



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome back to all our students and families!! I hope the Winter break was full of family fun and plenty of rest as the rest of the year will be busy and full of activities.

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 assistance and compassion. Thank you to every individual and every family who eagerly opened your hearts and added to your shopping list to make the season brighter to the many families represented in our program. We all can be proud of our participation in such a worthy cause.

Our Winterfest and the Book Fair events were well-attended and extremely well-run and everyone involved seemed to have a good time and enjoy the community and festive atmosphere of these collaborative events. For the second year in a row, we combined 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 another 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 but very passionate and energetic volunteers. As always, we welcome 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.

Speaking of exhausted volunteers...it is important to note that we have a long-standing and popular program, Eager Reader, that is in danger of being dropped this year because we have no one to coordinate the program. Any parent who has been at Cascade Ridge for the past several years and who appreciates encouraging our kids to read, will know the loss of this program would be significant. Unfortunately, we have a large community of children (around 550) that accounts for about 340 families and we only have a core group of about 50 volunteers (including Board members) who coordinate the bulk of the programs throughout the year. It's not an unusual situation for PTSA's where a small group of people repeatedly chair programs over multiple years, but it's also a model where people get burned out and eventually programs begin to suffer. At some

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Calendar of Events

January:

- 7:** Dad's Day—Playground
- 17:** MLK Day—NO SCHOOL
- 25/26:** Class & Group photo day
- 27:** PTSA Membership Mtg & Coffee, 8:30am
Parent Ed: Burn & Scald Prevention, 9:15am
Chorus & Marimba Concert, 6:30pm
- 28:** Fine Arts Night, 6pm
- 31:** Stanford Testing Begins

February:

- 1-4:** Stanford Testing
- 4:** Dad's Day—Playground

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

President's Message Cont'd...

point, decisions need to be made to drop programs for a single year or more, and although it is unfortunate, it is sometimes the sad reality of organizations that are run completely by volunteers.

We SO appreciate the individual volunteering so many contribute throughout the year in the classroom and for various events. However, we also need to expand the breadth of volunteering among our whole community in leading and coordinating events. Without this expansion, we will not be able to continue to provide the high caliber quality and volume of programs and events that our school has come to expect and for which we have gained such a strong reputation for providing.

Coming in the second part of the school year we have a lot of educational, exciting, and interesting activities ahead for the school community. This month, we will have our annual Fine Arts Night on January 28th. It will be a great evening providing the opportunity to eat a tasty meal and mingle through the halls to enjoy all the amazing art that our students continue to create at Cascade Ridge.

We also have our second General Membership meeting of the year and we would love to have a big crowd on Thursday morning, January 27th starting at 8:30 right after student drop-off. As mentioned in recent Howlers, we will be voting for our Nominating Committee and reviewing, discussing, and voting on proposals for spending accumulated funds. We will also have a great parent education opportunity with "In the Kitchen with Kids: Burn and Scald Prevention" that will certainly provide us all with important information for keeping our kids safe in our house. You won't want to miss this meeting!

Finally, don't forget that staying "in the know" is easier than ever with our continually improving website and our member-friendly Howler and Coyote Connection.

Have a great start to 2011!

Tina Yerges, PTSA President

tinayerges@msn.com



DID YOU KNOW....

We have over 550 students at Cascade Ridge and that represents around 340 families? That's a great community of people and the PTSA coordinates and sponsors multiple programs and events that (in addition to all the funds provided for many important academic programs) enhance the student and community experience throughout the year. These programs and events include:

Art & Science support: Art Docents and supplies, Science Fair, & Fine Arts Night

Other Educational & Safety Support programs: Eager Reader, Destination Imagination, Reflections, Math Club, Safety Patrol, Library Volunteers, Vision & Hearing Screening, Parent & Child Education, Foreign Language, Spelling & Geography Bees, Field Day, Emergency Preparedness, Award and Grant Writing

Community Events & Programs: Staff Appreciation, Hospitality, Caring-thru-Sharing, Dad's Day, Great Kids, Birthday Celebrations for the Students, Festival of Cultures, Winterfest, Book Fair, Fifth Grade End-of-Year Celebrations and activities

PTSA Support and Fundraising activities: Walkathon, Passive Fundraising Activities (Car Wash Tickets, Labels for Education, Box Tops, etc.), Matching Funds, Membership, First Day Packets, School Supplies, Coyote Wear, Mixed Bags, Howler, Coyote Connection, PTSA Website, Yearbook, Directory, Bulletin Board, Baking Committee, Room Parent Coordination & Communication, Picture Volunteers, Issaquah Schools Foundation Representation

Did you also know that with all of these programs, we only have about 50 volunteers (less than 10% of our school population) and Board Members who are typically chairing these many important activities? We appreciate all the help of every volunteer, and we continue to need more active participation of our broad community to lead and coordinate these important events. There continue to be many opportunities for EVERYONE to get involved and we would love to hear from you so we can spread the involvement across the community. Please contact Deanne King ddaking@yahoo.com, VP of Volunteers if you have ideas (or are looking for some) for getting involved with our great organization and school!



RED ALERT! EAGER READER IS IN DANGER THIS YEAR!

We need someone to step up and coordinate Eager Reader or the program will not occur in this school year. We know that reading is a core component for all our students at Cascade Ridge and this program is key for encouraging kids to read. The program is "ready made" and comes with classroom reps, so we just need someone to help coordinate the overall process of the program. We know we have a lot of passionate parents out there and we just haven't heard from everyone. If you are one of those many parents who can help out, please contact our VPs of Programs! Danna, danna.wickham@comcast.net and Leslie, lesliehickmanboyd@yahoo.com would love to hear from you and we all will be happy to keep this program alive!



March 24, 6:00-8:00 pm

Calling All Young Scientists!

It's time for Cascade Ridge Science Fair 2011! All students are encouraged to participate. Let's make this the biggest science fair in Cascade Ridge history!

What Is A Science Fair?

A science fair is an opportunity for any student to explore a science topic of their own choosing. Students work on their science project at home between January and March, and display their work proudly at the fair on the evening of March 24. Participation is optional for grades [K-3rd](#), and required for [4th and 5th](#) graders.

Need help choosing a topic?

The sky is the limit! What have you wondered about? The best topics come from your own genuine curiosity about how something works or why

something is the way that it is. But if you have trouble thinking of something on your own, we have a great [page](#) full of resources to help you choose a topic.

Registration Is Open Now!

All young scientists wishing to participate must register in advance through [this online form](#). We strongly encourage early registration in order to reserve your space and your project board. Final registration deadline is March 4 for KG-3rd graders and January 28 for 4th-5th graders.

Volunteering.

A big event like the science fair wouldn't be possible without the help of numerous volunteers. We have all kinds of different jobs to be done, so if you think you can spare a couple hours you would love your help. Please check out our [volunteer page](#).

PASSIVE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

\$\$\$ SAVE MONEY & MAKE MONEY \$\$\$



Cascade Ridge families, did you know that there is an easy way to save 5% on your TARGET purchases EVERY time you shop? All you have to do is apply for a Target *debit or credit card* and use it for all of your purchases. AND guess what? After you apply and receive your card, if you enroll in Take Charge of Education® on their website and select Cascade Ridge as your designated recipient, our school will receive 1% of your purchases going forward. How great is that?

So next time as you are checking out and they ask if you want to apply for a Red Card, consider taking the time to do so and you will **save** money *and* our school will **make** money.



Remember: **Brown Bear Car Wash** tickets always available for \$5 a piece. Just email me with your name, child's name, child's teacher and the amount of tickets and I will have them to you quickly. You can also look for me on Mondays on Parent Hill. I'm the one with the crazy rainbow spiral hat.

Thanks, Diana Verrue: dverrue@msn.com.



Message from your ISF Rep!

Make a difference during National Mentoring Month

Did you know you can help a child succeed in one hour a week? How? By becoming a mentor. Mentors are caring community members who devote one-hour a week to an Issaquah School District student in need of personal or academic support. There are no special requirements, just a desire to help young people achieve their potential. Help us celebrate National Mentoring Month by resolving to join the **VOICE Mentoring Program**. Presented in partnership by the Foundation and the District, the VOICE program supports 191 elementary, middle and high school students. Yet, requests far out-strip resources. **We have an immediate need for 25 additional mentors**—especially those with bilingual capabilities. If you have one hour a week to change a life, please contact VOICE Director, Susie Gierke, VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu or 425.837.6801.

Save the Date! Nourish Every Mind 2011, the Foundation's annual benefit luncheon is set for **Thursday, April 28 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm** at the Issaquah Community Center. The Luncheon is the perfect way to learn about the growing need for private support of public schools and to experience first-hand the effect that donor dollars have on our students and schools. Please plan to join us. Email mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org or call 425.391.8557 to add your name to the invitation list.

Donor dollars in action: After-School Homework Labs

From September through December 2010, 900 middle school students received FREE assistance from classroom teachers at Foundation funded After-School Homework Labs. Make sure your child takes advantage of this valuable, free resource. Contact your middle or high school for information regarding **After-School Homework Labs** meeting dates and times.

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
1/24	11:30-1:00pm	TBD	Sammamish Plateau Parenting Networking Group Mtg	Cherry O'Neil, 868-2111 Dwo-mci@msn.com
1/24	7:00-9:00pm	TBD	Sammamish Plateau Parenting Networking Group Mtg	Cherry O'Neil, 868-2111 Dwo-mci@msn.com
1/27	9:15-10:30 am	Cascade Ridge Coyote Café	In The Kitchen with Kids: Burn and Scald Prevention	Alison Cathro, 442.2704 buddleia69@yahoo.com


ATTENTION:
5th Grade Parents
 Mark your calendars
 for an important
5TH GRADE CAMP
Parent Meeting
February 8th, 6 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

Jan 28th

Annual
Fine Arts Night



HATS OFF TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS! A BIG Thank-you to...

- ⊗ Janet Jacobson for her hard work and diligence in insuring we gain as many Matching Funds as possible. Nicely done, Janet!
- ⊗ Danna Wickham, Leslie Hickman-Boyd and their families for making Winterfest a success! Also, kudos to Peggy Rodman, Ann Brooks, Carol Schweitzer, Toni Osotio, Laura Fortner, Marci Bartholomae, Nancy Saturay, Mary Jo Webb, Miho Reed, Tina Yerges, Ingrid Sellie, the countless Beaver Lake and Skyline student helpers, and the many spouses who lent a helping hand when needed. The evening was festive and fun for all who attended.
- ⊗ Rajeev Goel, for the easy, online Winterfest sign-up process and our fabulous new Programs page. Our school is becoming more and more GREEN. Thank you for tirelessly building a user-friendly tool for the Cascade Ridge PTSA.
- ⊗ Joelle Riley, Hilary Brickman, Jaycee Cooper and Bona Park for all their hard work in organizing the Book Fair.
- ⊗ Erin Rooney, all the Caring thru Sharing support volunteers and our Cascade Ridge Families for helping to make the holidays a little brighter to so many families in need in our community.
- ⊗ Barb Cluff for coordinating all the Reflections entries this year. Amazing turn out from our students!
- ⊗ Jackie Mueller for a stellar job as Art Docent Coordinator.
- ⊗ Rajani Chakrapani (Chair), Jai Chakrapani, Raghu Allepally, Sheela Pai, Malini Ajwani, and Rajeev Goel for such a successful Math Club! We are thrilled with the expansion and the many new aspects of the Math Club and you have taken this very popular club to a whole new level...even at 7:15 on Monday mornings!!
- ⊗ Kris Chambers for expertly rallying our bakers for all of our events at Cascade Ridge.
- ⊗ Lynnette Springborn (Chair) and all the parents, grandparents and special friends who attended Dad's Day on the Playground December 3rd.
- ⊗ Sarah Auckland for organizing our fabulous library volunteers,
- ⊗ Kim Anderson, our Staff Appreciation Chair, for coordinating the Holiday Cookie Boxes. Each and every staff member at Cascade Ridge received a beautifully packaged box to take home and enjoy. Thank you to those who baked and assembled hundreds of cookies showing our appreciation to the wonderful staff at Cascade Ridge.
- ⊗ Stella Jones and all the Room Coordinators at Cascade Ridge for your willingness to "get the word out" to the families regarding PTSA and school events. As we move to a more paperless world, your e-mail messages keep us informed.
- ⊗ Alison Cathro for your on-going passionate and thoughtful dedication to keeping our parents and community educated on the many important aspects of keeping our kids healthy, happy and safe!