PTSA PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As usual, the school year has flown by and I find myself wondering where the time went. Thankfully, I also find that as I look back on the school year, I am gratified in knowing that our PTSA has filled the year with many positive accomplishments and impacts for our school and children. 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 those who chaired events and who served on the Board.

As we move into the summer (and hopefully some warmer summer-like weather), our new Board will be planning for the upcoming year. We have many more things to accomplish in the coming year and we’ll be ready for another great year. 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. We are especially looking for a reader board coordinator as well as help with coordinating the Walkathon. If you are interested in helping our school in these areas or if you would like to know about other areas where we need specific help, please contact one of our VPs of Volunteers, Jaycee Cooper at jaycee.cooper@gmail.com or Tina Yerges at tinayerges@msn.com.

As our last few days of school fly by, don’t forget the last few events that will fill the days!! This week our 5th graders are enjoying Camp Warm Beach and their last few days before moving on to middle school. We are proud of every 5th grader and we congratulate you on completion of an important milestone. Enjoy your ceremony and celebration on June 18th.

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 AFTER Labor Day on Tuesday, September 4th. Be sure to stay in touch through our August communications and via our website at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. We are planning to continue our tradition of having a quick Popsicle Social immediately following “Meet the Teacher” on Friday, August 31st and we hope to see you there.

Respectfully,
Deanne King, PTSA President
deannwking@live.com

Calendar of Events

June:
1: Dad’s Day/Popcorn Friday
6: Volunteer Luncheon, 11a
6: 1st Grade Concert, 6:30p
18: Fifth Grade Cast Off
19: Last Day of School, Early Dismissal @ 11:00a

August
31: Meet the Teacher, 8:30-9:30a
     Popsicle Social, 9-10a

September
4: First Day, Grades 1-5
5: First Day, AM/Full Day K
6: Welcome Back Coffee, 8:30 a.m.
6: First Day, PM K (if offered)
20: Curriculum Night (K-5)
25: 5th Grade Mtg, 6:15pm
      PTSA Gen Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm

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Editor: Stephanie Whatley
President: Deanne King
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 2012-13. Both our year-to-date budget for this year and our interim budget for next year are available on our website, www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. This budget will enable the incoming Board to start operations as of July 1st 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 funds to the art docent budget for supply restock and to Eager Reader to cover budget overage for additional books purchased for participants.

2012-2013 Back to School Dates

Friday, August 31st
Meet the Teacher, 8:30a-9:30a
Popsicle Social, 9:00a-10:00a

Tuesday, September 4th
First Day for Grades 1-5

Wednesday, September 5th
First Day for AM & Full Day Kindergarten

Thursday, September 6th
Welcome Back Coffee, 8:30 a.m.
First Day for PM Kindergarten, if offered

Thursday, September 20th
Curriculum Night
Grades K-2, LRC –5:30-6:15pm
Grades 3-5 –6:45-7:30pm

Tuesday Sept 25th
5th Grade Meeting, 6:15pm
General Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm (directly following 5th grade meeting)

Thank you to our 2011-2012 PTSA Board Members—Deanne King, Pam Gross, Molly Baker, Stephanie Whatley, Monica Futty, Ingrid Olsen, Nichole Wengert, Ann Brooks, Peggy Rodman, Jaycee Cooper, Tina Yerges, Pamela Franklin, Rachel Schnebele, Chrisann Penz and Susan Sansing, who worked tirelessly and passionately through the whole year to bring amazing programs, events, services and education support to our school and community!
2012 Community Survey Results

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our community PTSA survey. We had 92 responses and truly appreciate the feedback we received as a result of your comments. We used the survey results to prioritize and incorporate 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. 91% responded “yes” to feeling adequately informed. In addition, the most effective forms of communication are the Coyote Howler and class newsletters/email. 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. I invite everyone to continue to spread the word and encourage your friends to utilize the website and to read the weekly Coyote Connection and monthly Coyote Howler emails. And remember, you have many options in how to receive the Coyote Howler in your inbox. Take a moment to log into your account on our website. Go to “my account” and review the many options.

PRIORITIES: In our survey, we asked you to rank the various Curriculum and Community Programs that we have funded through the year. Having this information is key for us in planning for the coming year, and according to your answers, generally, we have been focusing on the areas that are important to you. Based on the priorities that were highlighted in the results, we will continue to fund the Arts & Science Grants, Reading Support, and Staff General Grants, among others. We will also continue to focus on Student and Community programs such as the Science Fair, Eager Reader, and Festival of Cultures. We also heard that our community recognizes the value of supporting and appreciating our staff, and we will continue to encourage and support that.

FUNDRAISING: We asked about participation in our various fundraising activities. This year, 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 socializing needs early in the year. Our survey told us that 97% of the community participated in this event. In addition, 84% 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, and others.

KEEP DOING WHAT WORKS: 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 as well. We heard back from 17 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.

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 (deannewking@live.com) with any feedback or contact any of our current or upcoming Board members.

A special thank you to Natalie Fowler & CRE Staff for your PTSA support this year!
On May 15th, Mrs. Burke’s 1st grade class got a well-deserved break from their regular classroom activities to enjoy Jamba Juice smoothies! As you probably remember, Mrs. Burke’s class was the lucky winner in the Eager Reader drawing for the coveted smoothie party. Imagine their surprise when Brandon, the manager of the East Lake Issaquah Jamba Juice, entered their classroom dressed in a banana suit and sporting mirrored sunglasses to deliver the smoothies. “Mr. Banana Man”, as the students referred to him, passed out strawberry banana smoothies and also gave each student a coupon for another free smoothie to be redeemed at their convenience. He even posed for some pictures with the students! Overall, the class had a great time and we cannot thank Brandon and Jamba Juice for their generosity.

Based on the popularity of this classroom competition, we hope to expand the number of classroom parties for next year’s Eager Reader program!
The 2012-2013 School Supply List is available on our website!

The PTSA can help make gathering the supplies easy with ordering online at: http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/packet/spring.

Your supplies will come packaged in an easy to carry box that will be distributed during Meet the Teacher day on August 31st. Summer and Fall will be here before we know it, so order now and don't worry about school supplies!

Online ordering is available through June 18th.

Programs

(Cascade+Ridge) × (Math+Club)^2 = \frac{Winners}{At} × \sqrt{(State + Competitions)}

Congratulations to all students in the Cascade Ridge Math Club for their huge successes at the statewide math competitions this spring! At the Washington State Math Championships in Blaine, three Cascade Ridge teams participated, and our top team placed 23rd in the entire state out of a total of 112 teams. At the Washington State Math Olympiad in Seattle, we had seven teams competing, and all of them did fantastic. In Session I (long problem), one team earned an “Excellent” ribbon, and three teams earned “Superior” medals. In Session II (short problems), one team earned an “Excellent” ribbon, and a four teams

Mark Your Calendar

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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 in the past 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 Monica Futty, m futty@hotmail.com.
WOW!
That’s our reaction to the success of the 14th Annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon. On May 10, 1,000 guests filled every inch of the Issaquah Community Center and raised a whopping $650,000 in support of our students and schools. This generosity will allow the Foundation to contribute to the District’s new Elementary Literacy Adoption, fully fund our roster of current programs and expand our reach to explore new initiatives—including basic student needs, a pre-K summer school pilot, and increased STEM support for high schools among other great programs. THANK YOU to our Table Captains, sponsors—especially Swedish and Microsoft—guests, speakers and volunteers for making Nourish Every Mind a success.

If you missed the luncheon, please take a look at these fantastic videos shown during the event:

- ipads for Special Needs
- Financial Literacy Curriculum
- Elementary Science in Action

This Year, Donor Dollars …
- Brought cutting edge, hands-on, standards-aligned science instruction to 8,000 elementary students.
- Enabled 210 mentors to help 300 elementary, middle and high school students improve academic achievement, reengage with their school communities and improve their self-esteem.
- Increased the number of students taking the AP Computer Science tests by 7%, through support of the TEALS (Technology Education and Learning in Schools) program.
- Provided safe, supervised locations for nearly 3,000 middle school students to study and receive assistance from classroom teachers at After-School Homework Labs.
- Ensured no high school student missed the opportunity to take the PSAT.
- Taught 3,000 middle school students that ‘money doesn’t grow on trees’ with the Financial Literacy Curriculum
- Enhanced the District’s special needs and highly capable programs.

THANK YOU for all you’ve done. We are proud to live in a community that cares so deeply about education.

Planning to Shop this Summer? Add this link—Shop Amazon for ISF to your bookmarks. Each time you use it to log onto the Amazon site the Foundation will receive a donation of up to 8% of your purchase.

FEELING CREATIVE THIS SUMMER?

Why not get a head start on your Reflections submissions this summer. The theme for 2012-2013 is: ‘The magic of a moment...’
Students may submit entries in literature, music, composition, photography, visual arts, film/video, and choreography/dance.

Watch for more details and entry deadlines this Fall!
Thank you to all of our chairs and volunteers for the 2011-2012 school year! Through your support we are able to make Cascade Ridge a fabulous school. We appreciate you!

Special thanks to:

★ Kim Anderson, all the room coordinators, parents and students for making our teachers feel so appreciated during Staff Appreciation Week last month!

★ The 5th grade committee including Jaycee Cooper and Diana Verrue for the Community Service Project, Mary Jo Webb and Krystl McCandlish for Cast Off, Kim Streamer and Kristi Lincicome for the Party, Helen DiMeco for Communications, Diane Moore and Stephanie Scott for Camp, and Kathy Boll for the slideshow.

★ Thank you to all who served on Site Council this year: Pam Gross, Nga Selbig, Ganga Pingili, Mary Jo Webb, Stephanie Whatley, Marcie Trudeau, Lynette Springborn, Jennifer Sehlin, Zana Moore, Sue Ducharmes, Nona Wright, Mardi St. Laurent and Natalie Fowler.

« Janet Jacobson, Matching Funds Chair, for her persistence and attention to detail. Over $10,000 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!

★ Kellie Berndt, School Supplies Chair, for once again doing an incredible job managing our school supply pre-orders. Thank you so much Kellie for all the effort you continue to put into this project year after year!

★ Big Thanks to Helen DiMeco for her amazing organization skills for keeping all the room coordinators communicating clearly to all the parents in all the Cascade Ridge classrooms. We are all “in-the-know” on a current basis thanks to you!

★ Thanks to Kristin Hunter for being our fearless Library volunteer Coordinator. Ms. Moore has had great and consistent help in the library thanks to all of your work in ensuring the volunteers meet the ongoing needs of the library!

★ Many thanks to Kris Chambers for leading the charge with the Baking Committee. We are very fortunate to have such a large group of volunteers who bake for all the many community and program needs during the year. The baked goods have been amazing and are a big part of our events. Thank you for making it all seem so seamless to have the yummy goodies at our events!

★ Thank you to Monica Futty for securing gloves for the Emergency Supplies. Your negotiating skills are unmatched!!

★ Melanie Carbon for a great yearbook filled with fun memories of our school year!

★ Tina Yerges for keeping us 'in the know' with all your great reader board messages!

★ Stephanie Whatley our fabulous Howler Newsletter Editor!

★ Rajeev Goel, Webmaster extraordinaire!

★ Lynette Springborn for her continued coordination of Dad’s Day on the Playground.

★ Laura Fortner for bringing back Popcorn Fridays!

★ The Safety Patrol for getting us in, out and around school safely each morning and afternoon.