February 2011 Volume 10, Issue 6

CASCADE RIDGE PTSA 2.6.2 SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to those of you who made time in your busy schedules to attend our General Membership meeting on Thursday morning. It was a very important meeting as we determined how to spend our excess accumulated funds. This is an important role of our entire membership as it is our duty to ensure that funds raised through the PTSA are properly appropriated and spent in a timely manner that best benefit our students and school community. For all who attended and participated in this process, I thank you for being actively engaged in our PTSA!

For those who missed the meeting, we had a very busy agenda. First Mrs. Fowler initiated our "Coffee with the Principal" portion of the meeting with review and discussion of the district's Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) for reading. We then started a very busy meeting that included standard financial business, election of our Nominating Committee, and review of two viable options for accumulated funds spending. We heard information regarding two upcoming favorite events, our Science Fair and Festival of Cultures. Finally, we enjoyed an excellent presentation regarding burn and scald prevention in the kitchen. For more details, please see the General Membership overview article later in this Howler.

We also had a great Fine Arts Night on Friday. It was a wonderful "Night at the Museum" and all who attended enjoyed seeing the beautiful artwork of our fine and talented artists at the school. In addition, our Community Relations team provided a tasty teriyaki meal provided from our local Yoko Restaurant for all our museum patrons to enjoy. Many thanks to our Art Docent & Fine Arts Night Chairperson, Jackie Mueller and to all our wonderful Art Docents, and also to Mary Jo Webb and Lora Wendl, our Fine Arts Dinner Managers.

As you probably already realize, we continue to be a very busy organization and things don't seem to slow down; this is an indication of the important causes our membership supports throughout the whole year on behalf of all of our students. As always, we invite you to continue to engage and provide input and ideas so we will continue to focus on the right things to which our general community agrees and supports.

Many heartfelt thanks to Ann Brooks and Peggy Rodman for stepping up to chair this year's Eager Reader program. You gamely responded to the cry in last month's Howler for help from volunteers and, as a result, we will still have our long-standing and popular reading incentive program this year. We are grateful for and need more like you! Thank you!! For all, be sure to keep an eye out for more details regarding the Eager Reader program timing and plans. I know that Ann and Peggy are planning great things and a program that the kids will enjoy while they expand their reading experience.

Have a great February!

Tina Yerges, PTSA President tinayerges@msn.com
February 2011

Calendar of Events February:

1-11:	Stanford Testing/
	Makeups

4: Dad's Day—Playground

8: 5th Grade Camp Parent Meeting, 6pm

11: Golden Acorn Nomination forms due

15: 2nd Grade Concert, 6:30pm

17: Kindergarten Parent Tour & Mtg, 6:30pm

21-25: 2nd Winter Break—No School

March:

2-3: Kindergarten Registration

4: Dad's Day—Playground

Science Fair Registration
Deadline (K-3rd)

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Editor: Monica Futty
President: Tina Yerges



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP

As you might already know, we had a BIG meeting on January 27th with insightful and essential discussions. If you were there, you were part of an important decision for the school and community. If you were unable to attend, here's a quick recap of what you missed.

- ⇒ We reviewed our financial information and noted that the organization continues to be on track for budget expectations and for providing great programs for the school.
- ⇒ We elected our Nominating Committee that is responsible for developing a slate of nominees for our 2011 2012 PTSA Board. This is a big responsibility and we appreciate the dedication and hard work of Monica Futty, Ingrid Olsen, Bona Park, Peggy Rodman, and Nichole Wengert. Thank you!
- ⇒ We heard proposals for two options for spending of our accumulated funds which included a new Book Room and a Reader Board for our school. Both proposals held great merit and provide improved opportunities for our kids and community, and the upfront research and information provided was key to the membership making a well-informed decision for our funds spending.
- ⇒ After listening to the proposals and having group discussion, we voted on the options. Our General Membership voted to spend the full \$30K between the two proposals where up to \$12K will be spent to purchase and install a reader board, and the remaining funds will be allocated to a new Leveled Book Room that will benefit all grades, K 5. More to follow as we move forward with purchase of these long-lasting improvements to our school.
- ⇒ We had timely and informative updates on our upcoming and popular Science Fair from Peter Wengert. The Science Fair will be on March 24th and the website is ready for everyone to register projects and to gain helpful information regarding the event. Be sure to check it out at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org.
- ⇒ We also heard from Cathia Geller who provided us with information regarding our popular Festival of Cultures which is scheduled for April 15th. Take a break on tax day with some fun cultural events and experiences and be sure to look for information between now and then. We would love to have more cultures and countries represented, so be sure to contact Cathia (<u>cathia@cathiageller.com</u>) or Erin Rooney (<u>roon888@msn.com</u>) if you'd like to host a country.
- ⇒ We closed our meeting with a great parent educational workshop of "In the Kitchen with Kids: Burn and Scald Prevention" sponsored by Safe Kids Seattle. This presentation was filled with important and helpful information that is important in keeping our family safe from burns and in treating them if they occur. Many thanks to Carolyn Blayney RN, BSN and Kathy Espey RN, BSN for an excellent program. Additional special kudos and thanks go to Alison Cathro for coordinating this great opportunity for our community.

It was a crazy busy, productive, and informative meeting, and we had an interested and engaged group. Many thanks to everyone who spent the time with us to be an important part of the process. If you'd like to join in the fun next time, mark your calendar now for the next GM meeting in April: Thursday, Apr. 21st at 8:30 am, right after student drop-off.



LOST & FOUND ITEMS WILL BE DONATED BE-FORE THE FEBRUARY BREAK. WE HAVE QUITE A FEW ITEMS ON-HAND, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO STOP BY AND CHECK FOR ANY ITEMS THAT MAY BELONG TO YOUR FAMILY.

PTSA NEWS



DID YOU KNOW....

...our Site Council is specific to the needs of Cascade Ridge School and is comprised of a broad group of people that includes community/parent, school, and PTSA representatives? It's true!! Many people don't understand the purpose of the Site Council, and the best thing about it is that is has this broad perspective so issues that are important to us all can be addressed. Some current items of focus for the Site Council during this year have included update and communication of the school colors and logo, modification of class party and teacher gift policies, and Cascade Ridge's CIP and professional development as well as district initiatives.

The Site Council's purpose includes the following:

- ⇒ Provide input to help create and maintain an optimal learning environment,
- ⇒ Blend the values and perspectives of community, parents, staff, and students for effective school-wide results,
- ⇒ Foster effective communication on key issues among all stakeholders in our school,
- ⇒ Contribute to creative school-wide planning and problem solving,
- ⇒ Provide school input for the principal and superintendent on matters of district-wide interest.

While there are specific committee members who usually serve two-year terms, community attendance and input are invited. Any community or staff member may attend a Site Council meeting. Those who are visiting and have specific items to be addressed may have input in the meeting by filling out a site council action request.

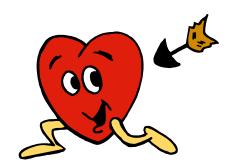
The Site Council often invites guests to speak at the meetings about current items of interest in the community. Each monthly meeting runs from 6:00 until 7:30 pm and is at Cascade Ridge in the library. Everyone is invited to join and the following meeting dates and guest speakers are planned for the rest of the school year.

March 7 – Issaquah School District Guest: Emilie Hard, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning April 11

May 2 – Issaquah School District Guest: Jake Kuper, Chief of Finance and Operations June 6 (tentative)

We invite attendance, especially when we have invited guests, so if it works in your schedule and you're interested in knowing more, mark your calendar!

In the next school year, we will also be seeking two new parents to replace current members who will be ending their term. For more information, visit: http://www.cascaderidge.issaquah.wednet.edu/council.asp



HELP CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! It's Never too Late to Join PTSA!

Did you know that even if you missed the sign-up period at the beginning of school, you are always welcome to join our Cascade Ridge PTSA? If you have not yet joined and are not sure if you should, please take a look at the notes below. We hope this will make the decision easy for you to become a direct part of a continued success story in the lives of our children at school.

What is PTSA? The PTSA is a powerful voice for all children. Your membership adds to this voice when it comes to advocating for the education and well-being of EVERY child. When you join Cascade Ridge's PTSA, you join the Washington State PTA. This group speaks on behalf of children and youth before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

Why should I join Cascade Ridge PTSA? Joining Cascade Ridge PTSA makes you a member of this organization and gives you a voice in improving the education, safety, and health of your child on a local and national level. Check it out at http://www.pta.org/pta_member_benefits.asp.

Do I have to commit my time or do something if I join? While our PTSA appreciates all volunteer efforts and attendance at general meetings and PTSA events, neither of these is required of our members. Paying for your Cascade Ridge PTSA membership simply shows your support of this organization and your advocacy of our community's children.

Where does the money for joining PTSA go? Most of the money goes directly back to the Washington State PTA in supporting the goals of this organization. They have committees working to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of our children and youth. They also work to bring the home and school into closer relations. Additionally, part of your membership fee pays for the Cascade Ridge PTSA Membership directory that every member receives.

Become a member today! It's electronic, easy, and quick. Go to our <u>website</u> and click the "Join!" link at the upper left-hand corner of the main page. If you have questions, please contact Tina Yerges, PTSA President, <u>tinayerges@msn.com</u> or Stephanie Scott, PTSA Membership Chair, <u>stephoscott@gmail.com</u>.

QFC WE THANK YOU!

Did you know you that we recently received hundreds of dollars worth of educational and recreational materials for our school, mostly through Labels for Education donations made by QFC? The school's fundraising committee would like to thank Julie Rose, Klahanie QFC's store manager, and her team for

donating over 20,000 points in the last few years. Those large donations, combined with our school families' donations led to us being able to order the following materials for our school:

- 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.

QFC, we thank you for your partnership in our children's education and recreational. Recess is now more fun and our teachers are able to supplement their science units with some new resource materials.

On behalf of our almost 600 students and their families, we thank you.

Labels for Education products can be purchased at QFC and donated in our school's foyer.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



FESTIVAL OF CULTURES



Come spend a night of adventure traversing around the world at the Cascade Ridge Annual Festival of Cultures! Explore new lands. Touch and interact with exotic artifacts. Taste new and exciting cuisine. Dream of all the far off lands you will visit in-person someday!

The Festival of Cultures is a creative and stimulating event for our students. Our event this year will feature the wonderful booths sponsored and run by our generous host families, exciting entertainment and an interactive game to help our children get the most form the evening. We are currently seeking host families to sponsor country booths. Sponsorship involves creating an experience around the country you are representing. This can be through facts, artifacts, games, food, dance, song...whatever you feel best represents your host country. You don't have to be from the country to represent it – anyone can help our Cascade Ridge kids learn about new, interesting and fun worlds outside our own.

If you are interesting in hosting a booth, please contact Erin Rooney roon888@msn.com or Cathia Geller cathia@cathiageller.com and we will get you started.

We look forward to seeing everyone at another fabulous night of fun and adventure!



THURS. MAR 24TH 6PM-8PM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE (K-3rd)

MARCH 4TH!

DON'T MISS OUT!

http://cascaderidge.oursciencefair.com/ SchoolHome.aspx



THE BIG CLIMB March 20th

It's time to dust off your sneakers and join Team Lisa A for The Big Climb. We will climb in memory of our beloved Lisa Abrahamsen—Mom to three boys in the Issaquah School District. If you can't join our team please consider making a donation—go to:

http://www.llswa.org/site/TR/Events/BigClimb? team_id=35290&pg=team&fr_id=1160

Questions? Contact team captain Lois Boyer <u>Lois.Boyer@comcast.net</u>





Come join your child at recess!! The next Dad's Day on the Playground is **Friday**, **February 4th**.

LUNCH / RECESS SCHEDULE

Recess 2nd/3rd: 11:00-11:25 Recess FDK/1st: 11:30-11:55 Recess 4th/5th: 12:00-12:25

Questions? Contact: Lynette Springborn

lspringborn@gmail.com



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR!



ark your calendars and tell your neighbors... it's time to register kindergartners for the 2011-2012 school year. Please note the following dates and times:

February 17th – New Parent Information Night 6:30pm – 7:30pm

March 2nd - Registration from 2-6 pm

March 3rd – Registration from 10am-3pm

March 8th @ 4pm FDK lottery requests due

March 9th @ 2pm lottery drawing

May 24th – New Kindergarten Family Open House 5-6pm

When you register your student please bring the following information:

- ◆Proof of Residency (i.e. utility bill lease agreement)
- ◆ Birth Certificate or Passport (Student must be 5 by August 31, 2011)
- ◆Immunization Records

For more Kindergarten information please visit:

http://www.issaguah.wednet.edu/academics/Programs/kindergarten.aspx



SEEKING OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS FOR CASCADE RIDGE GOLDEN ACORN AWARDS 2011

The Golden Acorn is a PTSA award given every year to outstanding volunteers for their service to our school and community. The Golden Acorn specifically recognizes the contributions individuals have made at Cascade Ridge Elementary and within our local community. This is an excellent way to honor our most dedicated volunteers.

Recipients of the Golden Acorn Award are given a gold pin in the shape of an acorn and a special certificate. In addition, their name is added to the Golden Acorn plaque displayed in the front hall of our school. We also contribute \$65.00 in the person's name to the Washington State PTA Financial Grant Foundation. This foundation provides grants to freshman students entering post-secondary education.

Golden Acorn Award recipients from all over the Issaquah School District also will be honored at a special awards ceremony in March.

Please help us select outstanding volunteers from the Cascade Ridge community to receive a Golden Acorn Award this year by filling out the <u>Nomination form</u>. Forms are available at the school by the PTSA box, at the PTSA meeting on January 27th, or on our website. The PTSA Golden Acorn Awards Committee will review the nomination forms received and make the final selections. Please feel free to contact Deanne King, <u>ddaking@yahoo.com</u> with any questions.

Nomination forms must be turned into PTSA box or emailed to Deanne King no later than February 11th.

READING TIP

Variety keeps your child interested in reading

To keep independent reading interesting remember to read a variety of books, both fiction and nonfiction. To help your children get the most out of reading have them:

- Predict the next action in the story.
- Take a break to summarize and clarify what has happened so far.
- Continue to ask questions while reading.
- Visualize the characters setting and events.
- Make connections to your own experiences.
- Read with a friend or a pet for fun.

- Pat Corra

FUNDRAISING



THANK YOU CASCADE RIDGE FAMILIES FOR A WILDLY SUCCESSFUL BOOK FAIR!!!



Cascade Ridge had another successful Book Fair in December. Thanks to our wonderful community of families, we sold approximately **1,675 books** and made a profit of \$2,380 for our school. It was so fun to see the excitement that the kids had for the fair and to see the lines of students and parents waiting to buy their books each afternoon and evening. Thanks to your support of this Fair, we were also able to gift the Library with a generous donation of Scholastic dollars with which to buy books that *all* our students can benefit from! Thank you!

Book Fair week kicked off with our "Here's to Our Heroes" drawing and writing contest. After we received the beautiful hero artwork from the students, Ann Brooks posted them along the halls of the school. Each day of the fair, Ann went into the lunch room and drew names from each grade for book fair gift certificates. The kids were very excited about this daily event! Carol Schweitzer kicked off the teacher "sneak peek" so the teachers could preview books and request ones for their individual classrooms. I know there were many thankful teachers out there!

I would like to thank my amazing co-chair, **Hilary Brickman**. Being new to both the school and chairing the Book Fair, I had no idea where to even start. I was so fortunate that Hilary agreed to co-chair. Not only is she extremely organized, but she has boundless energy and creativity to which I'm eternally grateful. Thanks Hilary!

Next, a big THANK YOU to our wonderful team comprised of: **Ann Brooks, Jaycee Cooper, Bona Park and Carol Schweitzer**. Hilary and I could not have pulled this off without each of your individual talents, help, enthusiasm and expertise.

I would also like to thank our librarian, **Zana Moore**, for getting the kids excited about this event and letting us "take over" her space for a week.

In addition, thanks go to **Molly Baker** for taking time to provide cashier training and for being our overall "expert" in all things financial.

And finally, we could not have had such a successful event without ALL the Book Fair cashiers, floaters, and set-up and tear-down helpers. Thanks go to the following:

Kathy Boll, Cindy Cheung, Brooke Daggett, Connie Dardis, Lynn Faciane, Jaime Foreman, Laura Fortner, Pam Gross, Kimberly Hunt, Deanne King, Valerie Klose, Marni Kurtz, Samantha Ledet, Kirsten Luehmann, Krystl McCandlish, Sheela Pai, Chrisann Penz, Ganga Pingili, Jeannine Regis, Mary Richardson, Erin Rooney, Micaela Russo, Susan Sansing, Nga Selbig, Tamera Strandwold, Diana Verrue, Lora Wendl, Fern Wilson, and Tina Yerges.



March Coyote Howler

Do you have an article for the next issue of the Howler? Submit to howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org no later than **Wednesday, 2/23** at 4 p.m. Questions? Contact: Monica Futty at mfutty@hotmail.com.

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 dverrue@msn.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 dverrue@msn.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 Diana at <a href="decretage-decret



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ISF REP

Things We Love!

- 1. Our students whose endless creativity, curiosity and love of learning make our job of raising funds for their education a pleasure.
- 2. The District, for being a supportive, collaborative partner.
- 3. YOU—Parents, donors and PTSA members—for your unwavering commitment to the cause.

Happy February!

Nourish Every Mind Luncheon is Coming

Mark your calendar and save the date...April 28, 2011 is the Issaquah Schools Foundation's 13th Annual **Nourish Every Mind** Luncheon. Co-Chaired by PTSA members and Sunset parents Kristin Behn and Susan Griffin, this year's event will feature John Curley as Master of Ceremonies, inspirational testimonials from ISF grant recipients, teacher displays, a silent auction and the chance to socialize with 900 civic leaders and friends. The doors open at 11:00, lunch begins at noon, and the program ends at 1:00 pm. To add your name to the invite list, please email mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org or call us at 425.391.8557.

100 Table Captains Needed –Table Captains are essential to the success of **Nourish Every Mind**. The job is easy, low pressure and fun. You need only invite nine friends to join you at your table, communicate via email with your guests, and be a charming and gracious host at the Luncheon. **You will not have to collect money in advance**. The Foundation is hosting **a Kick-Off event for Table Captains on Friday March 11**. Please join us! For more information and/or to register to become a Table Captain, contact Michelle Weldon at ISF, mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org, 425.391.8557.

Why Pay a Tutor—Use After-School Homework Labs and Club

Help your middle or high school student start 2011 at their academic best. Remind them to use the Issaquah Schools Foundation's FREE After-School Homework Clubs and Labs. Most sites offer teacher assisted tutoring in core subject areas. Your student can receive help for classes at all levels, from remedial to AP and IB. Some teachers even offer make-up classes and tests during this time. Check your school's website for information on meeting days, times and subjects.

Shopping Online for Valentine's Day?

Valentine's Day is coming. If you plan to shop online, **remember to log on to amazon through the ISF website.** You'll earn up to 8% of your purchase price for the Foundation. There is no cost to you...just shop as normal. The donation will automatically be calculated and forwarded to ISF upon checkout. Make it even easier to remember by adding this link **Amazon - 8% of purchase to ISF** to your bookmarks. Thank you!

PARENT EDUCATION

Go to http://www.issaquahptsa.org/parented/

for details and to print out flyers.



PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CLASS	CONTACT
2/8	7:00- 8:30 pm	Clark Elementary	Issaquah Special Needs Group Food & Behavior (see flyer)	Roseann Popa, order2popa@comcast.net
2/16	6:30- 8:00 pm	Liberty High School	Adolescent Stress & Anxiety: A Parent's Guide (see flyer)	Karen Odegard, 206-396-0876 kpodegard@msn.com
2/28	11:30am -1:30pm	TBD	Sammamish Plateau Parent Networking Group Mtg.	Cherry O'Neill, 425-868-2111 dwo-mci@msn.com
2/28	7:00- 9:00pm	TBD	Sammamish Plateau Parent Networking Group Mtg.	Cherry O'Neill, 425-868-2111 dwo-mci@msn.com

The PTSA thanks the following volunteers:

- Peggy Rodman and Ann Brooks for saving Eager Reader. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to such an important program.
- □ **Lynette Springborn** for organizing the January Dad's Play Day.
- □ Kathy Boll, Brooke Daggett-Greczanik, Kirsten Juenke, Chrisann Penz, Fern Wilson & Tina Yerges for their help with classroom pictures.
- Laty Chung, Lora Wendl, Mary Jo Webb and the PTSA Bakers for the delicious goodies served at our Coffee with the Principal and General Membership meeting.
- □ Alison Cathro for organizing the recent "In The Kitchen with Kids: Burn and Scald Prevention"

 Parent F. ducation seminar.
- □ Jackie Mueller and her team of Art Docents who put in many long hours to transform Cascade Ridge into an Art Museum extraordinaire for Fine Arts Night!
- ☐ Mary Jo Webb and Lora Wendl who worked with Yoko's Teriyaki to provide tasty meals for Fine Arts Night.