



# Coyote Howler

## PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break with many meaningful moments spent with family and friends. Hopefully the rest and enjoyment of that time is still with you as you plan ahead for a busy December. As experienced Cascade Ridge families know, the next few weeks before our first Winter Break will be busy in every classroom, and our kids have much to learn and many activities and projects to enjoy!

As we move into this season, I am, again, reminded of how generous and giving this community is. We have many chances in our community to provide to those who are less fortunate, especially in December. Most notably here at Cascade Ridge, our PTSA sponsors Caring Through Sharing that provides a wonderful opportunity to give to families who could really use a few helping hands and caring hearts. Our kickoff was Monday, November 28th and you should have received a flyer sent home with your child. A few changes to note, this year we will be solely supporting the Issaquah Food Bank and they are inundated with requests. In addition, we will be moving our gift tags out of the classroom and into the school foyer. Families are invited to come in to the school and select gift tags together to provide for needy families. We will have one week of gift tag selection, November 28th – December 2nd. We will then have one week to return the wrapped gifts to the school, December 5th – December 9th. This is a really quick turnaround, so we invite you to gather your gift tags as early as possible. I encourage you to take advantage of this program to generously give from the heart. We, as a community, truly benefit from giving back, and I know the families in the program really appreciate the caring and generosity that expands exponentially through this program. Please look for more information in this Howler, on our website, and in the Coyote Connection that hits your email each week.

There are also more fun activities happening through the PTSA in December. For our second year in a row, we will have our Book Fair in December (7th – 9th) to provide the opportunity for families to do some holiday shopping. This event also coincides on its final day (Friday, December 9th) with "A Starry Night at Cascade Ridge," PTSA's Fine Arts Night and Dinner from 6:00-8:00 P.M. Families can watch local artists in action, make their own art, see your child's artwork on display, take part in our very special Live Community Art Project, and enter the free drawing to win a year's membership to the Bellevue Art Museum! We hope everyone will come and enjoy both events. It is sure to help you get into a cheerful holiday mood if you haven't already! The sign-up to order teriyaki dinner has been added to our website and online process, so it is easy to participate and enjoy!

Once we get into the new year, we will be off and running with many more initiatives and events. Very importantly, at our January 26th meeting we plan to, among other things, review our budget, vote in our nominating committee for next year's Board, and hear about the new ISD bond that will be on the April ballot. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend so you can participate in this significant PTSA process.

I hope your month will be filled with many joyful experiences, and much time spent with family and friends.

Happy Holidays!  
Deanne King, PTSA President  
deanneking@live.com

## Calendar of Events

### December:

- 1:** Conference Day  
NO SCHOOL
- 2:** Dad's Play Day & Popcorn
- 1-2:** CTS Tag Selection
- 5-9:** CTS Gift Collection
- 7-9:** Book Fair
- 9:** Fine Arts & Teriyaki Dinner  
6-8p
- 15:** Chorus/Marimba Concert  
6:30p
- 19:** Winter Break Starts

### January:

- 3:** Back to School
- 6:** Dad's Play Day & Popcorn
- 16:** Martin Luther King Day—  
NO SCHOOL
- 26:** Principal Coffee, 8:30a  
General Membership Mtg,  
8:30a
- 31:** K-5 Stanford Achievement  
Testing

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# Caring Through Sharing 2011



Hello Cascade Ridge Families! It is time again for all CRE families to show our gratitude for all we have by helping those in need. This year Caring Through Sharing (CTS) will support the Issaquah Food Bank, providing gifts and goods for local needy families. We have many changes this year, so please read this flyer in its entirety.

This year, CTS will move out of the classrooms and into our school lobby. We invite families to come to the school during the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:45 PM to select the gift tags they will fulfill. We will also have a display at the Coyote Club when in session.

The **gift tags will be available for selection from Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – just one very short week! The cute gingerbread men you will see were created by our own CRE kids. Each tag will feature two gingerbread men paper-clipped together, the bottom one permanently fastened to the display. You will take the top gingerbread man with you, and fill out the bottom gingerbread man with your information. Every tag **MUST** be signed out, so it is important a parent accompany any young children. We are recommending parents sign out all tags for children between kindergarten and third grade. Fourth and fifth grade children are welcome to sign out their own tags.

**Gift return will happen the following week, from Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.** This year, all gifts must come back **GIFT WRAPPED**. This is a change from previous years. With the gifts being gift wrapped, it is critical that the tag you take home be permanently secured to the gift you are returning. Please make sure you keep your tag in a safe place and that you securely fasten it to the wrapped gift when you return it.

Here is our schedule of events for the next few weeks:

**Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>:** Caring Through Sharing kicks off! Your child will have a presentation in their classroom and bring home this flyer. Tags are available in the lobby for selection.

**Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** You and your child will select a tag. You **MUST sign-out each tag you select.**

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>:** Your child will bring in their gift and drop it off at their classroom. The gifts **MUST be gift wrapped and have the tag attached!**

In the next week, you will hear from your Caring Through Sharing classroom rep. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact them for more information. You can also contact me, Erin Rooney, for help as well. I can be reached at [roon888@msn.com](mailto:roon888@msn.com)

Thank you, in advance, for what we know will be another very successful Caring Through Sharing event.





**Save the Date for the Cascade Ridge Book Fair!  
It will be here just in time for the Holidays!**

**Wednesday, December 7: 1:00pm – 7:00pm**

**Thursday, December 8: 3:00-6:00pm**

**Friday, December 9: 3:00-7:00pm**

Come by and do some holiday shopping or make a teacher smile by donating a book from their classroom "wish list!" This event is open to the public so please invite friends and family to stop by!

*25% of all Book Fair sales go directly to our school!*

Questions? Would you like to volunteer? Contact Joelle Riley at [joellemriley@gmail.com](mailto:joellemriley@gmail.com)  
Hope to see you there!!!!

## **PTSA'S FINE ARTS NIGHT & DINNER: 12/9**

Where can you watch local artists in action, make your own masterpiece at an art station, wander the halls and see your child's artwork on display, take part in our very special Live Community Art Project, and enter to win a year's membership to the Bellevue Art Museum? It's all right here at "A Starry Night at Cascade Ridge," PTSA's Fine Arts Night and Dinner, **Friday, December 9th from 6:00-8:00pm.**



Yoko's Teriyaki is again providing dinner, which will be served in the Coyote Cafe. Each meal includes teriyaki chicken, rice, vegetables, two pot stickers, and a bottle of water. A vegetarian option is also available. ***If you would like dinner, we are taking pre-orders only, which must be placed by Tuesday, December 6th. Click [here](#) and place your order now!***

Come join us, grab a ball of yarn and take part in our very own live art project inspired by Sammamish artist Suzanne Tidwell. Roll up your sleeves and get crafty at one of the art stations, or watch artist Maureen O'Connell Doherty from Black Horse Art Studio in a live demonstration. And of course, just wander the halls and take in all the beautiful artwork created by Cascade Ridge's young and very talented artists!

### **Questions?**

Contact Jackie Mueller  
(jackie.mueller1@comcast.net), Alesia Romero  
(adegwitz@gmail.com) or Suzanne  
Dell'Orfano (dellorfanofamily@msn.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!

# PROGRAMS

## REFLECTIONS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Thank you to all of our student "artists" who participated in this year's PTSA Reflections cultural arts competition. 36 Cascade Ridge students submitted original works for judging, and the talent and creativity of these students was amazing! Many of the Reflections pieces will be on display at our Fine Arts Night on December 9th so be sure to stop by and enjoy them!

### **Congratulations to our 12 finalists whose work will represent Cascade Ridge at the Regional Level:**

- ◇ Literature: William Park, Alexander Park
- ◇ Musical Composition: Chloe Chow
- ◇ Photography: Ann Clicquennoi, Sophie Selbig
- ◇ Visual Arts: Saamiya Alam, Emily Carbon, Philip Huang, Annika Kumar, Megha Pingili, Monsi Pingili, Tanvi Shah

## GEOGRAPHY BEE WINNERS

Almost 70 students participated in this year's Geography Bee and their knowledge of United States and world geography was truly impressive! We will be posting all of the questions used in this year's bee to the PTSA website soon and also plan to start posting bi-weekly Geography challenge worksheets for all interested students! Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming weeks.



### **Congratulations to our 2011 Geography Bee winners:**

- ◇ *KG/1st Grade* – Team India: Ananya Ajila, Jeremy Howard, Himaja Kotti & Ben Olsen
- ◇ *2nd/3rd Grade* – Team Israel: Noah Jucht, Vikranth Mandadi, Connor Morrissey & Rishi Sharma
- ◇ *4th/5th Grade* – Team Senegal: Amandeep Bedi, Rishi Biswas, Ethan Bradley & David Kim
- ◇ *4th/5th INDIVIDUAL Winner:* Hayden Miller



## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE TEAMS!!!

Best of luck to our two Cascade Ridge First Lego League teams as they participate in their "rookie" Regional Qualifying Competition in Bellevue on December 3rd! Led by coaches Stephen Rozmiarek and Diane Radocha, team "Bacteria Busters" and team "The Noble Team" have been busy building, testing and programming two robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® NXT. At the Regional Competition, these robots will perform challenges against other local teams' robots and our teams will perform presentations based upon a chosen research topic.

## DAD'S PLAY DAY

December 2nd

11:00-11:25 (1st/3rd)

11:30-11:55 (K/5th/4th Science Tech)

12:00-12:25 (2nd/4th)



### **2-LITER BOTTLES NEEDED!**

4th Grade needs 2-liter bottles, and lots of them! If you have empty, CLEAN 2-liter bottles that you can donate for our Science program, please send them in to Ms. Montgomery, Mrs. Fritsch, or Mrs. Springborn.



# PARENT EDUCATION

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CLASS	CONTACT
12/1	7:00p-9:00p	Home of Cheri Gorder LaMunyon	Sammamish Plateau Parents Networking Group/ Bill Dean—Creating a Whole & Health Family	Cherry O'Neill <a href="mailto:Dwo-mci@msn.com">Dwo-mci@msn.com</a> or 425-550-3809 cell
12/5	6:30p-7:30p	Grand Ridge Library	<a href="#">Special Education Parent Information Night</a>	
12/12	11:30a-1:30p	Sammamish Library	Sammamish Plateau Parents Networking Group	Cherry O'Neill <a href="mailto:Dwo-mci@msn.com">Dwo-mci@msn.com</a> or 425-550-3809 cell
12/12	6:30p-7:30p	Issaquah Valley Elementary	<a href="#">Special Education Parent Information Night</a>	
12/15	7:00p-9:00p	Home of Cheri Gorder LaMunyon	Sammamish Plateau Parents Networking Group	Cherry O'Neill <a href="mailto:Dwo-mci@msn.com">Dwo-mci@msn.com</a> or 425-550-3809 cell



Our wonderful Cascade Ridge community is extremely generous with volunteer time? This year, we have had hundreds of volunteers involved in the many events and programs sponsored by the PTSA, and all that we do throughout the year would not be possible without this active involvement.

In order to recognize the volunteers who really contribute, the PTSA Council honors outstanding volunteer service for children by awarding the Golden Acorn Award annually. This award is, above all, a PTSA award whose winners volunteer in ways that meet the mission of the PTSA: promoting the health, welfare, safety and education of all children and youth in the home, school, community, and place of worship. Volunteers demonstrate an outstanding personal commitment to improving the lives of children and youth through their service to the school, district, and community.

Cascade Ridge honors our local volunteers through participation in the Golden Acorn program. We will be seeking nominations for this award soon after Winter Break, so be sure to think about who you would like to nominate and keep your eyes open for the announcement. Tina Yerges ([tinayerges@msn.com](mailto:tinayerges@msn.com)) or Jaycee Cooper ([jaycee.cooper@gmail.com](mailto:jaycee.cooper@gmail.com)), our PTSA VPs of Volunteers will be happy to answer your related questions.

## REMINDER....LOST AND FOUND!



Attention all Cascade Ridge parents! Don't forget to periodically check the lost and found at school. There is a lot of really great stuff waiting to be returned to their owners. It is amazing how quickly this area fills up with clothing, lunch boxes, and other items, especially once the weather gets colder and rainier, and we want our kids to have all their own stuff. However, we cannot leave it there forever, and there are other kids who could use the items if they aren't claimed. This year, all items will be donated to a local charity just before each break. The first donation will be made on Friday, December 2nd!!



## All in for Kids Campaign Success!

Thank you PTSA parents! You gave the Issaquah Schools Foundation and our students the best possible holiday gift—a successful *All in for Kids* Annual Fund Campaign. You clicked, mailed and answered our calls to the tune of \$325,000! Because of your generosity, our students will continue to benefit from investments that elevate the BASIC education funded by the state to the COMPREHENSIVE, 21<sup>st</sup> century education they deserve and the global marketplace demands. You have secured support for programs that reach students of all ages and abilities including VOICE Mentoring, Academic Enrichment Grants, Free After-School Homework Labs, PSAT Testing, National Board Certification scholarships, Financial Literacy and so much more. *All in for Kids* donations will also help fund the District's upcoming Elementary Literacy Curriculum adoption—a \$1 million plus purchase that can only be completed with community assistance.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER—Pledges and matching gifts** are included in the *All in for Kids* campaign total. If you pledged and/or indicated an employer match, please follow through. Respond to your pledge remit letter and fill out any required matching gift forms to ensure every one of the \$325,000 anticipated dollars can benefit our students.

### Amazon.com + Holiday Shopping = More Money for Kids

Planning to stop by Amazon.com for your holiday shopping? Please remember to use the ISF website to get there. From now through December, Amazon.com will donate **up to 15%** of your total purchase price to the Foundation. Here's how to do it: Visit [isfdn.org](http://isfdn.org) then click on the Amazon.com box on the top left of the page. You'll be directed to the Amazon site. Once there shop as usual. Amazon will automatically apply the donation to the Foundation. Better yet, add this link [Shop Amazon for ISF](#) to your bookmarks so you'll remember us all year long. Happy Shopping!

**Searching for more great deals?** Check out the Foundation's other business partners for your local shopping. There are great deals on yoga, copy and mail services, massage, storage, real estate and auto purchases. [Click Here for More Info](#)

## THE ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ON THE BALLOT APRIL 17, 2011

Last month we gave you some stats and percentages about the upcoming Issaquah School District construction bond. This month we are giving you some more important numbers:

- About 40%—Given the history of elections in the Issaquah School District, this is the percent of registered voters that are likely to vote in this special election on April 17, 2012. Broken down, that number includes only 5,374 parents.
- 60%+1—the percentage of YES votes needed to pass this bond. Per state law, this is a supermajority.
- About 13, 434—the actual number of YES votes needed to actually pass the bond, based on past voter turnout. This is out of a total of 55,000 registered voters.
- About \$100,000—how much it costs the school district to run an issue on the ballot. The school district must pay King County for this special election, and if the bond does not pass on April 17, 2012 the ISD must spend another \$100,000 to have the issue put on another ballot. These dollars come from the same fund that supports classroom operations.

For more information about the bond package go to:  
[www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond).

To register to vote go to:  
[www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration).



# PTSA MEMBERSHIP



## PTSA BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Are you interested in being on our PTSA Board or do you know someone who would be really great in a Board position next year? Please take a quick look at the Board positions and their related job descriptions on our website [www.cascaderidgeptsa.org](http://www.cascaderidgeptsa.org) (click on PTSA and then Board Members) and let us know who would fit any of these positions. Or, do you know of someone who would generally be a great Board member, but you're not sure in which specific position? We want to hear from you!!

Starting in January, our Nominating Committee will be collecting the names to slate for our 2012-13 PTSA Board and we always want to get a diverse group of members from our broad community on the Board. Please contact Pam Gross at [grosspam@msn.com](mailto:grosspam@msn.com) with any names and ideas that you have!

★ Thank you to **Julietta Bell** for chairing this year's Reflections cultural arts competition and making it such a success!

★ Thank you to **Kasturi Biswas** for planning and managing the three day Geography Bee! The Geography Bee would not have been held this year were it not for all of Kasturi's efforts!

★ Thank you to **Rafael Pogosbekof** for assisting with set up for the Geography Bee and remaining later than anticipated at the school to lock up when the Geography Bee ran late. We appreciate your flexibility!

★ Thank You to **Mary Richardson, Deirdre Sherwood** and **Ganga Pingili** for your willingness to fill in at the last minute for School Picture Retakes!

★ Thank you to **Janet Jacobson** for all your hard work in following up on our matching funds dollars!



★ Thank you to our wonderful Math Club coaches for all their dedication and hard work: **Mari O'Neil, Rajeev Goel, Sheela Pai, Sudeesh Pingili, Susan Sansing,** and **Thomas Alex.**

★ Thank you to **Krystl McCandlish** for all your hard work and attention to detail with the school directories. They are such a wonderful resource for the families in our school community!

★ Thank you **Ingrid Olson** for bringing back Sally Foster Gift Wrap and **Lora Wendl** for all her passive fundraising efforts. Passive Fundraising makes a difference, thanks ladies for your time and energy!

★ Thank you to **Erica Fewel** for her hard work in supporting the ISF "All in For Kids" campaign. As I am sure you have heard, ISF raised over \$325,000 to support our children!!