



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome back to all of our students and families! I hope the Winter break was full of family fun and plenty of rest as the rest of the year will be busy and full of activities.

Kudos to our wonderful chairpersons and volunteers who so passionately provided time and energy to our events and activities in December. Our *Caring Through Sharing* program was another amazing success that provided us all with the opportunity to give from our hearts to those who so desperately need assistance and compassion. Thank you to every individual and every family who eagerly opened your hearts and added to your shopping list to make the season brighter to the many families represented in our program. We all can be proud of our participation in such a worthy cause.

Looking ahead to the second part of the school year we have numerous educational, exciting, and interesting activities planned. Based on overwhelming feedback from the community last year, we as a PTSA, have done our best to space out the events so that families can participate in all without feeling overwhelmed (as we all did in March of last year!). Our 4th annual Spelling Bee will be held in early February coupled with the ever popular Scholastic Book Fair. March brings with it the annual Science Fair. In April, we will hold the Talent Show and Fine Arts Night. Fine Arts Night is being revamped this year and will include a silent auction and other changes – you will not want to miss what is sure to be a great event! Please look for more detailed information about all of these events in the Howler, in upcoming Coyote Connections, from your child's teacher, and on our website.

We would love to have a big crowd on **Friday morning, January 24th at 8:30am** for the first Coffee with the Principal/ General Membership meeting of 2014. We will be voting for our Nominating Committee and reviewing our budget, as well as voting on some budget changes. You won't want to miss this meeting!

Here's to a terrific 2014!
Ann Brooks, PTSA President
ann_e_brooks@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

January:

- 10:** Parent Play Day & Popcorn
- 20:** Martin Luther King Day—NO SCHOOL
- 24:** Principal Coffee & PTSA General Membership Mtg, 8:30am, Coyote Café
- 28:** 5th Grade Camp, Information Mtg, 6:00pm

February:

- 7:** Parent Play Day & Popcorn
- 3-5:** Book Fair
- 4-6:** Spelling Bee
- 10:** Site Council, 6:00pm
- 17-21:** Second Winter Break—NO SCHOOL

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President: [Ann Brooks](#)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP



Coffee with the Principal/ PTSA General Membership Meeting



Friday, January 24th · 8:30 am
Coyote Café

Mark your calendars now for the first Coffee with the Principal / GM meeting of 2014. Besides hearing from Principal Fowler about relevant school news, we will be reviewing our budget, electing our Nominating Committee for developing the slate of 2014-15 officers and conducting other PTSA business. We hope to see you there!

Nominating Committee 2014-2015



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 if you or someone you know would be a great fit for any of these positions.

Our Nominating Committee is still gathering names of candidates to slate for our 2014-2015 PTSA Board. As always, we are looking for a diverse group of members from our community to serve on the Board. Please contact Helen DiMeco at hdimeco@comcast.net or Ann Brooks at ann_e_brooks@yahoo.com with any names and ideas you have!

Site Council Wants to Hear from *YOU*

The Cascade Ridge Site council is always looking for feedback from the community. If you have a concern, question or issue you would like to bring to Site Council's attention, please e-mail sitecouncil@cascaderidgeptsa.org. Discussion and/or suggestions for ways the PTSA could provide support through funding are always welcomed.



We want to hear
from you!

SAVE THE DATE



Parent Play Day

Join your student(s) on the playground throughout the school year for Parent 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:

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!

Parent Education Opportunity on Bullying

Save the Date!



On **Monday, February 10th at 3:30pm** in the CRE library, Site Council will welcome Chris Burton, Director of Labor Relations for Issaquah School District, who will speak about how the district educates staff, students and the parent community on bullying. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Chris speak on this very important topic. This education opportunity is open to all Cascade Ridge parents, however, childcare will not be provided. Please make other arrangements for your kiddos after school that day.

PROGRAMS

Have You Heard The Buzz?

Cascade Ridge PTSA Spelling Bee

Join us for the 4th Annual Spelling Bee!

KG:	Tuesday, February 4,	5:30p
3 rd :	Tuesday, February 4,	7:00p
1 st :	Wednesday, February 5,	5:30p
4 th :	Wednesday, February 5,	7:00p
2 nd :	Thursday, February 6,	5:30p
5 th :	Thursday, February 6,	7:00p

*Registration is required. Find out more and sign up
online at cascaderidgeptsa.org.*



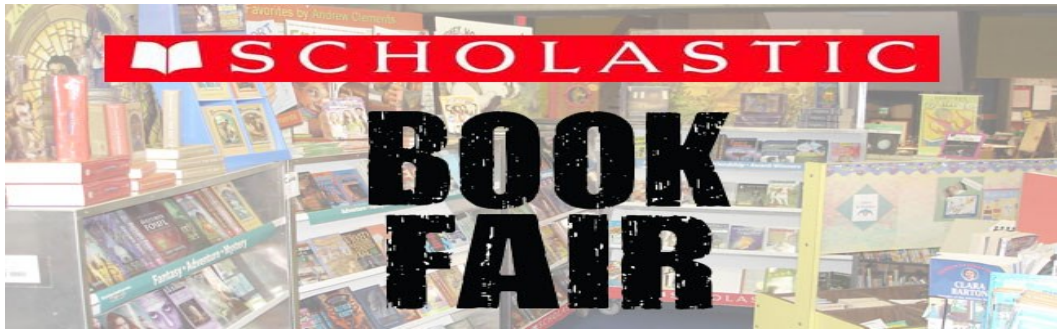
Registration is now open for students to join the spelling fun at the 4th Annual Cascade Ridge Spelling Bee. All grades are welcome to join in this friendly competition of oral spelling ability! Participants will take the stage one at a time and will be asked to spell a word out loud. Students will repeat the word, spell it and repeat the word again. Each correctly spelled word earns a trip to the next round. The bee ends when there is just one speller standing! The bee will take place over three evenings to accommodate each grade (please see the above schedule). Any student may participate but must [pre-register online here](#) by **January 31, 2014**.

This year we are pleased to announce the school's enrollment with Scripps National Spelling Bee. Our word study lists and spelling bee word lists will now benefit from many of the new resources.

Complete [rules](#) are available online, as well as [tips](#) and [practice word lists](#). Questions? Feedback? Contact spellingbee@cascaderidgeptsa.org.

We look forward to 'bee-ing' you there!!

FUNDRAISING



The fundraising team is excited to, once again, bring you the amazing Scholastics book fair this coming February. The book fair will run simultaneously with our Spelling Bee event. Look for more info and specific dates and times in upcoming Coyote Connection News.

PTSA's Fine Arts Night & Silent Auction

Coming this spring is a brand new addition to the annual art night, a silent auction which will feature collaborative works from our students. Look for more details on this great event in the coming months.



As the days begin to get sunnier don't forget to get your Brown Bear car wash tickets from the fundraising team. You can purchase tickets by emailing Nathalie Fusaro nathaliefusaro@hotmail.com or Joelle Riley joellemriley@gmail.com with the number of tickets you would like, your student's name and student's teacher. Then simply deposit a check in the black PTSA box located in the CRE lobby and we will send your tickets home with your student.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Seeking Outstanding Volunteers - It's Golden Acorn Time Again!

The Golden Acorn is a PTSA award given annually 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 acknowledge and appreciate someone who puts a lot of heart and energy into our school!

Recipients of the Golden Acorn Award are given a gold pin in the shape of an acorn and a special certificate of recognition. In addition, their name is added to the Golden Acorn plaque displayed in the front hall of our school. Also, a contribution of \$65.00 in the person's name will be donated 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 will also be honored at a special awards ceremony early this spring.

Please help us select outstanding volunteers from the Cascade Ridge community to receive a Golden Acorn Award. [Click here](#) for a nomination form. The PTSA Golden Acorn Awards Committee will review the nomination forms received and make the final selections. Questions? Please contact Erinn Chapman at erinnmchapman@gmail.com.

Nominations are due in the PTSA box by February 14th. Thank you!

Caring Through Sharing



A HUGE thank you to all involved in the Caring Through Sharing program this year - with Chrisann Penz serving as the Chairperson for this important program for our community. It was a huge success with so many wonderful gifts donated to the Issaquah Food Bank. The staff there are so appreciative of all the donations. Thank you to the classroom reps, the delivery drivers and those that helped out on-site to organize the gifts. Thank you all for being part of this special program:

Amy Simpson
Ann Brooks
Blythe Mercer
Carol Schweitzer
Chandra Polisetti
Diane Lemon
Elana Clayton
Erinn Chapman
Jaime Forman
Jinhee Kuhl

Kelly Huber
Kerri Rands
Kim McNesby
Kim Streamer
Krystl McCandlish
Laurie Jones
Liz Damm
Marsha McCabe
Michelle Lyman
Shannon Romanski

ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



Happy New Year! You made 2013 one for the record books. With your support we raised more than \$1.5 million. These contributions made it possible to add new initiatives—including Start Strong and the Port Blakely Environmental Stewardship Program—expand the VOICE Mentor Program, Pre-K/Kindergarten Summer School and Basic Student Needs fund and elevate education for every child, at every school. Thank you for your commitment to our students and schools. Best wishes for a terrific 2014.

Back and Bigger than Ever

Nourish Every Mind – our largest fundraising event of the year—is growing! This spring you can attend the traditional **Luncheon** on **May 8** at the Issaquah Community Center or our new **Breakfast** on Wednesday, **May 14** at Eastridge Church. Both will be filled with ***Nourish Every Mind*** hallmarks ... touching stories, memorable moments, socializing and lots of fun. **Save the date and spread the word!**

Help Wanted

Nourish Every Mind runs on volunteer power. If you're interested in joining our team, please contact Lynn Juniel, ljuniel@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org or 425.391.8557.

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Did you know that you can change **one** life by giving **one** hour of your time, **once** a week to a student in need? That's all it takes to become a **Volunteers Of Issaquah Changing Education (VOICE)** Mentor. Whatever your talent—reading, math, sciences, working with ELL students or being a supportive friend and confidant —there's a student who will benefit from your contribution. In honor of National Mentoring Month, please take 30 seconds to view the video below and consider becoming a VOICE Mentor. You'll transform two lives ... a student's and your own. **VOICE Mentor Program**, VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu or <http://voicementorprogram.org/>.



All in for Kids Pledge Reminder

If you made a pledge and/or indicated an employer match during the **All in for Kids** Annual Fund Campaign, please follow through today. Respond to your pledge remit letter and fill out any required matching gift forms. You'll help keep our overhead costs low. Thank you!

COMMUNITY

January Advocacy News

Focus Day



FOCUS DAY IS COMING!! Are you interested in meeting legislators and learning the latest news about the ongoing legislative session, especially as it pertains to education? This fun event will take place on Tuesday, February 4th. There will be transportation via bus to take people to Olympia and back, with an anticipated return in time to meet your kiddies at their bus stop. If you are interested in attending this event or would like additional information, please contact Joshua Lay at jlay0304@gmail.com or Ann Brooks at ann_e_brooks@yahoo.com.

Advocacy Training

Advocacy Training will be held on Saturday, January 25th. This is a great event sponsored by the League of Education Voters. This year, the training will take place at the nearby Puget Sound Educational Service District, 800 Oakesdale Ave. SW, Renton, WA 98057. This training goes in depth to prepare/educate you about educational issues that will be prominent in the upcoming legislative session. Several key legislators are always on hand to help lead sessions and talk to participants about education policy. It will also showcases innovative programs in school districts across the state (about things like discipline, parent engagement, teacher evaluations, etc.) and gives great ideas for you to take home to your local school. The event will take place from 9am-4pm and carpools can be arranged for those who are interested.

To sign up, go to: http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5892/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=422396