



Coyote Howler

PTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to those of you who made time in your busy schedule to attend our General Membership meeting on January 24th directly following the coffee with the Principal. Special thanks to our bakers for the delicious treats – you outdid yourselves! Since the attendance was quite low, our assumption is that most of the community supports the goals and direction of this year's Executive Board. We sincerely appreciate the feedback from those who did attend and, for those who could not, here are the meeting highlights:

- We elected Kelly Huber, Stefanie Magnuson, Nichole Wengert, Michelle Lyman, Diana Pugh and Katy Chung to the Nominating Committee. This group will work over the next few months to put together the slate of officers for the 2014-15 school year. This is a big responsibility and we thank you all for your dedication and hard work.
- We heard committee reports from the Executive Board, including new Spring program offerings, upcoming PTSA events, upcoming Parent Ed opportunities, volunteer needs and a parking lot safety update.
- Juli Kubicki, our Treasurer, presented the 2013-14 YTD financial report and we shared changes that have been made to the budget since our last meeting. We also voted on and approved a \$2,500 grant to Cascade Ridge to purchase K-5 "mentor texts" to support the school's new writing curriculum.
- We listened to and then discussed a proposal to move some currently unused playground equipment and make some changes to existing structures. Implementation of this proposal may draw ~20K or more from our reserve funds so we are in the process of further evaluation.

Our next GM meeting is planned for April and we continue to look for ways to improve attendance at our meetings. If you have suggestions, we would love to hear from you!

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 year on behalf of all of our students. As you read on in the Howler, we hope that you will find upcoming events and programs that you and your children are interested in participating in. Please continue to provide input and ideas so that we focus on things that our community prioritizes.

Have a great February!

Ann Brooks, PTSA President
ann_e_brooks@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

February:

- 7:** Parent Play Day & Popcorn
- 3-5:** Book Fair
- 4-6:** Spelling Bee
- 10:** Site Council, 3:30p
Kindergarten New Parent Orientation, 6:00 - 7:00p
- 13:** Coffee and Cake Social 9:00a
- 17-21:** Second Winter Break— NO SCHOOL
- 27:** "Race to Nowhere" 6:00p

March:

- 7:** Parent Play Day & Popcorn
- 5:** Kindergarten Registration 2014, 1:30p
- 14:** Report Cards Issued
- 27:** Science Fair, 6:00p

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Editor: Connie Jackson
President: Ann Brooks

SAVE THE DATE

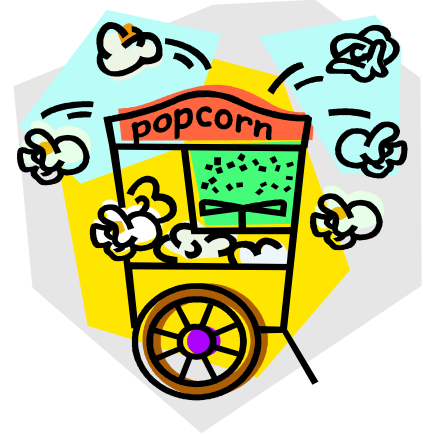


Parent Play Day

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

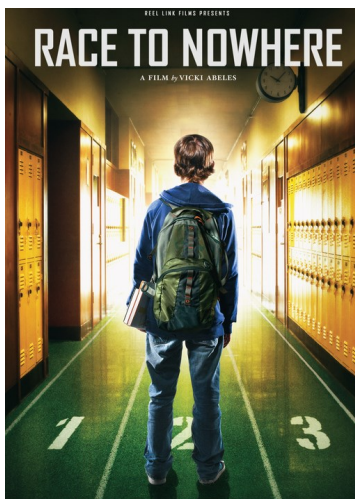
Future play days are:
February 7 / March 7 / April 4 / May 2 / June 6



POPCORN FRIDAY

First Friday of every month
2nd Recess

Free hot buttered popcorn!



RACE TO NOWHERE

Mark your calendars. "[Race to Nowhere](#)" is going to be shown at Cascade Ridge in February! Please join us for this award-winning documentary about the high-stakes, high-pressure environment of modern kids' lives, showing at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 27th in the Cascade Ridge Café.

If you have any questions contact stef.mag@hotmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE CONT.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2014-2015 School Year



Do you have a student or know of a neighbor who will be turning 5 years old by August 31st 2014? Please mark your calendars and tell your neighbors that it will soon be time to register for Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year!

- February 10th – 6:00pm-7:00pm – New Kindergarten *Parent only* Orientation
- February 11th – Registration Packets will be available in the office
- March 5th – Registration from 1:30pm-6:00pm
- March 11th – To be included in FDK Lottery all registration forms due by 4:00pm
- March 12th – FDK Lottery at 1:00pm in the Library

Please visit our district website for registration information:

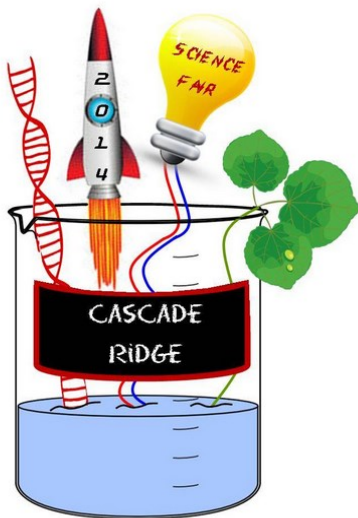
<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/roundup.aspx>



Come one, come all to our second Coffee and Cake Social of the year!

Hosted by the **PTSA Hospitality Committee**, this is a “welcome” event you won’t want to miss! Meet new members of our Cascade Ridge/Trossachs community or reconnect with familiar faces. If you are new to our community, or if you have been around awhile but would like to join us for a warm greeting, friendly chat, and some coffee and cake, please mark your calendar for **Thursday, February 13, 9am – 11am** at the home of Angie Lukens. Please RSVP to Angie at tikicat@comcast.net. We can’t wait to see you and help you connect in our community!

PROGRAMS



Science Fair

Thursday, March 27th
6:00 – 8:00 PM

The Cascade Ridge 2014 Science Fair is right around the corner! There will be hundreds of great student experiments and many hands-on activities from doctors to rockets and reptiles to DNA. We will also have hot slices of pizza to purchase, lots of sweet treats, scientific snacks and drinks so come along to this great Cascade Ridge tradition and make it a great night with the family!

For grades K-4, the Registration deadline is March 14th so be sure to go online at cascaderidgepts.org to register, order a colorful project display board and find all kinds of information to help you with your experiments!

We still need volunteers to pull off this great event! If you are able to volunteer for one of the many areas of need (set-up, judging, concessions, assistance with various activities at the Fair, tear-down) please sign-up when registering your student for the Science Fair or contact sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org.

Lastly, we would love to have pictures of your student in action to be displayed during the Science Fair. Please submit pictures of your student working on their Science Fair project to sciencefair@cascaderidgepts.org by March 14th.

2014 Science Fair – Call for Exhibitors!

Cascade Ridge is gearing up for this year's Science Fair on March 27th from 6-8pm. In addition to the 200+ student project exhibits, we are hoping to bring in some new exhibits from our community! Do you have a scientific skill that you could share with the kids in an interactive exhibit? Or a cool gizmo that the kids could observe or explore? If so, please email ScienceFair@cascaderidgepts.org. We would love to set you up with your own exhibitors table. We need your help! Thank you!

FUNDRAISING



The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Cascade Ridge February 3rd through 5th. The theme this year - **Book Fair Fiesta: Let's Go Read!** – surrounds students in the celebration of reading with hundreds of fun, engaging, affordable books for them to discover. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books motivates them to read more. And, all purchases benefit our school.

Monday, February 3rd from 3:00-7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 4th from 3:00-7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 5th from 1:00-7:00 PM

We need your help to make it happen! Please share your talents and join us for a shift...or two. Volunteer opportunities include: set-up/ decorations, cashier, and clean-up. Check out Volunteer Spot to sign up at <http://vols.pt/5At1uN>. Thank you!

Questions? Contact Book Fair Chair Michele Brady at brady1093@yahoo.com.



FUNDRAISING CONT.



It's *snowing* Box Tops at Cascade Ridge!

Use this link to download our *Snow Days* Box Tops sheet: <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Doc/PassiveFundraising/SnowDaysBoxTops.pdf>

Tape or glue (no staples) Box Tops onto each rectangle. Make sure your child's name, grade and teacher are on it to earn credit for their class and receive a prize!

Due date to classroom: Friday, February 14th!

Join the fun as we collect a *BLIZZARD* of Box Tops!



Mark Your Calendars for "A Night With the Stars," Cascade Ridge's First Fine Arts Night *and* Auction!



Please join us April 17th at 6 P.M., when our own Cascade Ridge students star alongside the masters in the first-ever Fine Arts Night and Silent Auction: "A Night With the Stars!"

As in years past, you can see your child's art on display, meet local artists, and create some works of your own. New happenings this year include dinner that will take you to an Italian bistro right in our very own Cafe, and we are also very excited to host our first-ever art auction! With guidance from their art docents, each classroom is creating a masterpiece for this event that will be auctioned off to the highest bidder that evening. Proceeds will benefit our PTSA's Art Docent program, which helps keep our kids' creative juices flowing!

More details are coming soon. If interested in volunteering, please contact Jackie Mueller jackie.mueller1@comcast.net or Natalie Fusaro nathaliefusaro@hotmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of the arts at Cascade Ridge and we look forward to seeing you April 17th!

PARENT EDUCATION

Parent Education Opportunity on Bullying



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.

Growing Good Eaters: Providing Healthy Meals and Snacks

Date:

Tuesday February 4, 2014
7:00-8:30 pm

Location:

Clark Elementary School
Cooking/Art room
500 2nd Avenue SE
Issaquah 98027

Free

Clark Elementary PTA and Issaquah Middle PTSA present Growing Good Eaters: Providing Healthy Meals and Snacks

This class explores the importance of introducing children to real, whole-foods and guides parents through the basic nutrition that growing kids need.

- Learn about specific nutrients and where to find them.
- Explore "healthy" fast food options for meals and snacks.
- Hear about what to do with picky eaters.
- Get practical tips for shopping and meal preparation.
- See a food demonstration in preparing simple, kid-friendly whole foods.

Adriane Angarano, MS, CN, is a practicing certified nutritionist who specializes in care for the whole family, infant to adult. She currently sees patients at two locations: Green Lake Nutrition, a private, nutrition counseling-focused practice, and Vital Kids Medicine, a naturopathic pediatric office specializing in Autism spectrum disorders.



Questions? Contact Kristen Allen-Bentsen at kallenbentsen@hotmail.com or Cheri Burton at msyrene@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY



It's February and the Issaquah Schools Foundation is all about the love. Who's on our Valentine list?

You ... our parents, volunteers and donors who partner with us to improve education for all Issaquah School District students. You are the reason the Foundation receive letters like Rachel's.

"Thank you purchasing this set of books for our classroom. They have helped me learn about conflict, irony, and theme. Although I only read two of these books, I saw that they were rich and full of description. If our class had never gotten these books, I never would have learned so much about reading. After all, reading is thinking!"

Jason, Endeavour Elementary

... our teachers who go above and beyond to find innovative ways to our engage our students. **Thirty-three of these dedicated educators submitted proposals for 2014 Academic Enrichment Awards.** The Foundation's Grants Committee is carefully reviewing the proposals and will announce the winners of **Classroom Enrichment Grants** (\$100-\$1,000) on **February 28th**. **Kateri Brow Grant** (\$1,000-\$10,000) finalists will be announced in March.

... and our students who inspire us to work harder and dream bigger every year. The Foundation is honored to connect your contributions to our students' needs. Seeing your children discover, develop and achieve their academic potential brings us infinite joy.

Breakfast Time

Add the Issaquah Schools Foundation's 1st Annual Nourish Every Mind Breakfast to your social calendar. Our new **Nourish Every Mind** Breakfast, on **Wednesday, May 8th at Eastridge Church**, will feature all of our event hallmarks ... touching stories, memorable moments, socializing and lots of fun. The difference, a slightly abbreviated program and more built in networking time. If you're a die-hard Luncheon fan, we've got you covered. The **16th Annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon** is back at the Issaquah Community Center on **Thursday, May 8th**. [Click Here to learn more about both events.](#) To become a Table Captain or Corporate Sponsor, contact **Nourish Every Mind** Chair, [Cathia Geller](#).

Have You Been Carded?

Fred Meyer's new Community Rewards Program begins on February 6th. Now, every time you shop and scan your Fred Meyer's Reward Card, you can earn money for the Issaquah Schools Foundation. Once your card is registered, there's nothing extra to do. Just shop and scan your card. Learn more and register your card at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. Search for us by name or number—we're NPO 91119.

Tell Us What You Love

Share stories of you or your child's experience with an Issaquah Schools Foundation-funded program. We'll share it with our PTSA partners and Foundation family via our Facebook page and e-newsletter. Submit your stories to Lynn Juniel, ljuniel@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org. Thank you!

COMMUNITY CONT.

VOTE YES 3 TIMES ON FEBRUARY 11TH, 2014



Every 4 years voters are asked to replace our expiring levies so we can continue to fund items not covered by state funding. You can **VOTE YES for all 3 levies** and pay a minimal tax increase - only \$40 a year for a home assessed at \$500K. **Please vote YES...EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**



The Maintenance and Operations Levy provides 21% of the Issaquah School District's operating budget.

- Funds staff salaries, books, heat and light, fuel for buses and maintenance of our buildings.
- Even with our community's continuing support for the M&O levy, we only rank 257th of 295 districts in per pupil funding.



The School Bus Levy will replace old buses with new, more efficient models that align with the state's safety standards and replacement cycle.

- Fuel savings and lower maintenance costs mean that more dollars go into the classroom.



The Capital Levy for Technology & Critical Repairs provides funding for:

- All of the district's Technology needs - computers, network upgrades, software, staff technology training. State funding does not include technology, so our district depends on local levy dollars for all of our technology funding.
- Repairs to buildings throughout the district: roofs, flooring, double-pane windows, heating and electrical system upgrades. These repairs are necessary to protect the taxpayers' investment in our school buildings.

Did You Know?

- It costs over \$140,000 for the school district to run a ballot issue. If we lose the election and have to rerun the ballot issue, the school district must pay another \$140,000.
- It costs about \$55,000 to run the campaign to pass our levy measures.

VOTE YES FOR ALL 3 LEVIES

Want to learn more about the February 2014 election?

- Go to the district website: www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/levy2014 for more information!
- Deadline to register to vote is January 13th, 2014. To register to vote visit: www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.



WWW.VISVOTE.ORG

Issaquah School District is one of the most fiscally responsible school districts in the country . . . so you know these levy dollars will be managed effectively.

- Issaquah School District received Moody's Aaa bond rating which is given to less than one percent of all school districts in the United States.
- Issaquah School District has the lowest administrative costs as a percentage of their budget of any other district in King County.
- A 2011 study by the Center for American Progress ranked Issaquah as the #1 district in the state for Return on Educational Investment.

Paid for by Volunteers for Issaquah Schools, PO Box 1401, Issaquah, WA 98027

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Needs:

Volunteer Opportunity for 2014-2015 School Year - Staff Appreciation Committee Lead

This fun and rewarding position organizes the monthly staff appreciation lunches in our school staff lounge. If you join now, you'll be able to shadow our current committee lead through the end of this school year in preparation to lead next school year!

Each month there is a CRE grade level assigned to provide a luncheon for our wonderful staff. The parents within these grade levels provide the food for the luncheons.

This position coordinates the sign up of the food dishes, helps serve the food, and also helps with clean up at the end of the luncheon.

This could be done by a committee chair or the responsibilities could be shared with a co-chair (2 or even 3). Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Kim Anderson at bradanderson6@comcast.net for more information or to let her know you are interested!

Volunteer Opportunity for 2014-2015 School Year - New Art Docent Chair

Do you like art and love working with people? If so, then we need you! The PTSA is seeking a new Art Docent Chair (or Chairs) for the 2014-15 school year. Ideally, next year's person would shadow the current chair for the remainder of the school year, to see how the program runs and determine any possible changes they may make to next year's program. There is already a support person and kiln room help in place for next year; we just need that special someone to take the lead! It is a very fun program and comes with a great group of volunteers! If you are the person who would love to help grow our art program even more at Cascade Ridge, please contact jackie.mueller1@comcast.net or erinmchapman@gmail.com. Thank you!



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

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 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. In addition, their name is 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 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 erinmchapman@gmail.com.

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



Thank you to our Class Picture Day Volunteers: Angie Lukens, Michele Lyman, Katy Chung and Erinn Chapman.

Another popping good time was had by our Popcorn Friday Volunteers for December and January! Thank you to Diane Pattillo, Sangeeta Peri, Michelle Lyman, Amy Simpson, Marci Bartholomae, Stefanie Magnuson, Laurie Jones, Lauri Kinnan and Erinn Chapman.