



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break with many meaningful moments spent with family and friends. Hopefully the rest and enjoyment of that time is still with you as you plan ahead for a busy December. As experienced Cascade Ridge families know, the next few weeks before our first Winter Break will be busy in every classroom, and our kids have much to learn and many activities and projects to enjoy!

As we move into this season, I am, again, reminded of how generous and giving this community is. We have many chances in our community to provide to those who are less fortunate, especially in December. Most notably here at Cascade Ridge, our PTSA sponsors *Caring Through Sharing* that provides a wonderful opportunity to give to families who could really use a few helping hands and caring hearts. You should already be getting information from your classroom representatives for *Caring Through Sharing*. I encourage you to take advantage of this program to generously give from the heart. We, as a community, truly benefit from giving back, and I know the families in the program really appreciate the caring and generosity that expands exponentially through this program. Please look for more information in this Howler, on our website, and in the Coyote Connection that hits your email each week.

There are also more fun activities happening through the PTSA in December. For our second year in a row, we will have our Book Fair in December (8th - 10th) to provide the opportunity for families to do some holiday shopping. This event also coincides on its final day with Winterfest, which is a festive event for families and kids to enjoy making holiday-themed crafts, expend some energy with fun activities, enjoy some tasty treats, and to catch up with friends. We hope everyone will come and enjoy both events. It is sure to help you get into a cheerful holiday mood if you haven't already! The sign-up to attend Winterfest has been added to our website and online process, so it is easy to participate and enjoy!

Once we get into the new year, we will be off and running with many more initiatives and events. Very importantly, at our January 27th meeting we plan to review and vote on recommendations from the community as to how to best spend our extra \$25,000 funds this year. In order to spend the money in a timely manner so our students and classrooms will readily benefit from these funds, we will be making important decisions at that meeting. Please read the related article in this newsletter so you can participate in this significant PTSA process.

We will also have more fun family and education events coming in the second half of the year. In January, we will have our annual Fine Arts Night on January 28th, and because it was so readily received last year, we will again have yummy teriyaki meals for all to enjoy. What a fun way to come and experience the amazing artwork of all our children and mix it with good food and friends! Please consider attending and also in joining our team in making it another exciting and fun evening at Cascade Ridge.

I hope your month will be filled with many joyful experiences, and much time spent with family and friends.

Happy Holidays!
Tina Yerges, PTSA President

Calendar of Events

December:

- 1/2:** No School—Conferences
- 3:** Dad's Day—Playground
- 8** Book Fair, 11:30-2:00
Book Fair, 5:00-7:00
- 9:** Book Fair, 3:00-7:00
- 10:** Book Fair, 5:00-8:00
Winterfest, 6:00-8:00
- 10:** Last Day of Caring
thru Sharing Gift Drive
- 20:** Winter Break Begins

January:

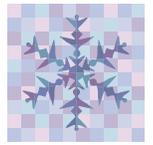
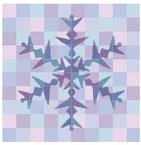
- 3:** School resumes
- 7:** Dad's Day—Playground
- 17:** MLK Day—NO SCHOOL
Olympia Focus Day
- 27:** Coffee with the Principal
& GM Mtg, 8:30 am
- 28:** Fine Arts Night, 6-8pm

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Editor: [Monica Futtly](#)
President: [Tina Yerges](#)

You are invited to a PTSA-Sponsored Family Fun Event...



Winterfest

When & Where:

Friday, December 10th

6:00—8:00 pm

Coyote Café & Gym

What to do:

Make a holiday gift for family and friends

Play fun carnival games

Win fun prizes



Concessions:

Pizza - \$2.50

Fun Festive Baked Goodies—\$.50

Water—\$.50



Reserve your spot at Winterfest today!

Register [online](#) by Wednesday, December 8th

Questions? Contact Leslie Hickman-Boyd at 425-557-6536 or
Danna Wickham at 425-605-0998



If for some reason you are unable to attend Winterfest and you have already pre-paid, contact Leslie or Danna to arrange pick up of your crafts and carnival prizes.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

CARING THRU SHARING



Mark your calendars! The Scholastic Book Fair is back by popular demand on the following dates and times:

- ⌘ Wed. Dec. 8th: 11:30am-2:00pm
5:00pm - 7:00pm
- ⌘ Thurs. Dec. 9th: 3:00pm - 7:00pm
- ⌘ Fri. December 10th: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

This year's theme is **"Heroes...Reading Saves the Day!"** Besides all of the fantastic selections available in your child's monthly book orders, there will be a huge selection of other specially priced books and educational tools. Come by and do some holiday shopping or make a teacher smile by donating a book from their classroom "wish list!" This event is open to the public so please invite friends and family to stop by! **25% of all Book Fair sales go directly to our school!**

Questions? Would you like to volunteer?
Contact Joelle Riley at joellemriley@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!!!!

We have kicked off our annual 'Caring Through Sharing' drive at Cascade Ridge Elementary. This year we are supporting three charities: Network Services, serving homeless families, Eastside Domestic Violence Program, serving families in hiding and recovery from domestic violence and Echo Glen Children's Center, serving youths in detention in our area. All three charities are in significant need this year, and our generous donations will help tremendously. A 'Caring Through Sharing' area has been designated in each classroom. Your child needs your permission to select a tag. Once they select a tag, you purchase the gift and return it to the school, unwrapped with the tag attached, no later than December 10th. We do the rest and everyone has participated in bringing joy to many families over the holiday. Last year we had many requests for additional tags, and some requests for supporting entire families through our program. We have no shortage of extra tags, so if you are interested in supporting additional gifts, please email me (email below) and I will send you additional gift requests.

Thank you, Cascade Ridge, for being a community that truly cares and extends itself in great times of need. Your generosity is overwhelming.
Erin Rooney
Chair, Caring Through Sharing
roon888@msn.com



PTSA BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Are you interested in being on our PTSA Board or do you know someone who would be really great in a Board position next year? Please take a quick look at the Board positions and their related job descriptions on our website cascaderidgeptsa.org (click on PTSA and then Board Members) and let us know who would fit any of these positions. Or, do you know of someone who would generally be a great Board member, but you're not sure in which specific position? We want to hear from you!!

Starting in January, our Nominating Committee will be collecting the names to slate for our 2010-11 PTSA Board and we always want to get a diverse group of members from our broad community on the Board. Please contact Chrisann Penz at chrisannpenz@yahoo.com with any names and ideas that you have!

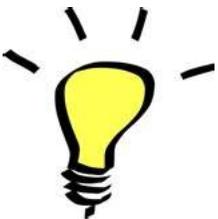


DID YOU KNOW....

Our wonderful Cascade Ridge community is extremely generous with volunteer time? This year, we have had hundreds of volunteers involved in the many events and programs sponsored by the PTSA, and all that we do throughout the year would not be possible without this active involvement.

In order to recognize the volunteers who really contribute, the PTSA Council honors outstanding volunteer service for children by awarding the Golden Acorn Award annually. This award is, above all, a PTSA award whose winners volunteer in ways that meet the mission of the PTSA: promoting the health, welfare, safety and education of all children and youth in the home, school, community, and place of worship. Volunteers demonstrate an outstanding personal commitment to improving the lives of children and youth through their service to the school, district, and community.

Cascade Ridge honors our local volunteers through participation in the Golden Acorn program. We will be seeking nominations for this award soon after Winter Break, so be sure to think about who you would like to nominate and keep your eyes open for the announcement. Deanne King (ddaking@yahoo.com), our PTSA VP of Volunteers will be happy to answer your related questions.



REMINDER: WE NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR SPENDING EXTRA PTSA FUNDS!!



As mentioned in the November Howler and on our PTSA website (www.cascaderidgeptsa.org), we have accumulated and are planning to spend extra funds this year. We want to be sure to spend this money responsibly and in a timely manner so our Cascade Ridge kids can all benefit from the community's hard work in fundraising.

It is now up to the General Membership to set our spending priorities for this money. The PTSA Board has determined that we have \$25,000 in excess of our ongoing program budget for the year. At our General Membership meeting on January 27th, we will be reviewing ideas from the membership, including the school staff and administration, about how to spend these funds. It is our expectation that the ideas presented at the meeting will be detailed enough for the General Membership to discuss and make an educated decision (through a GM vote) for the best use of this money.

This process allows the General Membership to have a consolidated voice in the discussion, and we want strong participation to ensure all great ideas are reviewed and considered. The sooner the ideas are brought forth, the better the discussion will be at the meeting. Please send any ideas or questions you have to Tina Yerges, PTSA President at tinayerges@msn.com or 425-557-0606. To participate in the process, you must be a PTSA member, so be sure to complete the membership package online at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org if you have not done so already.



An Update from your ISF Rep!

Give the Gift of Education

The holidays are the perfect time to show appreciation for the teacher or administrator who goes 'above and beyond', or whose enthusiasm and knack for teaching makes time in the classroom a treat. **Celebrate your favorite staff member—or student—by making a gift to the Issaquah Schools Foundation in their honor.** We will send a card to notify your honoree of the gift, you will receive credit for a tax-deductible contribution, and our schools will receive funding to elevate and enrich education for all students. [Click Here](#) to make your gift today.

Grants Up for Grabs

Is your child's teacher an inventive educator who makes learning come alive? Have you heard your child's teacher express a need for classroom supplies or equipment? **The Issaquah Schools Foundation wants to celebrate our teachers' ingenuity and help stock their classroom through the 2010-2011 Academic Enrichment Grant program.** Awards in amounts from \$100 - \$10,000 are available for projects and initiatives that advance academic achievement, promote innovation and excellence in teaching or support struggling students. Academic Enrichment Grants are also available for classroom needs not currently covered by school or district budgets. Applications became available November 15, 2010 and are due on January 28, 2011. Remind your classroom teacher go to http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org/grants/index.htm#Kateri_Brow to learn more and to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

'Tis the Season for Online Shopping

Holiday season is upon us and with it an increase in online shopping. **Did you know that you can make two gifts with one click when you shop at amazon.com?** Simply add this link— [Earn \\$ for ISF @ Amazon](#) — to your bookmarks and use it as your gateway to the amazon.com site. **ISF will earn up to 8% on every purchase you make.** There is no cost or obligation to you, yet your purchases will automatically raise funds for ISF!

Donor Report –Programs made possible by you

- Teachers at **Clark Elementary** are closing the reading achievement gap for 354, K-5 students with Benchmark Guided Reading Book Sets. (\$1,000 grant)
- Students in **Eric Ensey's** seventh and eighth grade **Pine Lake MS Humanities classes** are combining 21st century multimedia techniques with community service learning by producing videos to raise awareness of local and international issues. (\$886.00 grant for video cameras)
- **Art Docent Vicki Hoffman** is expanding **Tiger Mountain** students' art experiences with advanced studio ceramics classes (\$990.98 grant for clay wheel and slab rollers)

Please take a look at the [PTSA Bulletin Board](#) at school (main staircase) to see *your* name in the full page ad from ISF. Thanks again for all those who donated during the last [Calling for Kids Campaign!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact me anytime: Cathia Geller cathia@cathiageller.com

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

PARENT EDUCATION



READING TIP



Analogies promote thinking

Analogies describe what things have in common. They're often used in pairs. For example, a toe is part of a foot. Similarly, a finger is part of a hand. So, toe is to foot as finger is to hand.

Can your child figure out other analogy pairs?

Goal is to soccer as touchdown is to _____.

Swimming is to summer as skiing is to _____.

Make up your own analogies for a fun family game.

Happy reading!



PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CLASS	CONTACT
12/13	11:30-1:00 pm	Sammamish Public Library	Sammamish Plateau Parenting Networking Group	Cherry O'Neill Dwo-mci@msn.com 425-550-3809 cel
12/13	7:00-9:00pm	Weigelt Home 425 E Lake Sammamish Pkwy	Sammamish Plateau Parents Networking Group	Cherry O'Neill Dwo-mci@msn.com 425-550-3809 cel

REMINDER: LOST AND FOUND



Don't forget to periodically check the lost and found at school. There is a lot of really great stuff waiting to be returned to their owners. It is amazing how quickly this area fills up with clothing, lunch boxes, and other items, especially once the weather gets colder and rainier, and we want our kids to have all their own stuff. However, we cannot leave it there forever, and there are other kids who could use the items if they aren't claimed. This year, all items will be donated to a local charity **just before each break**. The first donation is quickly approaching and will occur right before Winter Break.

If you cannot get to the Lost and Found area, we will display all the items at the Book Fair and Winterfest in early December, so please remember to check it out and grab your kids' stuff when you attend these events.



LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Can You Believe What a Bunch of Labels Got Us?!

We recently ordered many new and useful items for the school and the best thing about it is we didn't pay a cent for them! Instead, we earned these items through the ongoing efforts of our Passive Fundraising program with the *Campbell's Labels for Education* program. For 23,000 points, the following items are on their way to our school for immediate use by our teachers and students, both in the classroom and on the playground:

- 9—Educational DVD sets including topics on the Arctic/Antarctic, the human body and skeleton, plants, ponds and rivers, rocks and minerals, weather, and butterflies and moths,
- 6 - "Brain Boogie" CD sets,
- 10 - new balls in three different sizes,
- 1 - Lemon Twist Ball Hoops game.



Thanks to the ongoing donations of these labels from our families and Diana Verrue's hard work to consolidate the labels and coordinate the plan for spending the points associated with these labels, our kids will quickly benefit from these goodies!

Thank you to Diana for your continued dedication to our school through chairing our important Passive Fundraising program. Thank you also to everyone who has saved and donated the labels to the school. Please keep those labels coming; your extra efforts to remove the labels from cans and send them into the school will continue to support Cascade Ridge through the *Labels for Education* program!



The PTSA thanks the following volunteers:

- **Krystl McCandlish** for doing the Cascade Ridge PTSA Directories.
- **Stephanie Scott** for her work on getting the PTSA membership information together.
- **Diana Verrue** for coordinating the Labels for Education program and for the purchase of new playground equipment and educational software through the program.
- **Kim Anderson** for organizing the Staff Luncheon.
- **Lynette Springborn** for organizing another successful Dad's Play Day.

