



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. 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 an open forum. We then started a very busy meeting that included the following:

- ◆ 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 Pamela Franklin as our VP Community Relations for the balance of the year.
- ◆ We elected our Nominating Committee that is responsible for developing a slate of nominees for our 2012 - 2013 PTSA Board. This is a big responsibility and we appreciate the dedication and hard work of Jaycee Cooper, Laura Fortner, Pam Gross, Mary Jo Webb, and Tina Yerges. Thank you!
- ◆ We heard a presentation from Jake Kuper from the Issaquah School District and Alison Meryweather from Volunteers of Issaquah Schools (VIS) regarding the April 17 bond package. At the end of the discussion, we voted for the Cascade Ridge PTSA to both publicly endorse the bond and to give an additional \$5,000 to VIS to support its passage.
- ◆ Finally, we also voted to give \$2,700 to the school to negotiate the purchase of a lifetime subscription package for our new die cut machine.

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, April 19th at 8:30 am, right after student drop-off.

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.

Have a great February!

Deanne King, PTSA President
deanneking@live.com

February 2012

Calendar of Events

February:

- 3:** Dad's Play Day & Popcorn
- 6:** Site Council, 6:00p
- 7:** 5th Grade Camp Parent Meeting, 6:00 - 7:00p
- 10:** Class & Group Picture Day
- 13:** Kindergarten New Parent Info Night, 6:30 - 7:30p
- 16:** 4th Grade Concert, 6:30p
- 20-24:** Second Winter Break—NO SCHOOL

March:

- 2:** Dad's Day on the Playground/Popcorn Friday
- 5:** Site Council, 6:00 pm
- 5-7:** Spelling Bee
- 9-23:** 2nd Grade CogAt Testing
- 29:** Science Fair, 6-8 pm

Inside this Issue

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Golden Acorn | 2 |
| Reflections Winners | 2 |
| Site Council | 3 |
| ISD 2012 Bond | 3 |
| Mark Your Calendars | 4-5 |
| Programs | 6 |
| Kindergarten Roundup | 6 |
| ISF | 7 |
| Parent Education | 7 |
| Join PTSA | 8 |
| Did You Know? | 8 |

Editor: [Stephanie Whitley](#)
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PTSA NEWS



SEEKING OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS FOR CASCADE RIDGE GOLDEN ACORN AWARDS 2012

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 names are 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.

We have many wonderful and passionate people in our community who give of their time and energy selflessly. Please help us select outstanding volunteers from the Cascade Ridge community to receive a Golden Acorn Award this year by filling out the Nomination form. Forms are available at the school by the PTSA box or on our website. The PTSA Golden Acorn Awards Committee will review the nomination forms received and make the final selections.

Recent Winners of the Golden Acorn are:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2007 – 2008: | 2008 – 2009: | 2009 – 2010: | 2010 – 2011: |
| Kirsten Luehmann | Christy McCarthy | Jaycee Cooper | Jaycee Cooper |
| Nga Selbig | Marni Kurtz | Lynette Springborn | Monica Futtly |
| Hina Giese | Laure Runyan | Tina Yerges | Rajeev Goel |
| Toni Osoitio | Julie Anderson | | Chrisann Penz |
| Shawna Dunn | Rachel Schnebele | | Diana Verrue |
| Susan Sansing | | | |

Please feel free to contact Tina Yerges, tinayerges@msn.com or Jaycee Cooper, jaycee.cooper@gmail.com with any questions.

Nomination forms must be turned into PTSA box or emailed to Tina Yerges by **February 17th**.

WASHINGTON STATE PTSA REFLECTIONS FINALISTS

Congratulations to 5th graders Alex Park and Anna Clicquennoi!

Alex's literature entry and Anna's photography entry
have been selected to represent the Issaquah School District
at the WA State Reflections competition.

Way to go Alex and Anna!





CASCADE RIDGE SITE COUNCIL

The Cascade Ridge School Site Council 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 it has this broad, so issues that are important to us all can be addressed. One of our current items of focus for the Site Council during this year is updating "Our Rules" handbook. We are creating a handbook that will answer your questions and provide you valuable information all in one place.

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 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.

- February 6 - Deborah Hawkins (Bond Issues)
- March 5 - "Our Rules" Handbook
- April 2 - "Our Rules" Handbook
- May 7 - Patrick Murphy (Middle School expectations)
- June 4 (tentative)

We invite attendance, especially when we have guest speakers, so if it works in your schedule and you're interested in knowing more, mark your calendar! For more information, see the link on the Cascade Ridge [website](http://www.cascaderidge.issaquah.wednet.edu/council.asp): <http://www.cascaderidge.issaquah.wednet.edu/council.asp>.

PTSA ENDORSES ISD 2012 BOND

Our PTSA voted to endorse the ISD 2012 bond at our general meeting on January 26th. Thanks to all who attended and voted!

Among other things, this bond will rebuild our oldest schools. After more than five decades, Clark Elementary, Issaquah Middle, and Sunny Hills Elementary are at the end of their life spans. Long-term financial forecasts favor rebuilding now—in a period of historic low construction costs—rather than making ongoing major repairs in the years ahead. Additionally, new buildings tend to run about 30% more efficiently, saving utility dollars for classroom operations.

For more information about the bond:

<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond/Default.aspx>

To register to vote:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.aspx>



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DAD'S PLAY DAY

February 3rd

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

11:30-11:55 (K/5th)

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

Questions?
[Lynette Springborn](#)



5th Grade Camp Parent Information Meeting

Tuesday, February 7th from 6-7pm in the Coyote Café

5th Grade Camp at Warm Beach in Stanwood, WA is May 30th – June 1st. The upcoming meeting will include information regarding camp forms, camp cost, along with other general information. The parent lottery to attend camp will take place at this meeting. Dads of 5th grade boys and moms of 5th grade girls are eligible to participate in the lottery. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to participate in the lottery. You do not need to be present at the meeting to be included in the lottery.

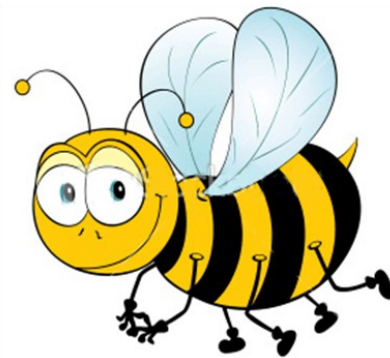
Have You Heard The Buzz?

Cascade Ridge PTSA Spelling Bee

Join us for the 2nd Annual Spelling Bee!

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| KG: | March 5, 6:00p |
| 1 st : | March 6, 6:00p |
| 2 nd : | March 7, 6:30p |
| 3 rd : | March 5, 7:15p |
| 4 th : | March 6, 7:15p |
| 5 th : | March 8, 6:30p |

Pre-registration is required. Find out more and sign up online at cascaderidgeptsa.org.





Final registration deadline is March 4 for KG-3rd graders. All 4th & 5th graders should already be enrolled.



Talent Show Thursday, April 26th & Friday, April 27th



Individual or group performances welcomed

Dates to remember: Registration March 5th-April 6th
Dress Rehearsal April 18th

Questions?

Nga Selbig selbigs@comcast.net or Stephanie Scott stephoscott@gmail.com

PROGRAMS

Calling Science Fair Enthusiasts!



The 2012 Science Fair Committee is looking for volunteers to fill a few open positions! As always, this year's Science Fair promises to be a fantastic way to showcase the science topics chosen by our talented students. If you are interested in contributing to the success of this year's fair by volunteering for one of the positions below, please contact sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org.

- **Communications Lead** - Website updates, Howler, Coyote Connection, School Banners, Calendar, emails, etc.
- **Historian/Publicity Lead** - Capturing all the great moments before, during and after the event. Also drumming up local press to attend!
- **Concessions Lead** - Ordering and selling goodies and trinkets during Science Fair

COMING SOON! – Just A Minute (J.A.M.)

Do you like to tell stories? Can you tell a story on an impromptu topic for ONE MINUTE without hesitation, repetition, or deviation from the topic? Think it's easy? Try it with a few friends!! Your topic is "I was walking down the street when a big, furry ...". Spin up a tale on this topic for ONE MINUTE. If you hesitate, repeat yourself, or deviate from the topic and your friend challenges you, then your friend gets to continue the topic for the remaining time. Watch out for the speaker to trip up, because you can challenge right back and continue speaking.



The goal – the longer you speak, the more points you get. And remember to make it humorous, because if your friends are rolling in laughter, the more they will let you speak.

We are exploring the possibility of offering a new "Just A Minute (J.A.M.)" program for 4th and 5th graders. This program focuses on improving communication skills in a fun, non-threatening environment. [Stay tuned for details about an Informational Meeting on this exciting new offering coming up in the next few weeks!](#)

Mark your calendars and tell your neighbors

... it's time to register for kindergarteners for the 2012-2013 school year.

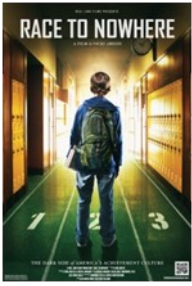


- February 13, 6:30p-7:30p — New Parent Information Night
- March 7, 2:00 pm—6:00 pm — Registration
- March 8, 10:00 am—3:00 pm — Registration
- March 13, 4:00p — Deadline to register for Full Day Kindergarten Lottery
- March 14 — Full Day Kindergarten Lottery Drawing

Things to Remember

- New kindergarten students must turn 5 years old by August 31, 2012.
- Parent identification, immunization records, and proof of birth date (birth certificate or passport) are required for registration along with a utility bill (gas, water, or electric) and ONE of the following:
 - Home purchase papers or property tax statement
 - Lease/Rental agreement (original)
 - Notarized verification of proof of residence

Please visit the [Issaquah School District website](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/roundup.aspx), <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/roundup.aspx>, for information regarding Kindergarten Registration for the 2012-2013 School Year.



Community Conversations

The next entry in the ISF/IEA/PTSA /ISD sponsored **Community Conversations** film series—‘**Race to Nowhere**’—will be shown on **Thursday, March 1, at 7 pm at the Issaquah High School Performing Arts Center**. This critically acclaimed documentary is a must see for parents and students. Filmmaker and mother Vicki Abeles turns her lens on the culture of hollow achievement and pressure to perform that has invaded America’s schools and explores the price our kids pay for this ‘race to nowhere.’ Attendees will have the opportunity to share their reactions to the film during a post-screening panel discussion featuring District parents, students and personnel. Tickets to ‘**Race to Nowhere**’ are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door and can be purchased at <http://rtnissaquahhs.eventbrite.com>. Space is limited. [Click Here](#) to see a theatrical trailer.

Think Spring

Celebrate spring at the **Nourish Every Mind Luncheon!** This year’s event will be held on **Thursday, May 10, 11 am – 1 pm at the Issaquah Community Center**. If you’ve attended before you know the Luncheon is the place to network, catch up with friends and hear first-hand how donor funded ISF programs are changing the lives of Issaquah School District students. If you haven’t attended in the past, add it to your ‘to –do’ list. Save-the-Date cards will be mailed soon. In the meantime, you may call or email Michelle Weldon, mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundtiaon.org to add your name to the invitation list.

Donor Alert

If you made a gift to the Foundation during the 2011 calendar year, you should have received an Annual Report and year-end tax statement. If not, please contact Tina Weber, tweber@issaquahschoolsfoundatio.org.

Alumni Outreach

We’re looking for ISD grads who are passionate about education for our newly formed Alumni Committee. Headed by Issaquah High School grad Jay Kipp (2001), our Alumni Committee seeks to create connections between past and current grads, become a resource for Alumni Reunion planners, and investigate how alumni can best support our current students. Your input will help determine the path the committee takes. Curious? Contact Jay Kipp, jay@jaykipp.com, for more information.

The Fourth Grade teachers and students would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the Talking Rain company for their extremely generous donation of enough 2-liter bottles for us to do our ecocolumns in Science. They donated enough for all 3 of our 4th Grade classes!!!! We are incredibly grateful for their generosity.



PARENT EDUCATION

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | CLASS | CONTACT |
|------|--------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 2/7 | 7:00p-8:30p | Clark Elementary | Issaquah Special Needs Group: Participation in the IEP & Discipline Processes (Angela Dawson) | Becky or Roseann info@issaquahspecialneedsgroup.org |
| 2/23 | 7:00p-9:00p | Home of Cheri Gorder LaMunyon | Sammamish Plateau Parents Networking Group | Cherry O’Neill Dwo-mci@msn.com or 425-550-3809 cell |
| 2/27 | 11:30a-1:30p | Sammamish Library | Sammamish Plateau Parents Networking Group | Cherry O’Neill Dwo-mci@msn.com or 425-550-3809 cell |

HELP CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! IT IS 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 if you go to our website at <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/> and click the "Join!" link at the upper left-hand corner of the main page. If you have questions, please contact Deanne King, PTSA President at deanneking@live.com or Stephanie Scott, PTSA Membership Chair at stephoscott@gmail.com.



.... you can manage your own email preferences through the PTSA website.



We've gotten feedback in the past that different parents in our community have different preferences in terms of how much email they wish to receive from the PTSA. So, in an effort to make everybody happy, we have a few different options for you to choose from. To manage your own email preferences, visit the "my account" section of the website (<https://cascaderidge.ourschoolpages.com/Account/Summary>), and click the **Edit** pencil next to your name. Under "Email preferences", you will see the following choices:

Coyote Howler: This is our monthly newsletter which contains tons of great information about upcoming programs. If you are not receiving the Howler in your Inbox at the beginning of every month, make sure to check this box!

Reminders: We only send out email reminders for those important events and deadlines that we think you all care about. We try not to ever send out more than one of these reminder emails per week, because nobody likes to be spammed. But receiving these emails is a good way to make sure you don't accidentally miss out on anything important.

Legislative news: We haven't ever sent these types of emails out yet, but as the School District Bond vote gets closer, we will be passing along some useful information through email, but only for those that wish to receive it.

Just check the boxes next to the emails you wish to receive, and press **Save!** You can also change your spouse's email preferences if you like! (Hee, hee!)

Note that the school's weekly newsletter, the Coyote Connection, is not included in these settings, because those emails are not sent by the PTSA ... those are sent from the district's ENews system and email list, which are managed separately.