



# Coyote Howler

## PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great gratitude that I find myself writing my final "President Letter." It has been a wonderful and fulfilling two years for me in this role, and I'm very grateful to have had this opportunity. As I think back over the two years, I am, yet again, reminded of what an amazing community we have in our staff, parents, and students at Cascade Ridge. It is a community that truly cares for our kids that is at the very core of everything we do. Without such a deep level of caring and commitment, we could not accomplish all that we have every year since Cascade Ridge first opened in 2001.

For this year, our PTSA has filled the year with many amazing accomplishments and impacts for our school and children, and we have much for which we can be proud. This year, some of our accomplishments included:

**Continued direct support to vital student needs through financial and volunteer support** - About **\$70K in total** (90% of our total budget) was budgeted for the following: **\$17K to Staff Grants, \$9K to Arts & Science Enrichment, \$7K to Reading Support, \$12K to K-4 Drama and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Enhancement Programs, \$4K to Art & Science Docent, Science Fair, and Fine Arts Night, \$5K to various education and safety support programs** (i.e. Eager Reader, Reflections, Math Club, Safety Patrol, Parent and Child Education, Foreign Language, Spelling & Geography Bees, Field Day), **\$6K for Community Events** (i.e. Caring through Sharing, Dad's Day, Great Kids, Birthday Celebrations, Festival of Cultures, Winterfest, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade End-of-Year Celebrations, Staff Appreciation), **Implementing our first ever online Membership sign-up** - This included bringing as much as possible from our previous and voluminous "First Day Packet" online. It minimized the amount of paperwork our kids brought home during those first few days of school and provided the opportunity for everyone to do many things online instead of through tiresome paperwork: sign up for PTSA membership, review and sign-up for volunteer opportunities, complete preferences for receiving information throughout the year, order Coyote Wear online, and to pay for it all at one time and with one form of payment. Each year, this process will become easier and efficient for us all,

**PTSA Website revamp and revitalization** - Need we say more? Just check it out and you'll see how packed the site is with usable and easy-to-find information! [www.cascaderidgeptsa.org](http://www.cascaderidgeptsa.org),

**Increased online signup for ongoing events** including the Walkathon, Winterfest, Fine Arts Night, the Spelling Bee, Science Fair and others. We received wonderful feedback throughout the year regarding these changes, and we will continue to strive to make things easier for everyone,

**Successful Fundraising that met and beat our goals** which enabled us to fulfill all of our budgeted expenses in support of our kids for the year,

**Appropriate (based on General Membership vote and approval) Spending of Excess/Accumulated Funds:** \$16+K for our school to develop a Guided Reading Room similar to those that several other elementary schools in the district have developed, \$12K for a Reader Board, something that our school has

## Calendar of Events

### June:

- 1-3:** Fifth Grade Camp
- 8:** Chorus Concert, 6:30pm
- 9:** Marimba Concert, 6:30pm
- 10:** School Supplies Order deadline  
Coyote Wear Spirit Day
- 14:** Fifth Grade Castoff, 9am  
Last day for PM KG
- 15:** Field Day, 8-11am  
Last day for AM KG
- 16:** Last Day of School

### August:

- 30:** First Day, Grades 1-5
- 31:** First Day, AM/Full Day K

### September:

- 5:** Labor Day, No School

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**President:** [Tina Yerges](#)

needed for years to provide quick and timely communications to the whole community, and \$10K to the very important "Got Science?" initiative which will help ensure our district has appropriate funding to implement the new Science Curriculum at our elementary schools,

**Implementation of new and desired programs at the school:** Foreign Language, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Great Kids,

**Continued Parent Education Offerings** that provide parents with current and important information for raising our kids and ever-changing societal pressures and challenges,

**Purchase of important equipment for the school:** \$4K spent for new radios for safety use, during typical days and during emergencies and ~25 new digital cameras for use at all grade levels in developing new ways to teach our kids in this highly technically-advanced world.

Wow!! How lucky are our kids to have so many amazing opportunities, particularly during these economic times where state and district budgets are suffering? Our district has been hit very hard these past few years, and more than ever, it is important for families to recognize the value of giving, both financially and through volunteer efforts, to continue to provide these opportunities to our children. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful public school system, and we need to continue to support that system. PTSA is a vitally important component and means for providing that communal support.

Of course, these accomplishments are due to the continued and passionate involvement of the many dedicated families and staff of our school and I continue to value and appreciate everyone who contributes in so many ways to our success. Each and every one of you who has contributed in ANY way is appreciated. A special thank you goes out to everyone who chaired events or programs and those who served on the Board. These jobs are often time-consuming and exhausting (and many times "thankless"), and yet, they are so important to our kids. THANK YOU!!

As we move into the summer, our new Board will be planning for the upcoming year. I will be moving out of the President role and am confidently handing the reins to Deanne King, who I know will be an amazing President. She will lead the PTSA to ensure that the many ongoing and additional needs in the coming year will be met. As you probably noticed, we sent out our Spring Volunteer Form to solicit interest in the many areas of need to ensure another successful year for the PTSA. Thank you to everyone who is already thinking ahead as to where you can contribute and be a part of our upcoming successes. There will be more opportunities to sign up as we start the next year, and the online volunteer signups are always open as well!!

Here's to a great and restful summer for all. We then look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall. Don't forget that school will start BEFORE Labor Day on Tuesday, August 30th. This seems especially early and the week before we will start getting things rolling. Be sure to stay in touch through our August communications and via our website at [www.cascaderidgeptsa.org](http://www.cascaderidgeptsa.org). We are planning to continue our tradition of having a quick Popsicle Social the day before school starts and we hope to see you there.

Cheers and Happy Summer!  
Tina Yerges, Outgoing PTSA President  
[tinayerges@msn.com](mailto:tinayerges@msn.com)



### Dates for Next Year:

Monday Aug. 29th	Meet the Teacher, 10-11 a.m. Popsicle Social, 10:30-Noon
Tuesday Aug. 30th	First Day for Grades 1-5
Wednesday Aug. 31st	First Day for FDK/AM Kindergarten
Monday Sept. 5	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
Tuesday Sept. 13	Curriculum Night, 6 p.m. K-2 <sup>nd</sup> , LRC General Membership Meeting, 7 pm
Thursday Sept. 15	Curriculum Night, 6 p.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>



# PTSA SURVEY RESULTS



Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our community PTSA survey. We had 89 responses (amazingly, that's *exactly* the same number as last year!) and we truly appreciate the feedback we received as a result of your comments. In general, we had very similar feedback this year as we did last year in the survey. Could that be that the same people filled out the survey as last year?! Perhaps... Regardless, knowing what our community needs and desires are core to our planning, we used the survey results to prioritize plans for next year and we incorporated many of your suggestions into our planning and budgeting for next year. Some of the feedback you provided included the following:

**COMMUNICATIONS:** In general, those who responded to the survey felt well informed about PTSA events and activities. 98% responded "yes" to feeling adequately informed. In addition, the most effective forms of communication are class newsletters/emails, The Howler, Coyote Connection, classroom representatives, and our PTSA website (in that order). This is great news for us because over the years, we have consciously moved away from paper communications in favor of electronic means of providing information, and we know it has taken time to implement this change. In addition, we were thrilled that our website made it to the "Top Five" because we have spent countless hours and effort into revitalizing and renewing the website to make it a primary means of providing current and timely information. This will continue to be a focus in the coming years. There is also ongoing work every month to provide relevant and timely information through our Howler and the Coyote Connection, and we hope this information continues to be important to the community. We do all we can to push current information and to utilize our website, enews, and classroom representatives to keep all information current and available to the community. I invite everyone to continue to spread the word and encourage your friends to utilize the website and to read the weekly Connection and monthly Howler emails.

**PRIORITIES:** In our survey, we asked you to rank the various Curriculum and Community Programs that we have funded throughout the year. Having this information is key for us in planning for the coming year, and according to your answers, priorities continue to be similar to previous years. We will continue to fund the Arts & Science Grants, Reading Support, and Staff General Grants, K-4 Drama, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum, among others. We will also continue to focus on Student and Community programs such as the Science Fair, Eager Reader, Safety Patrol, and Great Kids, to name just a few. We were excited to hear that Great Kids has quickly become a popular program and we have our new principal, Mrs. Fowler, to thank for bringing this great program to our school! We also found that our community recognizes the value of supporting and appreciating our staff, and we will continue to encourage and support that.

Other popular and new/improved programs that we will continue to support through our and volunteers include the Math Club, Spelling Bee, and Geography Bee, and we will

make some significant changes to what was previously the K-Kids program. Next year it will be called "Caring Coyotes" and will be primarily run by a few teachers and will continue to be supported through parent volunteers. Be sure to look for more information on this when school gets started again.

**FUNDRAISING:** We asked about participation in our various fundraising activities. Again this year, and based on community feedback, we continued in the path requested in previous years that we focus our fundraising efforts to a single primary fundraiser. We also combined our Walkathon with a community event to bring everyone together and meet our fundraising and some socializing needs early in the year. Our survey told us that 92% of the community participated in this. In addition, 86% responded that this combination of the fundraiser and the community event is your first choice. With these responses, we plan to continue in this direction for fundraising in the coming year. We will also continue to offer the other "passive" fundraising opportunities that continue to be popular such as the Book Fair, Coyote Wear, Car Wash tickets, our "Mixedbags", and of course, we will continue to rely on other passive fundraising opportunities including Labels for Education and corporate Matching Funds to gain additional funding.

**KEEP DOING WHAT WORKS:** We were happy to get some very positive feedback regarding generally doing the right amount of things at the right scale. We are such a lucky group at Cascade Ridge in that we have an amazing staff and community that are very involved, dedicated, and committed to supporting our students to be all they can be, and obviously all that we do is a broad community effort. We plan to keep offering the quality programs that you have come to expect, and based on your feedback we will continue to focus on the areas that are viewed as important.

We also surveyed our school staff to get their valuable feedback. We heard back from 21 staff members and we received good information regarding the value of the support and programs that the PTSA provides for them as well. The results told us that we are providing positive support to the needs of the teachers and the students and we know what areas we need to continue to focus to provide the best possible support to our kids during their time at Cascade Ridge.

Our survey results are summarized on our website, so if you would like to see more, please check them out there!

Finally and as always, I invite you to continue to provide feedback regarding what you consider important and I welcome your thoughts. Please do not hesitate to drop me an email with any feedback or contact any of our current or upcoming Board members.

Tina Yerges, Outgoing PTSA President  
(tinayerges@msn.com)



# PTSA MEETING RECAP

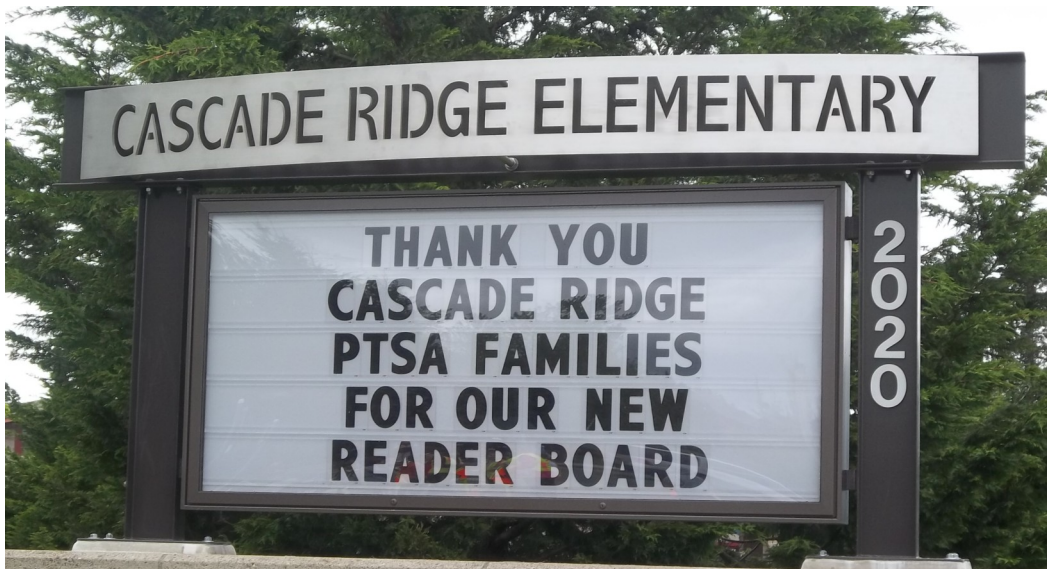
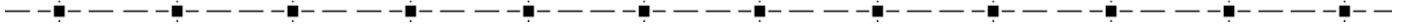
We had a great final General Membership meeting of the year! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and be a part of some very important discussions.

We reviewed the year-to-date budget and results for the year. We then reviewed and approved the interim Budget for 2011-12. This budget will enable the incoming Board to start operations as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be reviewed and refined as programs are further planned and defined during the summer.

We also reviewed the results of the recent Community and Staff Survey and talked about how the survey results feed into Budget assumptions for the upcoming school year. Finally, the membership reviewed the Board's recommendations for reallocating unused funds from this year to be granted to the Issaquah Schools Foundation in support of the current "Got Science?" initiative. The GM approved the recommendation and as a result, we will send a grant for \$10,000 to "Got Science?". We should all be proud for supporting this important cause for our students.

Once the meeting was adjourned, we had a special Parent Education program about Adolescent Stress and Depression, which is an important topic for all parents to gain understanding in today's society. Thanks again to everyone who was able to stay to gain insight through this presentation.

Our first General Membership for next school year will be in mid-September and we hope to see a great crowd then! Happy summer, everyone!



Thank you to our Reader Board Committee (Jaycee Cooper, Chrisann Penz, MaryJo Webb, and Nichole Wengert) for working so hard with research, planning, proposal presentation, and construction coordination of our new (and very tasteful) Reader Board. It's been a long time coming and something that is very important for keeping our community "in-the-know" about school, district, and PTSA events. Nicely done!

# PROGRAMS



## MATH CLUB UPDATE

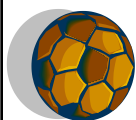
We had a wonderful year with Math Club. On Saturday, May 7, we had 33 of the 48 kids participate in two different state wide competitions: Math Championship in Blaine and WSMC Olympiad in Seattle.

Two teams of 6 kids in total challenged themselves to participate in the tougher Middle School Math Championship in Blaine. Scoring for this championship is highly competitive as they are ranked against each other. Our two teams from CRE performed successfully and we are so proud of them for making that extra effort in preparation for this particular competition.

Seven teams with a total of 27 kids participated in the Washington State Math Council's Middle School Math Olympiad in Seattle. Every single team (including the 4<sup>th</sup> graders) exceeded the standard against which they are judged thereby earning at least one ribbon of excellence. Some teams earned two ribbons and two teams earned two medals each (the highest award). One of our teams had the top score in session 2 amongst all the 21 teams at this site. They were also the only team in this site to receive a "superior" rating as they scored all 5 correct answers in "Number Sense".

We are so proud of all our bright, young mathematicians whether or not they participated in the championships. We wish them the very best in all their future endeavors.

A big thank you to the Coaches Jai Chakrapani, Rajeev Goel, Raghu Allepally and Sheela Pai for all their time and effort the whole season. We are also grateful for the effort put in by Malini Ajwani who was able to coach for part of the year. And finally, a huge thank you to Ranjani Chakrapani who chaired this wonderful program, took care of all the logistics throughout the year, and was responsible for expanding it to the level it is at today.



## DAD'S DAY ON THE PLAYGROUND

Thank you to all of the dads, moms, grandparents, and other special guests who have joined our students on the Playground each month for our wonderful Dads' Play Days. It has been magical to see the kids' faces light up when someone special comes to spend recess with them. Please note that there is no Play Day in June. We would love it if the dads and special guests would instead volunteer for Field Day on Wednesday, June 15th from 8am-11am. Please contact Deanne King if interested at [deanneking@live.com](mailto:deanneking@live.com) or at 425-270-3336.

## 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 Editor 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](mailto:mfuddy@hotmail.com).

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!



## FIELD DAY: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It's that time of year again--FIELD DAY!!

The kids always have a fabulous time, but this is not possible without all the help of our wonderful volunteers!!

This year field day will be from 8-11 am on Wednesday, June 15th. K-3rd grade will be from 8:30-9:30 and 4th -5th grades will be from 9:40-10:40. Volunteers will work the full session from 8:00-11:00. This includes time to help Mr. Richey set up and take down the stations.

Please let me know if you can help by going to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/field356> and signing up. If there is a particular station you would like to work at, please enter that info in the comments section and I will do my best to make it happen. Questions? Contact Deanne King at [deannewking@live.com](mailto:deannewking@live.com); 425-270-3336



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES: GET YOUR ORDER IN BY JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>

The 2011-2012 School Supply List is now available on our [website](#)! The PTSA can help make gathering the supplies easy with ordering online at [schooltoolbox.com](http://schooltoolbox.com). Enter our school code of 2CASC98075. Online ordering is available through June 10th. Your supplies will come packaged in an easy to carry box that will be distributed during Meet the Teacher day. See the attached [flier](#) with all the details! Summer and Fall will be here before we know it, so order now and don't worry about school supplies!

Questions? Contact Kellie Berndt [kellie.berndt@comcast.net](mailto:kellie.berndt@comcast.net)

# FUNDRAISING



## A MESSAGE FROM FUNDRAISING!

As your *outgoing VP's of Fundraising*, We'd like to thank the entire school—Families and Staff alike—for your generosity, cooperation, enthusiasm and creative support this year. You were truly amazing! You made it possible for us to not only *reach* our goals but to *surpass* them! Your generosity and participation in our various fundraising programs, both Active and Passive, will make it possible for us to continue to provide much needed support for our school as well as great programs that will bring a higher quality of education to our children. **Thank you from everyone on the Team!**

We would like to welcome **Nicole Wengert** and **Ingrid Olsen** as they take over the role of co-VP's of Fundraising for 2011-2012 and ask that you join me in helping them make next year an even more successful one!

Enjoy your summer!  
Jaycee Cooper & Bona Park  
2010/2011 co-VP's of Fundraising

Please be sure to save your **Box Tops** and **Ink Cartridges** over the summer and bring them in to boxes located in the School entry when you return to school in the fall.

Questions: Contact Diana Ver-  
rue, [dverrue@gmail.com](mailto:dverrue@gmail.com)



### Slices for Science

served by teachers from Grand Ridge Elementary!

**Tuesday, June 7**  
**5-8 pm**

### Zeeks Pizza

Issaquah Highlands, 2525 NE Park Dr.  
Issaquah, WA 98029

#### **Eat in, take out or have it delivered...**

20% of the proceeds will be donated to the Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF) to help fund the Elementary Science Initiative.

If you would like to make a direct donation to the "Got Science" Elementary Science Initiative, please [click here](#).



# ISF UPDATE

## Elementary Science Initiative Campaign Reminder

The June 15 **Elementary Science Initiative Campaign** deadline is rapidly approaching. If you haven't yet made your donation toward this critical K-5 science curriculum adoption for our students, please do so today. The benefit to your child will be immediate and impactful. The campaign coalition (PTSA, District, ISF) is asking every elementary parent to contribute \$50 per child—or whatever they can to raise the funding required to purchase and implement the full, three domain curriculum this fall.



**GOT SCIENCE?**

Please visit the campaign website, [www.issaquahscience.org](http://www.issaquahscience.org) to learn why this adoption is vital to your child's education and how you can join our team of campaign fundraisers.

## Good News!

**Nourish Every Mind** guests (*who represent 7.5% of our District families*) made a \$263,000 dent in the **Elementary Science Initiative Campaign** goal—enough to purchase the second of the three domains. We have raised another \$20,000 since the Luncheon, but are counting on the remaining 92.5% of District families to raise the final \$217,000. We can do it!

## What Do the Kids Think?

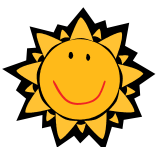
[Click Here](#) to hear Grand Ridge Elementary students Deon Lillo and Caroline O'Neill talk about the new science curriculum materials and their 'cool' factor. '

## Take a Look

Don't miss your chance to see, touch and try the new science curriculum materials. They'll be on display at the District Administration Building from **Friday, May 20 through Friday, June 3**. No reservations required!

## Donor Dollars at Work

ISF donors are giving incoming kindergarteners a head start this summer through the "Jumpstarting Our Littlest Readers" program. The program enables Kindergarten teachers to hold spring assessments of incoming students to determine kindergarten readiness. Those who require additional support are provided with goodie bags full of helpful books, tapes and magnetic letters. The result – rooms full of kindergarten readers in the fall. [Click here](#) to watch IVE Kindergarten Teacher Peggy McNeas discuss the program.



# HAVE A FUN & SAFE SUMMER!!

Thank you to all of our chairs and volunteers for the 2010-2011 school year. It is through your support that we are able to make Cascade Ridge such a fabulous school! We appreciate you!!

Thank you to . . .

- **Janet Jacobson**, Matching Funds Chair, for her persistence and attention to detail! Over \$11,000 was brought into Cascade Ridge as a result of her efforts! Way to go Janet and everyone who took the time to get your Matching Funds information in!
- Thank you to all who served on Site Council this year: **Christy McCarthy, Deanne King, Nga Selbig, Chrisann Penz, Stephanie Scott, Marcie Trudeau, Lynette Springborn, Zana Moore, Sue Ducharme, Mardi St. Laurent, Jenise Clausen** and **Natalie Fowler!**
- **Melanie Carbon & Monica Futtly** for putting together a fantastic yearbook!
- **Molly Baker & the PTSA budget committee** for creating our budget for next year!
- **Kellie Berndt** for your expert management in getting our school supply pre-orders up and going once again!
- **Lora Wendl & Mary Jo Webb** for providing a PTSA presence at the Kindergarten Open House!
- The **safety patrol** for getting us in, out, and around the school safely each morning and afternoon.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade committee for all their hard work—**Carolyn Avalani, Elizabeth Bogardus, Munira Gerth, Kimberly Hunt, Carol Jendrezak, Kirsten Juenke, Gina Mazzaferro, Christy McCarthy, Deveaux Philpot, and Bridget Salmick!**
- **Ingrid Sellie** for being available to help in our award and grant writing needs as well as investigating and working on a potential CRE Facebook page!
- **Kris Chambers** and all of the bakers who do an amazing job in keeping us in baked goods for all our various events sometimes at the last minute!!
- **Diana Verrue** for re-invigorating our Passive Fundraising efforts this year! Thank you for all your work throughout the year and for your unwavering enthusiasm and commitment!
- **Lynette Springborn** for her continued coordination of Dad's Day on the Playground!
- **Kim Anderson**, all **the room coordinators, parents,** and **students** for a successful Staff Appreciation Week!
- All the **4<sup>th</sup> grade families** that provided the delicious taco bar staff lunch this month!
- **Katy Chung** for providing coffee and refreshments at all the "Coffee with the Principal" events this year!
- All the volunteers who are sure to help with our upcoming Field Day!
- **Natalie Fowler** and the **Cascade Ridge Staff** for fully supporting our PTSA 100%. We look forward to many more years of working with you!!
- Our amazing PTSA Board Members, **Molly Baker, Jaycee Cooper, Monica Futtly, Leslie Hickman-Boyd, Kirsten Juenke, Deanne King, Bona Park, Chrisann Penz, Bridget Salmick, Mary Jo Webb, Lora Wendl, Nichole Wengert, Danna Wickham,** who worked tirelessly and passionately throughout the whole year to bring amazing programs, events, services, and educational support to our school and community. You are all rock stars!