



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you Cascade Ridge community! Our Wild and Wacky Walkathon was a fantastic success, and it couldn't have been so without all the hard work of our AMAZING Committee who brought an entirely new theme and ideas to fruition. Because of the generosity and dedication of our families, students, staff, sponsors, and volunteers, we met our fundraising goal! With the financial success of our primary fundraiser, we can now implement the planned funding for this year. **Congratulations and thank you to everyone who was involved!**

As we hope you have realized, our website is overflowing with information related to all the great things our very involved PTSA community provides to our school. We are often asked what programs our funds support, and the list is large and ever-expanding. Nearly 95% of all our expenses are spent on programs, grants, and awards that directly benefit our children. The main expenses this year's WAT income will allow us to support are as follows:

- Staff Grants - ~\$17K
- K - 5 Drama - ~\$8K
- Art & Science Enrichment Fund - ~\$9K
- Instructional Support - ~\$12K
- Cafeteria and Library Table Grants - ~\$5K
- Art & Science Docent, Science Fair, & Fine Arts Night - ~\$9K
- Other Educational & Safety Support programs including: Eager Reader, Destination Imagination, Reflections, Math Club, Safety Patrol, Spelling & Geography Bees - ~\$6K
- Community Events & Programs including: Caring Through Sharing, Parent Play Day, Great Kids, Birthday Celebrations for the students, Talent Show, Fifth Grade End-of-Year Celebrations and activities, Parent & Child Education, Staff Appreciation - ~\$6K

We should all be proud of everything this great community has accomplished together and take pride in the opportunities it provides for our children.

Happy November!

Ann Brooks, PTSA President
ann_e_brooks@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

November:

- 1:** Parent Play Day
Popcorn Friday
- 7:** Student Council, 7:45 pm
- 8:** Picture Re-take Day
- 11:** Veteran's Day— NO SCHOOL
- 15:** Eager Reader Ends
- 27:** Report Cards
- 28-29:** Thanksgiving Break— NO SCHOOL

December:

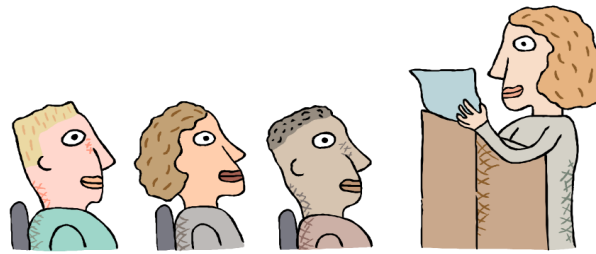
- 4-5:** Conference Day— NO SCHOOL
- 6:** Parent Play Day
Popcorn Friday
- 9:** Site Council, 3:30 pm

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Editor: [Connie Jackson](#)
President: [Ann Brooks](#)

PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP



Thank you to everyone who attended our General Membership meeting in October. We had two fantastic speakers and the parents who were able to attend the meeting came away from the night both impressed and surprised with the information that was delivered. For those unable to attend the meeting, here are some highlights:

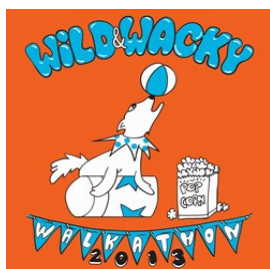
- Our school counselor, Meredith Osborne, presented the "Take a Stand Against Bullying" curriculum that is employed throughout the Issaquah School District. She shared the language that is used when discussing bullying at school and the ways that teachers and school administrators handle situations that arise. She also shared results from student surveys that were conducted at Cascade Ridge last year and gave parents practical advice to prevent and address bullying. Stay tuned for links to Meredith's presentation!
- Mr. Ron Thiele, the Superintendent of the Issaquah School District, explained the three levies coming up for a vote in February. He shared some facts that shocked most of us in attendance including; Washington ranks 43 out of 50 states in per-pupil education funding and Issaquah ranks 292 out of 295 Washington school districts in state per-pupil education funding. Levies or bond measures are the one funding mechanism provided by law that enable the Issaquah School District to overcome these shortfalls and directly invest in the quality of our schools. The main levy, the Renewal Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy, pays for \$0.21 of every classroom dollar, or 18 teachers and 2 staff members at EACH elementary school.
- After Mr. Thiele's presentation, we voted unanimously as a general membership to endorse the three levies on the February 2014 ballot. You will hear a lot more about the levies in the upcoming months, but I encourage everyone to visit <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/levy2014/default.aspx> for more information, including details of each levy.

PTSA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

One of our annual PTSA goals is to continue Cascade Ridge PTSA's record of having at least one PTSA member for every student in the school. This is called "100% Membership" and I am pleased to announce that we have reached this goal already this year. This is quite an accomplishment and it sends the message that the Cascade Ridge community recognizes the collective voice that PTSA provides on behalf of our students; we are serious about representing every student in our school to ensure that each student is given every opportunity available to be successful in their academic careers. Thank you to every PTSA member!

If you haven't had a chance to join the PTSA and be part of a great organization that celebrates and supports every Cascade Ridge student, it's not too late! Sign up at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. You'll be glad you did!

2013 WALKATHON



The Wild and Wacky Walkathon Was a Success! Thank You Cascade Ridge Families

Together we did it! Over \$48,000 was raised by Cascade Ridge families, friends and community! The proceeds from this event will ensure the Cascade Ridge PTSA will continue to offer student programs, grade level and teacher grants, activities and so much more to make it one of the top elementary schools in the state. Thank you for your generosity!

Friday, October 11th marked the end of Spirit Week and time for the Wild and Wacky Walkathon. Coyote spirit was building all week long. Each day the anticipation grew and finally on Friday, Mrs. Fowler gave the final "Let's Go" and the students began walking laps and enjoyed a great afternoon. Our students took the challenge to walk as many laps as possible, very seriously. Each grade had a winning class that received a frozen yogurt reward party, courtesy of YoPlateau. Here are the class winners:



Kindergarten: Osotio (109 laps)
1st grade: Thomas (194 laps)
2nd grade: Fletcher (259 laps)
3rd grade: Shawver (365 laps)
4th grade: Springborn (360 laps)
5th grade: Two classes tied – Page & Perea (229 laps)

At approximately 2:45 the kids headed out in their Wild and Wacky Walkathon T-shirts (student designed!) and began circling the school grounds, eagerly finishing laps and snacking on treats. Our event DJ, parent Jason Warner, set a festive mood with exciting music which continued throughout the event. Several teachers participated in "Wacky Sightings." Oh boy, those teachers were out of whack. For example, Mrs. Schaffer was pushing her pineapple baby in a stroller! Mrs. Carroll was sunbathing on that cool and cloudy day! Soon after the event began, the carnival games inside the school opened, silent auction items went up for bid and airbrush tattoos were a hit! Students were found concentrating and making their best guess at the candy guessing jars, others were dancing, and many enjoyed the magician's tricks. The festivities continued with an inflatable obstacle course which the kids couldn't wait to navigate. Parents, students and staff enjoyed homemade cookies, cupcakes, brownies, caramel apples and beverages at the outdoor concession stand. Cascade Ridge Bakers provide the best for our concession stands time and time again.

The Silent Auction raised about \$7,500! Many of the items and experiences were donated by Cascade Ridge's outstanding teachers, staff, as well as, generous families and community members. The silent auction table was always abuzz with parents pondering their bids. And no Walkathon event would be complete without feeding the hungry participants. The Coyote Café was bustling, serving up pizza and hot dogs.

As the clouds set in on the Coyote Carnival and our big event wound down to a close, we couldn't help but smile at how lucky we are to have such a fantastic community!

2012 WALKATHON CONT.

THANK YOU & A ROUND OF APPLAUSE PLEASE!

The success of the PTSA Walkathon event is made possible, each year, by the countless volunteer hours carried out by a hard working committee. Way to go, team!

THANK YOU to our Walk-A-Thon Planning Committee Extraordinaire:

Melanie Kusmik – Walkathon Chair
Nathalie Fusaro – PTSA VP, Fundraising - Corporate Sponsorship
Leanne Brazier – T-shirts
Katy Chung – Carnival Games
Nathalie Fusaro and Melanie Kusmik – Outdoor Entertainment
Blythe Mercer – Indoor Concessions
Deirdre Sherwood – Outdoor Concessions
Michele Brady – Silent Auction
Angie Warner - Wacky Sightings
Tobi Roni – Walking Course
Mary Jo Webb - Communications
Sharon Hastings – Volunteer Coordinator
Krystl McCandlish – Pledge Management & Wall of Appreciation Coordination
Jaime Foreman & Laurie Jones – Decorations
Rajeev Goel – Webmaster



Specialists who Stepped Up to Get the Party Started

Jason Warner – DJ and Emcee
Lara Buis – Wacky Photo Booth
Erica Dunn – Spirit Week Announcements
Michelle Lyman, Tony Torres and Betsy Matias – Photography

To Principal Fowler: Thank you for your support and enthusiasm throughout the entire process.

To our Teachers and Staff: Thank you for your enthusiasm and involvement from helping with communications, sporting your wacky duds and joining us for the Walkathon festivities. The students really enjoyed their time with all of you!

To the Wild and Wacky Volunteers who were part of the Walk-A-Thon:

This was truly a community event and not possible to execute without the generous gift of your time and effort. We had over *150 volunteers*! The day of the event many of you worked on Set Up, Clean Up, First Aid, Cheer/Goodie Stations, Lap Stampers, Kitchen, Concessions, Photographers, Carnival Game Workers, Student Volunteers, Walkathon Reps, donations of canopies and tables, and helpers with everything in between. **Wow, thank you!**

Thank you to our Community Supporters:

Tingey Orthodontics – Fun 4 Kids – Lake Sammamish Family Dentistry – Yo Plateau – Springfree Trampoline
Brain Centers NW – Disney – AquaQuip – Learning Rx – Pacific Landscape Management – Benchmark Motoring
Five Guys – Sammamish Little League – Mathnasium – Henry & Mei – Lil' Kickers – The Union Hill Ranch
Aster Montessori School – Vakker Portraits – Cathy Santiago – Boehm's Candies – Washington Awards
Karate West—Banic Chiropractic – Techventure Kids – Ghiradeli – Usborne Books – Issaquah Village Theater
Columbia Athletic Club Pine Lake – Mountain Basset Baking – Dfine Fitness
And many more who donated to our Silent Auction.

Thank You Cascade Ridge Donor Families!

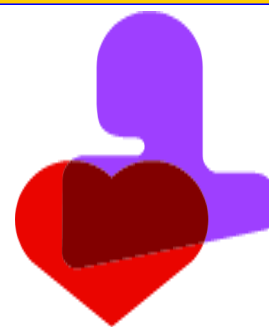
PROGRAMS

Caring Coyotes

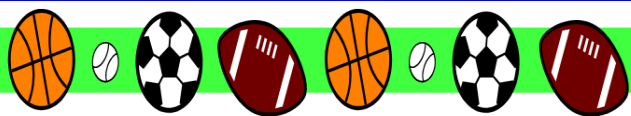
Caring Coyotes is a year-long program designed to reinforce the importance of community involvement and the spirit giving. The club meets after school to perform various community service projects. Students decide what local community initiatives to support – usually 3-5 outreach events per year.

Our Caring Coyotes will be meeting on the following Tuesdays in Room 261 from 3:00 – 3:30. Dates for meetings in 2014 will be available in December.

November 5—November 19—December 3—December 17



SAVE THE DATE



New Name - Same FUN Parent Play Day

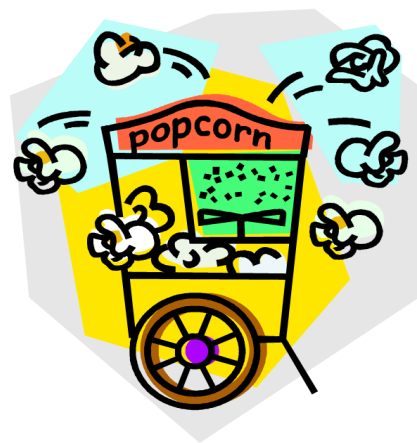
Join your student(s) on the playground throughout the school year for Parent Play Day (previously Dads Play Day)! Dads, Moms and other special guests are invited to join us for recess on the first Friday of each month. Visitors must first sign in at the table in the front lobby to get a visitor's badge prior to joining your students outside to PLAY!

Recess times as follows:

First & Second Grade 10:55-11:20
Third & Fourth Grade 11:20-11:45
Kindergarten Recess 11:45-12:10
Fifth Grade & Science Tech. 11:50-12:15

Future play days are:

November 1 / December 6 / January 10 /
February 7 / March 7 / April 4 / May 2 / June 6



POPCORN FRIDAY

First Friday of every month
2nd Recess

Free hot buttered popcorn!

VOLUNTEERS

School Volunteers – Please Help Us!

All volunteers at Cascade Ridge must complete the Washington State Patrol Forms each year. This includes volunteers in the classroom, at PTSA events, parents who attend Parent Play Day and anyone who is not just “visiting” the school (i.e. attending a one-time assembly, etc.). There are five forms that are quick and easy to complete. The forms can be downloaded from the Cascade Ridge Elementary School website at: <http://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/cascade/parents/m/cascade-parent-forms/141512.aspx> and then returned to the office when complete. If you are not sure whether or not you have already completed the forms for the 2013-14 school year, please call the office and we would be happy to let you know. Student safety is a top priority at the school and we do not want to have to turn away parent volunteers because the forms have not been completed. Thank you very much!

Library Volunteers Needed

The Cascade Ridge Library owes a debt of gratitude to the volunteers who have come forth in recent years to help provide their volunteer services. We have seen clearly how volunteer support is essential to sustain our operational effectiveness.

We invite you to make a difference by sharing your skills and experiences!

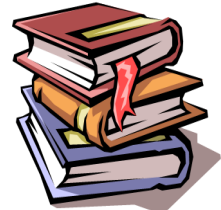
We can work with your schedule to find a day and time that works best, but currently our greatest need is on Thursdays.

Training is provided.

Please sign up via:

<https://cascaderidge.ourschoolpages.com/Packet/Volunteer/VolunteeringPacketPage/1>

Or contact Kris Hunter at ckhunter7@comcast.net.



PTSA Program Volunteers for the Year

Thank you in advance to those that have signed up to volunteer for our PTSA programs this 2013-2014 school year. We sincerely appreciate all your time and efforts. These important programs could not be conducted without you! It's not too late to sign up! Join other parents eager to help make Cascade Ridge an even better school for our kids.

Go to: <https://cascaderidge.ourschoolpages.com/Packet/Volunteer/VolunteeringPacketPage/1>

The PTSA would also like to highlight a few key chair positions that are currently in need of chair people:

Spelling Bee Co-Chair

Talent Show Co-Chair

Staff Appreciation Shadow (lead for next year)

If you have any questions, please contact Erinn Chapman at erinnmchapman@gmail.com.



PTSA Thank You's

Thank you to our first Popcorn Friday Volunteers of the year -- **Amy Simpson, Catherine Cline, Diane Pattillo, Michelle Lyman, Sangetta Peri and Shannon Romanski.**

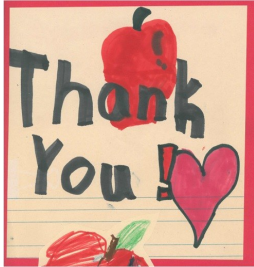
Our picture day volunteers were paid in S-M-I-L-E-S! Thank you **Brooke Daggett, Erinn Chapman, Karine Huet Frachon, Kathy Boll, Katy Chung, Kelly Huber, Nathalie Fusaro, Sangeeta Peri and Stefanie Magnuson!**

Thank you to **Nga Selbig** for coordinating the Math Club and getting the program off to a fantastic start. We have a record 72 students participating this year in four separate classes!

A special thank you to **Juli Kubicki** for hosting a great Coffee and Cake Social and thanks to all those who attended. It was fun meeting many new faces to the Cascade Ridge community.

COMMUNITY

November 2013



With Gratitude

November is the time to reflect and give thanks. With such a wonderful community, our blessings are bountiful and our 'thank you's' plentiful.

Parents -- For your continued support of our students. When a need is expressed, you respond with the resources to fill it.

PTSA – Our valued partner with whom we share ideas and talents. A special shout out to our PTSA/ISF reps who share the Foundation message with their school community.

Volunteers – Did you know the community contributed over 35,000 volunteer hours to the Foundation last year? Our sincere appreciation to all who sealed, stamped, entered data, manned a booth, mentored, served on a committee or lent a hand in any way.

Sponsors – It really does take a village to support our children. We applaud the businesses, large and small, who give generously of their funding and expertise to elevate education for our students. Please view our [sponsor list](#) and remember to shop local when you can.

The District – For sheltering us (*visit us at our portable at ISF anytime*), collaborating with us and allowing us to help fulfill their vision.

Your Children – They're our inspiration and we're grateful for the opportunity to serve them.

Thank you everyone. You are the Foundation!

Your Ideas Wanted

Online applications for **Academic Enrichment Grants** go live on **Monday, November 4th**. Teachers, staff and **parents may apply** for projects that reflect creativity and innovation in education and/or support school needs not currently covered by building or district budgets. Grants are awarded in two categories: **Classroom Enrichment** for projects that cost less than \$1,000 and **Kateri Brow Big Idea/Biggest Need** for projects in the \$1,000 - \$10,000 range. Grants are presented 'blind'—school and teacher names excluded—to the review committee and are judged on innovation, merit and need.

If you have a great idea, talk to your teacher and/or principal and plan to attend our Grant Workshop on Tuesday, November 5th at the District Administration Building. Who knows, the Balloon Brigade may stop by your child's classroom next March. For more information please contact Michelle Weldon, mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org.

Donor Dollars at Work

We would like to share the letter below from Susan Mundell, Principal at Apollo Elementary. It's a testament to the power of your donation.

*"What a huge support you are to Apollo! I truly appreciate your work to help our students succeed. I'd like to say thank you for funding Apollo's Blast Off to Summer Reading program for the past two years. This funding has allowed us to provide books for our students to read over the summer. **As a result, the achievement gap between our low-income students and our general population has decreased.** I'm very proud that our students are not sliding back in their skills over the summer but are continuing to get better at reading. Your funding has helped us achieve this goal!"*

COMMUNITY CONT.

**November 2013
Cont.**



Youth Explosion

Congratulations to the newest members of the Issaquah Schools Foundation Board – our five high school Trustees. Our new Trustees –all seniors-- will represent the student voice, help determine policies and procedures raise awareness of the Foundation at their schools and serve as an alumni connection after graduation. We're excited to welcome them onboard.

*Pictured left to right: **Eric Hall**, Issaquah High School; **Jasmine Vu**, Issaquah High School; **Madeline Houlihan**, Liberty High School; **Helen Wang**, Skyline High School. Not pictured: Guari Sharma, Skyline.*

Call for College Bound Mentors

Over 300 Issaquah students are eligible for the State's College Bound Scholarship for low income students. **We're seeking adults to serve as mentors, advisors and friends to students admitted to the program. College Bound Mentors make a four year commitment to follow their mentee through high school.** The time commitment is significant, but the payoff is priceless. For more information please contact Susan Gierke, VOICE Mentor Co-Director, 425-837-6801.

Seeking Success Stories

If your child has an inspiring story about their experience with a Foundation funded program, let us know. **His or her photo and story could be featured in our upcoming Annual Report.** Contact Lynn Juniell, ljuniell@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org for more information.

Volunteers for Issaquah Schools Campaign Update Campaign Kickoff November 4th



Our kickoff will be held at 7:00 pm at the King County Library Center, 960 Newport Way NW, Issaquah. The meeting will conclude no later than 8:30 pm. System Service

Come to this event to hear:

- A brief overview of what is in the (3) levies and how they impact our students
- The Superintendent explain why the levies are important
- The plans for voter outreach - messages, target audiences, mailings, Facebook, etc.
- How you can help get the word out in large or small ways

There will also be time during the meeting for your questions, comments, or suggestions to the campaign committee regarding the levies.