



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. You will be getting information from your classroom representatives for Caring through Sharing soon. 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.

Once we get into the New Year, we will be off and running with many more initiatives and events. Very importantly, at our January 25th General membership meeting we plan to elect our nominating committee who will be in charge of nominating volunteers to serve on the Board next year. We will also be reviewing our budget and making some reallocation recommendations for the balance of the year. Please plan to attend. More information will be provided in the January Howler

We will also have more fun family and education events coming in the second half of the year. We hope to see you there!

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

Calendar of Events

December:

- 5-6:** Conference Day-
NO SCHOOL
- 7:** Dad's Play Day
- 3-7:** Caring Through Sharing
Gift Collection
- 13:** Chorus/Marimba Concert,
6:30 pm
- 19:** 1st Winter Break Starts

January:

- 2:** Back to School
- 4:** Dad's Play Day
- 21:** Martin Luther King Day—
NO SCHOOL
- 24:** Coffee w/ the Principal,
8:30 am

General Membership Mtg,
8:30 am
- 30:** K-5 Stanford Achievement
Testing starts

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Editor: [Nichole Wengert](#)
President: [Deanne King](#)

PROGRAMS



Caring Through Sharing 2012



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. Like last year, this year Caring Thru Sharing (CTS) will support the Issaquah Food Bank, a local organization that provides gifts and goods for families in our area who could use a helping hand this holiday season.

Because the need is great, the Issaquah Food Bank is no longer handing out gift tags, as they did in years past. **Instead, each classroom has been given a theme (such as "hats, mittens and scarves") and students who choose to participate are encouraged to bring in NEW items supporting the theme.** Caring Thru Sharing classroom representatives have already kicked off the program and announced the theme for your student's classroom. All students also have the option to bring in either gift cards (Safeway, Target, Fred Meyer, or QFC, in any dollar amount) or gift wrapping supplies (wrapping paper, tissue, gift tags, tape, ribbon, bows).

Gift collection will happen during the week of Monday, December 3rd – Friday, December 7th. Please bring your items to your classroom and leave them in the designated Caring Thru Sharing boxes as directed by your classroom rep. Please note that this year items should **NOT** be gift wrapped. This is a change from last year.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Caring Through Sharing classroom representative for more information. You may also contact the Caring Through Sharing Chairperson, Chrisann Penz, for help as well: chrisannpenz@yahoo.com.

Thank you, in advance, for your help in making the holidays brighter for so many local families!



REFLECTIONS FINALISTS FOR 2012

Thank you to all of our student "artists" who participated in this year's PTSA Reflections cultural arts competition. 30 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 later this year for you to enjoy! Congratulations to our 9 finalists whose work will represent Cascade Ridge at the Regional Level:

Literature:

1st Place: Anika Ajwani, 4th grade
2nd Place: Kate Selbig, 4th grade

Visual Arts, Primary:

1st Place: Albert Weng, 2nd grade
2nd Place: Elsa Mueller, 2nd grade

Musical Composition:

1st Place: Jasmine Yang, 5th grade

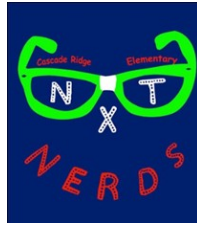
Visual Arts, Intermediate:

1st Place: Olivia Wang, 5th Grade
2nd Place: Philip Huang, 3rd grade

Photography:

1st Place: Vishal Canumalla, 5th grade
2nd Place: Ishan Vig, 4th grade

PROGRAMS CONT.



Best of luck to our two Cascade Ridge First Lego League teams as they participate in the Regional Qualifying Competition in Bellevue on December 9th! At the Regional Competition, the Lego Mindstorm robots that the teams have built will perform challenges against other local teams' robots. The teams will also perform presentations based upon this year's theme, Senior Solutions, aimed at solving a problem faced by seniors as they age. Linda Warner's team, the "Robot Gladiators", came up with a motorized scissor lift to help seniors lift objects and reach high places. Stephen Rozmiarek's team, the "NXT Nerds", came up with an innovation to embed a directional or shotgun mic inside a pair of glasses. The idea is to help seniors who need hearing aids hear better in crowded places, like restaurants. Both teams interviewed seniors and had senior partners help them with their projects.

The teams have worked very hard on both their projects and we wish them the best of luck!

The Robot Gladiators:

Coach: Linda Warner

Assistant Coaches: Tracy Myers, Dan Fey

Team members: Noah Benitez, Charlie Gleeson, Alex Ko, Sean Mirahsani, Sean Steck, Nick Fay, Harry Myers and Tyler Runyan

The NXT Nerds:

Coach: Stephen Rozmiarek

Assistant Coaches: Rity Bhatia & Sangeeta Peri

Team members: Alex Amedson, Devon Chatterjee, Austin Futti, Arnub Peri, Vibhav Peri, Jeffrey Rozmiarek, Sid Sama, Zach Schaffer and Calvin Too

REMINDER.....

LOST AND FOUND!

Our lost and found is overflowing with coats, sweatshirts and many other items. Please stop by and take a look for anything that your child may have lost. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity on Tuesday, December 18th.

DAD'S PLAY DAY

December 7th
10:55-11:20 (3rd/4th)
11:20-11:45 (1st/2nd)
11:45-12:10 (Kindergarten)
**11:50-12:15 (5th/Science
Tech)**

PARENT EDUCATION

Every family has its problems....some are worse than others, and yet no family is completely problem-free. But do you ever wonder if you are the only family dealing with a particularly challenging teen? Do you wonder if the problems you are facing with your child are affecting the rest of your family? Or if problems between you and your spouse are having an impact on your kids? Do you ever feel that yours is the only family going through these difficulties? Would you like to know that there are others who are facing similar issues with whom you could identify? Better yet, would you like to explore solutions and find a way to create a healthy and whole family?

That is exactly what you can do at our upcoming Sammamish Plateau Parent Networking Meeting! **Family Coach and expert facilitator, Bill Dean**, has joined our ranks to tailor each of our meetings to address the needs of those who attend. Rather than tackling one specific topic each month, we have decided to take a different approach this year. Bill's primary agenda is to find out what our individual concerns and fears are within our own families, and then work towards finding answers. If you come to a meeting, your concerns will be addressed! Each meeting will be adapted to take on the particular needs of those attending that particular meeting---in other words, Bill is offering a ***personalized*** workshop for parents every month! It is open to anyone who wants to join us...and it's ***free!!***

And to make our meetings more accessible to everyone, we are offering both a daytime and an evening option each month. We realize that everyone's schedules are busy and that one time doesn't "fit all", so we are trying to accommodate as many people as possible by offering two alternatives each month.

Of course, if you have a specific topic of interest, like those we have addressed in the past (substance use/abuse, mood disorders, self-harm, eating disorders, internet fears, etc.), bring your questions with you---we will make sure your questions are heard and answered to the best of our ability. And if we cannot answer them, we will offer you resources that can point you in the right direction!

That is what our Parent Networking Group is all about---helping parents find and implement solutions and strategies for equipping their kids to become successful and responsible adults in a sometimes scary and challenging world that is vastly different from the one we grew up in... We are about creating whole and healthy kids and families, so please join us!

AND WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE NOW COLLABORATING WITH THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB TEEN CENTER, EX3, AND WE WILL BE HAVING OUR MEETINGS AT THE TEEN CENTER THIS YEAR! WE SEE THIS AS A POSITIVE MOVE FOR BOTH THE PATENT NETWORKING GROUP AND FOR THE TEEN CENTER, BRINGING THE PARENTS AND THE TEENS INTO THE SAME FACILITY!!

**WE WILL BE MEETING AT THE EX3 TEEN CENTER ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012
AT BOTH**

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

AND

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

******For more information contact Cherry O'Neill at 206-550-3809 or at dwo-mci@msn.com.***

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PASSIVE FUNDRAISING



MIXED BAGS ARE BACK!

Back by popular demand the Fall Collection of Mixed Bags will be available for purchase on-line, just in time for some great holiday gifts! Online sales close **Friday, December 7th**. These stylish reusable bags are eco-friendly as well. 40% of the proceeds from each product purchased will go to Cascade Ridge PTSA. The Fall Collection of Mixed Bags can be viewed at:

<http://fundraiser.mixedbagdesigns.com/Fall-Catalog>.

All orders will ship directly to your home and will be delivered by **Friday, December 17th**. Please stop by the school foyer to check out product samples. Questions? Contact Erinn Chapman at erinnmchapman@gmail.com or Helen DiMeco at hdimeco@comcast.net.

How To Order:

1. Go to [Mixed Bag Designs Website](http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com/Retail-Home) @ <http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com/Retail-Home>
2. Browse the products using the top and left menus
3. Pay for your order online with a credit card - your order is shipped directly to you!
4. At checkout on the **Review/Submit Order Page** type **19988** in the "School/Fundraiser ID#" field.



Sally Foster products will be available for purchase through **December 31st, 2012**. Visit www.sallyfoster.com to order gift items such as candles, books and gourmet edibles in addition to their beautiful wrapping paper, ribbon, gift bags and tissue. 40% of your order total will be donated to our school, and shipping is free on orders over \$50! Just click on the button, "Support a fundraiser" and select our school. Questions? Please contact Ingrid Olsen at olsenclan@mac.com.



Please continue to submit your **Box Tops for Education**, **Labels for Education** and **used ink cartridges** to the PTSA table outside of the office. This is an easy way to earn free money for our school! Be sure to keep an eye on the Coyote Connection for upcoming contests.

Also, don't forget your Brown Bear Car Wash tickets. Whenever you'd like to purchase tickets simply email Nathalie Fusaro at nathaliefusaro@hotmail.com.



All in for Kids Campaign Success!

Issaquah Schools Foundation
PTSA Newsletter Blurbs – December
November 26, 2012

All in for Kids Campaign Wrap-Up

Thank You PTSA parents for kicking off the Foundation's holiday season with an amazing gift—a successful **All in for Kids** Annual Fund Campaign. **You clicked, mailed and answered our calls to the tune of \$366,805.** Because of your generosity, our students will continue to benefit from programs and initiatives that transform the basic education funded by the state to the comprehensive, 21st century education they need to succeed. Please join us in applauding our campaign chair, Camille Vaska, for her six-month long leadership of this critical fundraising event. Kudos also to our amazing PTSA/ISF Reps and Presidents who partnered with us every step of the way.

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 \$366,805 anticipated dollars can benefit our students. Thank you!

Donors + After School Program = Successful Students

Music Matters

In response to requests from music and arts teachers, the Foundation is working with District staff to create a **\$100,000 per year Dedicated Fine Arts Fund** for our middle and high schools. Proceeds from the fall **All in for Kids** campaign and this spring's **Nourish Every Mind** Luncheon will underwrite the effort. [Learn More](#)

Amazon.com + Holiday Shopping = More Money for Kids

Planning to stop by amazon.com for your holiday shopping? **Enter through the ISF website and the Foundation will receive up to 8% of your total purchase price.** Here's how to do it.

Visit isfdn.org

Click on the Amazon.com box on the top left of the page.

Once at amazon, 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!

Thank You to Evergreen Ford for naming the Issaquah Schools Foundation its charity of choice for the nationwide **Go Further with Ford** event on November 15. Evergreen Ford contributed \$10 for each person who attended the event, netting the Foundation a \$1,000 donation.

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 (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 2013-14 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 or Deanne King at deanneking@live.com with any names and ideas that you have!

VOLUNTEERS



- ◆ Thank You to **Tamra Kaufman and Stacie Lacina** for chairing this year's Reflections cultural arts competition and making it such a success!
- ◆ Thank You to **Laura Fortner and Ganga Pingili** for helping with School Picture Retakes!
- ◆ A BIG thanks to **Janet Jacobson** for all your hard work in following up on matching funds dollars!
- ◆ Thank you to **Erinn Chapman and Helen DiMeco** for bringing back the popular Mixed Bags fundraiser, and to **Nathalie Fusaro** for all your passive fundraising efforts. These fundraisers make a difference, and your time and energy are very appreciated!

DID YOU KNOW?

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. Angie Lukens (tikicat1@hotmail.com), our PTSA VP of Volunteers will be happy to answer your related questions.