



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this edition of the Howler hits the website, we are close to starting Spring Break. Spring seems to have arrived early yet another year! Time is certainly flying this year and once we return our kids will be starting the last 1/3 of their school year. I know from past experience that those last few months fly by, but the great news is that we still have a lot planned at the school and our PTSA will continue to avidly support the school and our children's experiences through the school year.

We have our popular Festival of Cultures returning on April 15th and we expect this to be another great community event. For those who have attended in previous years, you know this is a super opportunity for everyone to have a great time learning about many other cultures and countries and to enjoy an evening socializing with our neighbors. It is a fun night to volunteer and to spend with kids and adults alike, so we hope to have a great turnout for the evening! There have been a lot of articles in previous Howlers and Coyote Connections, and there is an abundance of related articles and information on our website. I know we can always use more host countries and it's fun and interesting to get involved by hosting a table. Be sure to check out the related article in this Howler and online.

We also have a new and exciting event this month that is sure to get our kids involved academically and to have a good time showing their spelling skills. For the first time, Cascade Ridge will be holding a Spelling Bee and it will be a great time for all!! This stimulating event will be April 18 - 28, so check out the information online at <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/SpellingBee> (and of course here in the Howler), and you'll find a very easy sign-up process. We really hope to have a great showing of our kids!

As you have heard throughout the year, we owe our ongoing success to the many volunteers who provide their time, energy, and passion to ensuring great programs and opportunities for our kids and community. Every year we recognize volunteers who go above and beyond and who eagerly and tirelessly say "yes" for the benefit of others through the PTSA Golden Acorn awards. Many congratulations and thanks to our recent winners **Jaycee Cooper, Monica Futtu, Rajeev Goel, Chrisann Penz, and Diana Verrue!** If you see any of our winners around, please give them a hearty "congratulations" and "thank you"!

Speaking of great volunteers, what an amazing Science Fair we had in March!! We are so fortunate to have a wonderful and long-standing Science Fair program, and to have our amazing "Science Pete" Wengert to drive such a successful event that brought kids and parents alike! Science Pete put many hours of planning and preparation for this event, and all his passion and hard work resulted in a great night of education and entertainment for all who attended and participated. Everyone who had the enjoyment of creating a science experiment, volunteering, or simply attending the event to view and join in the excitement of the evening can certainly attest to the quality of the Fair. As usual, this event came together because of Pete's leadership and the dedication of many volunteers, so thank you to Pete and everyone involved!

Cont'd on page 2...

Calendar of Events

April:

- 4-8:** Spring Break—No school
- 11:** School Resumes
Site Council Mtg 6pm
- 15:** Festival of Cultures 6pm
Reg. Deadline Spelling Bee
- 18-28:** Spelling Bee
- 21:** **Gen'l Membership Mtg & Coffee with the Principal 8:30am**

May:

- 2-6:** Teacher Appreciation
- 2:** Site Council Mtg 6pm
- 5-16:** MSP Testing (3rd-5th)
- 6:** Dad's Day—Playground

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

President's Letter Cont'd...

Also this month, we will have the third of our four planned General Membership meetings. This is another important meeting to have a great turnout as we will be electing our Board members for the next school year. We have a strong slate of nominees who will continue to lead our PTSA in the next school year and it is important to recognize them and show our support through attendance at the meeting. We will also have special guests from the Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF) to give a special presentation regarding a very important and timely topic of the *Elementary Science Initiative*.

Finally, don't forget that the annual ISF *Nourish Every Mind* luncheon is coming up on April 28th. We would love to have a great turnout from the Cascade Ridge Community to show all of Issaquah how much we really care about our kids. More information for this can be found on our PTSA site and also at <http://isfdn.org/>. To reserve a table with our Cascade Ridge parents, please contact me directly.

Here's hoping for a great spring for everyone!

Tina Yerges, PTSA President
tinayerges@msn.com



DID YOU KNOW....

Field Day isn't just for fun?!

That's right: our annual end-of-school-year Field Day event is not just a ton of fun for the kids but **it's a curriculum-based program!** In order for our kids to meet the annual state Physical Education requirements, they are expected to participate in the many fun and body-moving activities that have been incorporated into our kid and family-friendly Field Day. So, not only do the kids have a great time, but they meet some of their PE academic requirements during that event. Many people don't realize this because it is an event that truly cannot occur without the help of our PTSA organization and all the many parents who help make it happen.

Mr. Richey is very thankful for all the help and assistance and this year ***we are still in need of a Field Day Coordinator.*** Would you like to fill this void and a very important need? It's a lot of fun and Mr. Richey provides the structure and needs of the event, so the main responsibilities include coordinating volunteers to get the bodies in the right places for the day of the event. If you would like to help with this, please contact our VP of Volunteers, Deanne King at ddaking@yahoo.com!

PROGRAMS/EVENTS



EAGER READER BEGINS MONDAY APRIL 4TH!!

The Eager Reader program begins Monday! The 4-week voluntary program will end on Monday, May 2nd and all students who complete the program will be invited to an ice cream social during recess on Tuesday, May 3rd. We encourage all students to give Eager Reader a try and we have great prizes to award throughout the program. Remember we have a couple of fun, new incentives this year!

NEW – Bookworm Level

Just choosing to participate in the Eager Reader program is a great thing and we recognize that every child will have a different goal for him/herself for the program. This year, we have a new optional, challenge level for the program called the Bookworm Level. The bookworm level can be completed by reading an additional 15 minutes a day for a student's grade level. All students who achieve this level will have a chance to win a Kindle!

NEW – Grade Level Challenge

To encourage every student to participate in the program, this year we have a friendly competition between classes in the same grade level. At the end of the program the class within each grade that has read the most minutes will win an extra recess!!!

Parents and students will be receiving information about this year's program this week. Some may have even already received their information. The reading logs and full program details will be coming home with your student(s) in a Ziploc bag marked with their name. The first week of the program will be during Spring Break, but please remember that your student(s) can always catch up during weeks 2, 3 and 4 if they don't read as much over the break!

Happy Reading!

Questions: Contact Ann Brooks, ann_e_brooks@yahoo.com or Peggy Rodman, peggylynnrodman@hotmail.com



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

It's Spring, and among other things, that means it's time for our annual PTSA Community Survey. This is your chance to provide feedback to us about what you like, what you dislike, and how you think we should prioritize our activities for the coming year. It is crucial that we hear from you so we can continue to provide appropriate support to our children and our school according to what our membership considers valuable and of most importance. Please take just a few minutes to complete the quick and simple online survey. The results from the survey are used to help develop the budget for the next year and we need this information from you. Click this link and talk to us!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CascadeRidgeSurvey>



ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CULTURES FRIDAY APRIL 15TH



Mark your calendars and plan to come and travel the world with us and enjoy some international entertainment! Touch and interact with exotic artifacts. Learn new languages! Taste new and exciting cuisines. 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 from the evening.

Questions: Erin Rooney roon888@msn.com or Cathia Geller cathia@cathiageller.com

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



Have You Heard the Buzz?!

Cascade Ridge is hosting our **First Annual Spelling Bee April 18-28!** Students are invited to compete one evening in a grade level competition held in the Coyote Cafe. The top three winners from each grade are then invited to a Championship Bee for title of Top Speller at Cascade Ridge Elementary!

Word lists are available online. All students wishing to participate must register by April 15. Everyone is invited to watch the excitement!

For more details and to register, please visit <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org>.

Questions? Contact Rajeev Goel or Bridget Salmick at spellingbee@cascaderidgeptsa.org

Grade Level Spelling Bees

Mon.	April 18	6:30pm	Kindergarten
Tue.	April 19	6:30pm	1st grade
Wed.	April 20	6:30pm	2nd grade
Mon.	April 25	6:30pm	3rd grade
Tue.	April 26	6:30pm	4th grade
Wed.	April 27	6:30pm	5th grade

Championship Spelling Bees

Thurs.	April 21	6:30pm	Kindergarten—2nd Championship
Thurs.	April 28	6:30pm	3rd-5th Championship

PTSA NEWS



PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & COFFEE

Please plan to attend
Thursday, April 21st at 8:30 am
in the Coyote Café.

This is an important meeting! We will be electing the 2011–2012 PTSA Executive Committee, and as always, it is a perfect forum for gaining insight into the PTSA activities and for providing feedback.

We will also welcome special guests from Issaquah Schools Foundation who will describe our current state and district financial issues recently caused by unprecedented current year budget cuts that are ultimately impacting the district's ability to update our science curriculum.

Please let Tina Yerges tinayerges@msn.com, PTSA President know if you have any questions and we hope to see you there!



2010–2011 PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES

The 2011 Cascade Ridge Nominating Committee proudly submits the following slate of nominees to the general membership for election to the 2011-2012 PTSA Executive Committee:

President

Deanne King

Co-VPs Community Relations

Hilary Brickman / Jackie Mueller

Executive Vice President

Pam Gross

Co-VPs Fundraising

Ingrid Olsen / Nichole Wengert

Treasurer

Molly Baker

Co-VPs Programs

Ann Brooks / Peggy Rodman

Secretary

Stephanie Whatley

VP Volunteers

Jaycee Cooper / Tina Yerges

VP Communications

Monica Fuddy

Co-VPs 5th grade Committee

Kirsten Luehmann / Rachel Schnebele

Many thanks to this year's PTSA nominating committee: Monica Fuddy, Ingrid Olsen, Bona Park, Peggy Rodman and Nichole Wengert.



ISF UPDATES

Nourish Every Mind Update: 96 moms, dads, community and business leaders have committed to being Table Captains for the Foundation's 13th Annual **Nourish Every Mind** Luncheon on Thursday, April 28. Check with our PTSA/ISF rep **Cathia Geller**, cathia@cathiageller.com to find out who from our school is attending, then make plans to join them. For questions about becoming a Table Captain, please contact Cathia Geller, our Table Captain Chair, Cathia@cathiageller.com. There's always room for one more.

Please join us in thanking our **Nourish Every Mind** sponsors whose generous funding makes it possible for the Foundation to apply every guest donation to student-centered programming. Bravo especially to Swedish Medical Center and Microsoft who are again serving as joint Golden Apple Luncheon sponsors. [Click Here](#) for a complete list of **Nourish Every Mind** sponsors.

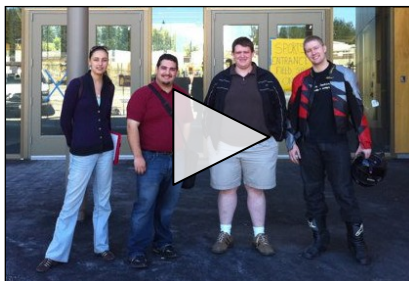
A Shout out from Our Golden Apple Sponsor ... Swedish Medical Center is looking for children and young adult's artwork to showcase in its new Issaquah Campus. Students ages 5 – 18 are encouraged to submit colorful works of art that promote healing, health and community and that celebrate joy, nature and comfort. Winning entries will be turned into long-lasting pieces of art for the new facility. Submissions are due by 11:59 pm, Monday, April 11. Contest information is available at www.swedish.org/issaquahart. You may also email Brooke Kempner at swedishartissaquah@gmail.com. Good Luck!

Who are the winners at your school?

Winners of Classroom Enrichment Grant awards were surprised with congratulatory banners on their buildings and in their classrooms on Friday, March 11th. The Foundation awarded 12 grants totaling \$10,100 to teachers at schools across the District. Congratulations to our winners for going above and beyond to make our students' education the best it can be. A complete list of winners is at <http://www.isfdn.org/grants/#Classroom-Enrichment>.

Donor Dollars at Work -- Computer Class Collaboration

Thanks to a creative partnership between Microsoft, the Issaquah Schools Foundation and the Issaquah School District, students at Issaquah High are enjoying AP Computer Science and Web Design classes taught by Microsoft techies. The TEALS (Technology, Education & Literacy in Schools) program was designed specifically to address the critical need for technical education in our schools. The program has been so successful that it will be expanded to Liberty and Skyline High Schools in the fall and will add an Intro to Computer Science class to the offerings. If your student has an interest in computer science or web design, make sure they talk to their counselor about adding TEALS classes to their 2011-2012 schedules.



CONGRATULATIONS



2010-2011 GOLDEN ACORN WINNERS!!!

Congratulations to this years Golden Acorn Winners! We appreciate your commitment to Cascade Ridge and our community! Jaycee Cooper, Monica Futtty, Rajeev Goel, Chrisann Penz and Diana Verrue were honored at a reception held at Pacific Cascade Middle School on March 29th.

In addition, Rajeev Goel received an Outstanding Service Award for his dedication and hard work throughout the District. Rajeev, our sincere Thanks for *all* that you do!!!



*March 29th, PCMS Awards Reception
Chrisann Penz, Diana Verrue, Rajeev Goel, Jaycee Cooper.
Not pictured: Monica Futtty*



READING TIP from Pat Corra



TIPS FOR SPRING BREAK

When planning a family vacation remember to include your children. Provide your child with maps, books and pictures of your vacation destination. When you get there look for points of interest. Read the signs. Look for new things to read such as brochures, menus and hotel information folders. Keep a journal of what you see. Books make great souvenirs!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, **THANK YOU!**

We pulled it off! What an amazing few months leading up to a great day and night!

We wanted to personally thank all our Scientists that participated in this year's Science Fair! Their Science Projects were **AMAZING!!**

We also wanted to thank all the teachers for all their tireless hours they put into helping our kids realize their full potential. Their support and personal involvement in our Science Programs and Fair are so important to our future!

Thank you to all our parents and kid volunteers that made this event a HUGE SUCCESS!!! We could not have done it without them!

We were able to judge all 360+ kids and all 10 group projects in very tight and narrow pathways. Science Fair needed everyone's help to make sure every exhibit was stationed and fun activities were available to all our young scientists and their families!

We pulled it off and should take great pride in all the **SMILES** on everyone's faces as they walked around and experienced the great world of Science!

Thank you again for making Science Fair 2011 a great success!

FUNDRAISING

PASSIVE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



BROWN BEAR CAR WASH TICKETS

Looks like Spring is near and as the weather gets better, more car washes are needed. Please email me your order: dverrue@gmail.com or look for me on Mommy Hill on Mondays. I'm the one with the crazy rainbow twirly hat. Each ticket is \$5 a piece with proceeds of \$3.50 returning to our PTSA. It's a great deal and a great fundraiser for our school.

BOX TOP, Campbell's Labels for Education & Ink Cartridges

Please keep the donations of these items coming into the school. They are redeemed several times throughout the year and cashed in for extra PTSA funds. Questions: dverrue@gmail.com

PARENT EDUCATION

Go to <http://www.issaquahptsa.org/parented/>
for details and to print out flyers.



PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CLASS	CONTACT
4/18	7:00-8:30pm	Sunset Elementary	Resisting Raising Children Who Feel Entitled Jan Faull M.Ed.	Patty Thieme, 206-778-5554
4/21	7:00pm	Pine Lake Middle School	Cybersaavy and Safety for Parents of Teens Andrew Phillips	Gloria, gcrocker4@comcast.net
4/23	11:30am-1:00 pm	TBD	Sammamish Plateau Parent Networking Group Mtg.	Cherry O'Neill, 425-868-2111 dwo-mci@msn.com

The PTSA thanks the following volunteers:

- Thank you to **Lynette Springborn**, **Ingrid Sellie**, **Cathia Geller**, and **Natalie Fowler** for your combined and dedicated hard work and efforts in completing the rigorous application for the *Issaquah Schools Foundation Kateri Brow Big Idea Grant*. Although the grant wasn't awarded for this application, we recognize there were countless hours and energy spent completing this arduous application and presenting the idea to the ISF Grant Committee as a finalist. We truly appreciate your dedication to continue to enrich the classroom experiences of our kids.
- “**Science Pete**” **Wengert** and the many science fair volunteers for making our science fair a big hit again this year.
- **Helen DiMeco** for her ongoing hard work and dedication to our important weekly communication through the *Coyote Connection*. Helen spends time every week to ensure all current weekly articles and items of communication are clear, concise, and included. She keeps us all “in-the-know” and we appreciate her continued focus to keep this running smoothly every week.
- **Raghu Allepalley** and all the volunteers who helped with the 1st annual *Cascade Ridge Geography Bee*.
- **Carolyn Avalani** for a job well done on the 5th Grade In-Service Project