



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April was a great month at Cascade Ridge with some really great community events. First, the Festival of Cultures brought out a great crowd and many families sharing background and history related to their countries and cultures. Many thanks to Cathia Geller and Erin Rooney, our amazingly dedicated co-chairs, who coordinated this hugely successful evening. We hope all who attended found this to be time well-spent with the family and that everyone gained new understanding and appreciation for our diverse community.

We also held our first annual Spelling Bee, and under the fantastic leadership of Rajeev Goel and Bridget Salmick, it was a rousing success. Every night of this two-week contest went smoothly and we understand the kids and parents had a great time. The spelling talents of our kids from kindergarten through 5th grade were very evident, and this was a great opportunity for kids to stand in front of their peers and family and show poise and confidence.

It has certainly been a busy, fruitful, and challenging year at the school, and our students have continued to thrive throughout the year. Our children's success is a direct benefit of our amazing staff, our wonderfully supportive parents, and our entire community that values the social and educational benefits of a flourishing school. Of course, with 100% participation (one adult registered for every child in the school) of our community in the PTSA, we know that our PTSA has played an important part in another great year through providing financial support to our school and in continuing to provide great program and community events. We are proud of the results of this year and we look forward to continuing to deliver excellence next year as well.

In order to move to the next steps for the next year, we need everyone to provide us with feedback to help set budgets and priorities for next year. Please take 10 minutes of your time to click on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CascadeRidgeSurvey> before May 7 to provide us with your thoughts and your preferences as to where the PTSA should focus time, energy, and funding. This feedback, along with survey results from our staff, is critical for a solid budgeting and planning process and we appreciate your engagement in the process.

Congratulations to our new and returning 2011-12 Executive Committee members who were voted in during our April General Membership meeting. Not only is it a big commitment to serve on this Committee, but it is crucial to our PTSA's continued success - and it is also very rewarding. Many thanks to everyone who has made this commitment to the PTSA next year; next year will be another great one for our kids and community!

Cont'd on page 2.....

Calendar of Events

May:

- 2-6:** Staff Appreciation Week
- 3:** 3rd Grade Concert, 6pm
- 3-27:** MSP Testing (3rd-5th)
- 6:** Dad's Day—Playground
- 18:** Volunteer Luncheon—Library, during lunches
- 19:** PTSA General Membership Mtg., 7 pm, Café
Parent Ed: Adolescent Stress & Depression, 7:30pm, Café
- 20:** Spirit Day: High School Spirit
- 24:** Kindergarten Open House 5:00pm
- 26:** Retirement Celebration—Library, 3:30-4:30pm
- 30:** Memorial Day—No School

June:

- 1-3:** 5th Grade Camp
- 3:** Dad's Day—Playground

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

...Presidents Message Cont'd

Finally before we hit the crazy days of June, I want to highlight some of the May events coming at Cascade Ridge and in our community:

May 2 – 6: Teacher Appreciation Week – Our Staff Appreciation Committee has been busy planning a wonderful week of celebrating our teachers and staff. You should be receiving communications regarding plans for this through your Room Coordinators. Don't miss the opportunity to show our magnificent teachers and staff how much we appreciate everything they do for our kids!

May 6: Dad's Day on the Playground – a popular event with kids and parents alike!

May 9: Site Council Meeting with special guest, Jake Kuper, Chief of Finance and Operations at the Issaquah School District, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. All community and staff members are invited to attend.

May 19: Cascade Ridge PTSA General Membership Meeting: 7:00 pm. More details on this below!

May 24: Kindergarten Open House, 5:00 pm.

Can it really be May already and is it true that we have less than two months of school left?! Please enjoy each day of it!

Tina Yerges, PTSA President

tinayerges@msn.com



DID YOU KNOW....

...our current science curriculum does not meet new state standards and the state will hold students accountable for these standards as a graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2013? Did you also know that the Issaquah School District has been reviewing and planning to purchase and train teachers on the new K-5 curriculum in preparation for adopting it in our schools in the 2011-12 school year? However, because of the recent \$1.45 million in unprecedented mid-year take-backs from the state, the Issaquah School **District must re-evaluate its financial ability to provide the full scope and breadth of new science curriculum that would appropriately prepare our students for the new state standards.**

The K-5 science adoption includes three domains: Life (biology), Earth and Space, and Physical (physics). Currently, with so much financial uncertainty, the district can only commit to purchasing one of the three domains. Without significant support from community partners, the Issaquah Schools Foundation, and the local PTSAs, the other two domains cannot be supported. On top of the \$700,000 the District can continue to commit, with an additional \$500,000 in funding, all three domains will be fully adopted in the 2011-12 year.

At the beginning of May, you will see a new campaign "Got Science" launched which will encourage fundraising throughout the Issaquah Schools Foundation and the PTSAs within the district. It is crucial that we, as a whole district-wide community, work together to ensure our students are properly prepared in the three science domains to best succeed throughout their lives and careers.

We at Cascade Ridge will be actively involved in this campaign. Please keep an eye out for the postcards that will come home to every family through kid mail at school and emails and banners that will provide full information. **We encourage everyone to become educated about this critical educational need and to become engaged in the need and the call for community help to make the full science curriculum a reality for our kids.**

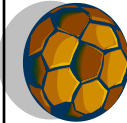
MARK YOUR CALENDARS



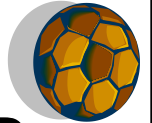
CONGRATS! 5TH GRADERS

**5TH GRADE CAST-OFF
JUNE 14TH
CEREMONY BEGINS
AT 9:00**

**WATCH FOR MORE
DETAILS SOON!!!!**



DAD'S DAY ON THE PLAYGROUND



Thanks to all of the dads, moms, grandparents and other special guests who have joined us for Dad's Day on the Playground. The next Dad's Day on the Playground is **Friday, May 6th**.

LUNCH / RECESS SCHEDULE

11:00-11:25: 2nd/3rd grade

11:30-11:55: FDK/1st grade

12:00-12:25: 4th/5th grade



STAFF APPRECIATION MAY 2-6



This week is National Staff Appreciation Week. The PTSA, with the help of Cascade Ridge families, will be sponsoring several events and providing goodies to acknowledge our teachers and staff.

This year we will not be collecting money for gifts, so please watch for an e-mail from your child's room coordinator for details on how you and your student can show your support and appreciation for our wonderful staff.



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF

Betty Gilstrap
AND
Anne Henigson

IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATION
TO THE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THEY ENRICHED
THROUGHOUT THEIR TEACHING CAREERS

THURSDAY, MAY 26TH, CASCADE RIDGE LIBRARY, 3:30-4:30

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

~Dr. Seuss



HAVE YOU TOLD US YET?!



Time is running short for you to provide feedback to the PTSA. We really want to hear what you consider important focus for the PTSA in the coming year. This quick survey provides ranking and freeform questions to assist with prioritization for next year and it is critical information used for PTSA planning and budgeting. We really want to know, so please take a few minutes to provide this valuable information by clicking on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CascadeRidgeSurvey> before May 7 when the survey will be closed. Thank you!

June Coyote Howler

Submissions must be made to howler@cascaderidgeptsa.org no later than **Monday 5/30** at 4:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Monica Fuddy at mfuddy@hotmail.com.

PROGRAMS



5TH GR. SERVICE PROJECT: A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

The fifth Grade Service Project was a huge success. The kids packaged over 900 bags of food which is equivalent to 5,456 meals! The Meal Packaging event was held Tuesday, April 19th. We had an outstanding turnout and an equally enthusiastic bunch of 5th graders. The food that was packaged will be sent to one of four countries: Sierra Leone, Malawi, Haiti or the Dominican Republic.

A special thank you goes to the 5th grade teachers, Mardi St. Laurent (who counted the donations and coordinated all the forms), Archana Jain, Julene Barrett, Leslie Hall, Meena Thirumurthy, Peggy Rodman, Bridget Salmick, Kirsten Juenke, Munira Gerth, Nancy Cleland, Tracy Meyers, Trina Gratchner, and Gina Mazzaferro.



CONGRATULATIONS SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS!

The past two weeks have been a wirlwind of exsitement as over 130 Cascade Ridge studants got up on stage and brilliantly spelled words like dextarity and edukation. We're so prouw of each of you!

Special congratulations go to each of the following spellers:

<p>Kindergarten Winning word: "silver"</p> <p>1st – Aditya Rana 2nd – Kevin Yin 3rd – Bridget Miller</p>	<p>1st grade Winning word: "overalls"</p> <p>1st – Aidan Pong 2nd – Vithul Ravivarma 3rd – Emily Tsao 3rd – Nayantara Vijay</p>	<p>2nd grade Winning word: "crumpled"</p> <p>1st – Anshita Saini 2nd – Megha Pingili 3rd – Ostara Maharaj 3rd – Kate Selbig</p>
<p>3rd grade Winning word: "interpret"</p> <p>1st – Dylan Go 2nd – Blake Abrahamsen 3rd – Nabiya Alam</p>	<p>4th grade Winning word: "piranha"</p> <p>1st – Thomas Kurtz 2nd – Alexander Park 3rd – Sean Broderick</p>	<p>5th grade Winning word: "excessive"</p> <p>1st – Sriram Parasurama 2nd – Anumita Chopra 3rd – Angela Shi</p>

VOLUNTEER!!!

WANTED: HOWLER PUBLISHER



Do you have a basic knowledge of Microsoft Publisher? Do you want to know what is going on at the school before everyone else does? Then, the Howler Chair Position is for you!!

I have enjoyed this job and will be available to help you get started and to provide support throughout the year. Past Howlers are available to you on disk. You are free to duplicate the format or come up with your own unique style.

If you are interested or want more info, please contact me, Monica Fuddy, mfuddy@hotmail.com.

FIELD DAY

Field Day is coming!!! We are in need of a scheduling coordinator and additional volunteers to make this the best Field Day ever. If you would like to help out, please contact Deanne King at ddaking@yahoo.com.



The PTSA thanks the following volunteers:

- ◆ **Cathia Geller, Erin Rooney, and Lora Wendl** for another awesome Festival of Cultures event. Their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work showed as this year's event was bigger and better with more booths, more food and more entertainment!
- ◆ **Carolyn Avalani** for coordinating the 5th grade service project. It was a fantastic success!
- ◆ **Katy Chung** for another beautiful spread of coffee and baked goods for the Coffee with the Principal/General Membership meeting.
- ◆ **Mary Richardson** for keeping us outfitted in a variety of Mixed Bags! It was a fun and successful fundraiser. Thanks, Mary!
- ◆ **Chrisann Penz** for a fabulous job of rolling out our new line of Coyote Wear in our new school colors!
- ◆ **Rajeev Goel** and **Bridget Salmick** for organizing the 1st annual Spelling Bee! There was much fun had by all involved. We look forward to seeing this event grow over the coming years.
- ◆ **Kim Anderson** for coordinating and assembling our Staff Appreciation lunches each month.
- ◆ All the families who have supported the CR staff by providing delicious Staff Appreciation lunches every month throughout the year.
- ◆ Thank you to **Cathia Geller**, our very own ISF Representative and the ISF *Nourish Every Mind* Table Captain Chair! Your energy and passion for ensuring our community understands the importance around supporting the ISF and all kids in the community is amazing and inspirational. We are so lucky to have you!
- ◆ A big thanks to **Peggy Rodman** and **Ann Brooks** for saving the Eager Reader Program. All your hard work and dedication to keeping this program alive is greatly appreciated by all.
- ◆ Thank you to **Ranjani Chakrapani** (chair), **Jai Chakrapani**, **Raghu Allepally**, **Sheela Pai**, **Malini Ajwani**, and **Rajeev Goel** for building a great Math Club this year! Good luck to all our Math Club members in your upcoming competitions!

PTSA BOARD



MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please plan to attend our next PTSA General Membership meeting on **Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 pm** in the **Coyote Café**. This will be our last General Membership meeting of the school year and we will review survey results and present the 2011-12 Interim Budget for approval. We would love to have a big group of members who are interested in what the PTSA plans to support in the coming school year. Please come and join in this important process.

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



APRIL PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend last month's PTSA General Membership Meeting. In addition to our regular business, the membership elected the following individuals to the 2011-2012 PTSA Executive Committee. Congratulations and thanks to each and every one of these members who so willingly give their time and energy to our organization and community.

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

Co-VPs Volunteers

Jaycee Cooper / Tina Yerges

VP Communications

Monica Futtly

Co-VPs 5th grade Committee

Kirsten Luehmann / Rachel Schnebele

We also heard from our special guests, Jerry Miller, Director of Instructional Support at the Issaquah School District and Leigh Stokes, President of Issaquah Schools Foundation. Jerry and Leigh shared some very important information regarding the current state budget crisis and its impacts on our educational system, specifically related to the District's planned implementation of the newest science curriculum. This will have a significant impact on our elementary children, and for those who missed this important discussion, we invite you to learn more about this at <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/>



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ISF REP

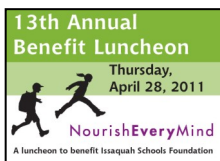
Got Science?

Issaquah School District elementary students need it. State budget cuts are getting in the way. That's why your PTSA, the District and the Issaquah Schools Foundation are collaborating in an unprecedented effort—the **Elementary Science Initiative Campaign**—to raise \$500,000 to pay for a new K-5 Elementary Science curriculum. The \$500,000 in community contributions will serve as a match to the District's \$700,000 commitment and enable a roll-out of the entire, three-domain curriculum to every K-5 student in the Fall of 2011. A suggested donation of \$50 per child, per elementary family will ensure that the campaign goal is met. To make your contribution and learn the 'how's and why's' of the campaign, please visit www.issaquahscience.org.

Full adoption of the Elementary Science Initiative will mark the first time that every elementary student in the District will benefit from a comprehensive, unified science curriculum. To date, science instruction has been driven by science kits, PTSA-funded science docents and PTSA-funded enrichment activities, resulting in inconsistency and inequity across schools. This, coupled with new state science standards and assessments, has left our students at a disadvantage. As of last year, only half of our 5th graders met standards on state assessments.

The importance of the adoption to our students' future cannot be overstated. Says Dr. Rasmussen, ***"The global demand for high-tech, cutting edge professionals is not diminishing just because funding for public education is – it's exploding. In fact, we need to give our students every opportunity to thrive and be competitive now because the world is not going to wait for our curriculum to catch up."***

The Elementary Science Initiative can only succeed with your help. Please go to www.issaquahscience.org to learn more and to make your donation today.



Nourish Every Mind "Thanks"

Thank you, thank you, thank you to our PTSA community for helping to produce **Nourish Every Mind** and for attending in droves. The Issaquah Community Center was jam packed on Thursday, April 28. When lunch was finished and speeches given, \$593,000 had been raised to support Issaquah Schools Foundation programs and initiatives. Please join us in congratulating Co-Chairs Kristin Behn and Susan Griffin (Sunset), our incomparable Table Captain Chair, Cathia Geller (Cascade Ridge) and their fabulous committee. To view the **Nourish Every Mind** videos, please visit www.isfdn.org

FUNDRAISING

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!

Stock up now!!!! Only 150 Brown Bear Car wash tickets left to sell before Summer Vacation. We will not be placing any more orders before next Fall, so stock up now for the summer months.

How can you get tickets? Send me an email: dverrue@gmail.com with your name, your child's name and teacher's name. Put a check for the desired amount of tickets (\$5 a piece) in the black PTSA box in the school's foyer, and I will get the tickets to your child ASAP. Tickets are also available on Parent Hill on Mondays. I'm the one with the rainbow spirally hat.

PARENT EDUCATION

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



PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CLASS	CONTACT
5/3	6:00 pm	Briarwood Elementary	P.E.A.C.E. of Mind Parent Education Workshop	Reanu Ranna, 425-246-6992
5/10	7:00-8:30 pm	Clark Elementary	Issaquah Special Needs Group: Preparing for back to school transition	info@issaquahspecialneedsgroup.org
5/19	7:30-9:00pm	Cascade Ridge Elementary	Coping with Adolescent Stress and Depression	Alison Cathro, 425-442-2704