to offer gift wrap for online purchase.

KEEP DOING WHAT WORKS: We were happy to get some very positive feedback regarding generally doing the right amount of things at the right scale. We plan to keep offering the quality programs that you have come to expect, and based on your feedback, we will continue to focus on the areas that are viewed as important.

We also surveyed our school staff to get their valuable feedback as well. We heard back from 16 staff members and we received good information regarding the value of the support and programs that the PTSA provides for them as well. The results told us that we are providing positive support to the needs of the teachers and the students and we know what areas we need to continue to focus to provide the best possible support to our kids during their time at Cascade Ridge.

The full survey results will be available for the next few weeks at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. Finally and as always, I invite you to continue to provide feedback regarding what you consider important by dropping me, Tina Yerges, or any other board member an email.



FAREWELL LUNCHEON

Please join us on Wednesday, **June 16th** from **1:15—2:00** in the **Library** to say "farewell" to Mrs. Shields. This will be a chance for you to swing by and say good-bye as she embarks on her new adventure in California. We wish her all the best, and thank her for two fabulous years here at Cascade Ridge!

Hope to see you there.



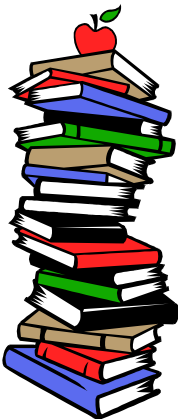
FIELD DAY

Field Day is coming **Friday, June 11th!!!** We are still in need of a large number of volunteers to make this the fun and exciting activity your children have come to love.

Students will participate at the following times:

Grades K-2: 9:15—10:45 am
Grades 3-5: 1:45—3:15 pm

If you would like to help out with either or both sessions, please contact Deanne King, ddaking@yahoo.com and please indicate your availability.



GIFT-A-BOOK

Gift a Book Club continues to expand the selection of great books in our school library. Welcome our most recent members and honorees:

Payton Dean, Lila Geller, Morgan McCarthy, Abby Taaffe, Hannah Taaffe, Noah Teeter, Lukas Whatley, and Sam Yee!

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 and Congratulations!

June 2010

PTSA MEETING RECAP



We had a great final General Membership meeting of the year! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and be a part of an important discussion. Colleen provided an overview of staffing at Cascade Ridge for next year. The class sizes for our fifth graders are looking especially high and Colleen is working to gain one additional class for fifth grade. Colleen encouraged parents to attend the next Site Council meeting and to send emails to the District to encourage them to add one more class for this grade. Colleen also introduced Natalie Fowler, our incoming principal. It was a good opportunity to say a quick hello and to welcome Natalie to the school.

We reviewed the year-to-date budget and the results of the recent Community and Staff Survey. We then reviewed and approved the interim Budget for 2010-11. This budget will enable the incoming Board to start operations as of July 1st and will be reviewed and refined as programs are further planned and defined during the summer.

Finally, the membership was reminded that the PTSA will sponsor the School Supply program again and the supplies can be purchased online through June 30. The links to the supply lists and the ordering site are located on our website:

www.cascaderidgeptsa.org

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



The 2010-11 School Supply Orders have moved to **ONLINE ONLY!** Avoid the hassle of running to store after store and order your supplies with just a few clicks.

Instructions on how to order school supplies are on the PTSA website. This year, backpacks are an optional purchase item made available on the website. School supply packs will be ready for pick up at "Meet the Teacher Day" next fall. The 4th/5th Grade Science Magnet Program supplies are also included in this program. **Order deadline is Wednesday, June 30th!**

FUNDRAISING



A MESSAGE FROM FUNDRAISING!

As your *outgoing VP of Fundraising*, I'd like to thank the entire school—Families and Staff alike—for your generosity, cooperation, enthusiasm and creative support this year. You were truly amazing! You made it possible for us to not only *reach* our goals but to *surpass* them! Your generosity and participation in our various fundraising programs, both Active and Passive, will make it possible for us to continue to provide much needed support for our school as well as great programs that will bring a higher quality of education to our children. **Thank you from everyone on the Team!**

I would like to welcome **Jaycee Cooper** and **Bona Park** as they take over the role of co-VP's of Fundraising for 2010-2011 and ask that you join me in helping them make next year an even more successful one!

Enjoy your summer and see you around school next year!
Cathia Geller
2009/2010 VP Fundraising



Box Tops Earn Cash for Our School! Please keep those Box Tops coming. We are still collecting them. 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). *Questions:* Contact Cathia Gellar, 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. *Questions:* Contact Cathia Geller, cathia@cathiageller.com



Order your School Supplies Online! We are pleased to once again offer School Supplies through School ToolBox for next year. The system is already up and running so you can order your school supplies now and cross them off your list! Go to schooltoolbox.com, click on the *Parents Start Here* (red box on the left of the screen); register by creating a *user name*, *password* & enter the *School Registration Code* of **CASCADERIDGE98075**.

Questions: Contact cathia@cathiageller.com or Kellie Berndt kellie.berndt@comcast.net.

FALL SCHEDULE

August

30 Meet the Teacher, 10-11 a.m.
Popsicle Social, 10:30-Noon
31 First Day for Grades 1-5

September

1 First Day—AM & Full Day K'garten
2 First Day—PM K'garten
Welcome Back Coffee, 9:15 a.m.
6 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
14 Curriculum Night, 6 p.m. K-2nd, LRC
General Membership Meeting, 7 pm
16 Curriculum Night, 6 p.m. 3rd-5th
23/24 Picture Days



ISF UPDATE

Thank you to the nearly 800 parents, businesses, and PTSA members for contributing to the success of **Nourish Every Mind** 2010! Our 12th Annual Benefit Luncheon, held on Thursday May 13, raised a record \$406,000. The generous support of our attendees will ensure that students across the District have the resources to develop and achieve the promise of their academic potential.

It was truly satisfying to see the level of PTSA participation at the Luncheon. PTSA's were well represented with tables from Beaver Lake, Briarwood, Cascade Ridge, Challenger, Clark, Cougar Ridge, Endeavour, Grand Ridge, Issaquah Valley Elementary, Issaquah Middle, Issaquah High, Liberty, Maple Hills, Maywood, Newcastle, Pine Lake, Skyline, Sunset and Sunny Hills. What a terrific reminder of

the power of the ISF/PTSA partnership to make positive changes for our students and schools.

If you were unable to attend **Nourish Every Mind**, please go to the ISF website: www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org to view pictures, a time-lapse video of the Issaquah Community Center transformation, or to make a donation.

Why Pay a Tutor?

As we head into the final weeks of school, remind your student to get any additional help they need to ace end-of-year tests at the Foundation's **FREE After-School Homework Clubs and Labs** at middle and high schools. Both offer teacher assisted tutoring. Contact your school for its After-School Homework Club/Lab schedule.



HAVE A FUN & SAFE SUMMER!!

The PTSA thanks the following volunteers:

- **Kellie Nadell** for her fabulous planning of Staff Appreciation Week.
- **Lynette Springborn** for a gorgeous and sunny May Dad's Play Day!
- **Julie Anderson** for all your many years of dedication to publishing a first-rate monthly newsletter! The Howler has grown and become a great source of information for our community thanks to all your expertise and commitment. We will miss you in this role.
- **Helen DiMeco** for your dedication to publishing our weekly Yelp!
- **Bona Park & Jaycee Cooper** for the PTSA presence at the Kindergarten Open House!
- **Shilpa Goel, Krystal McCandlish, Chrisann Penz & Marleis Wuchler** for providing the yummy treats for our Kindergarten Open House—not a crumb left!
- **Pam Gross** and the PTSA budget committee for creating our budget for next year!
- The 5th Grade Committee for all their hard work—**Julie Anderson, Pam Gross, Christy McCarthy, Diane Moore, Laure Runyan, Susan Sansing & Lisa Von Burkleo!**
- **Jeff Davis** for coordinating our emergency preparedness restock!
- **Christy McCarthy & Rachel Schnebele** for putting together a fantastic yearbook!
- **Debbie Rosemont** for updating and taking care of the bulletin boards in the school!
- **Alison Cathro** for planning & organizing all of the Parent Ed events for the year!
- **Sarah Auckland** for managing our library volunteers all year long!
- **Stella Jones** for coordinating all our room parents and helping to get the word out about all our PTSA events and opportunities!
- **Susan Sansing & Lynette Springborn** for outfitting us in cool new Coyote-wear designs!
- **Chrisann Penz & Tina Yerges** for bringing us those fabulously hip and environmentally-friendly bags! You can spot the Cascade Ridge families anywhere now!
- **Kellie Berndt** for working to bring us the best deal for our school supplies for a 2nd year in a row!
- **Nga Selbig** for quietly supporting and managing many passive fundraising programs and providing guidance on others throughout the year!
- **Angela Gale** for supporting our classroom Art Docents!
- **Toni Osotio** for her support in just about every area this year—you are a true blessing!
- **Susan Sansing** for showing our K-Kids the impact they can have in serving our community!
- **Deanne King** for chairing Field Day and making it come together so well!
- **Deanne King** for coordinating our Volunteer Appreciation brunch & thank you gifts.
- The safety patrol for getting us in, out, and around the school safely each morning and afternoon!
- All the parents who baked cookies for 5th Grade Camp!