



# COYOTE HOWLER

## January Events

January 9: Parent Play Day!

January 13: Class Picture Day

January 19: No School! MLK Day.

January 27 at 6:00p:  
Geography Bee

January 29 at 6:00p: Festival of Cultures

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year CRE Families,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break filled with fun, friends and family. It's hard to believe that it is already January – mid winter break is already just around the corner.

I'd like to give a huge THANK YOU to the individuals who have agreed to serve on the PTSA Nominating Committee. **Many thanks to Lara Buis, Jaime Foreman, Dulcy Hixson, Krystl McCandlish, Diane Patillo and Shannon Romanski for agreeing to help recruit future PTSA leadership at CRE.** As I mentioned in my December letter, there are at least 8 Board positions (as well as several chair positions) opening up! WE NEED YOU! Volunteering on the PTSA Board is hard work and does take a time commitment – something that is in rare supply these days. However, it is a rewarding way to participate in your children's education and in the betterment of our school and community. If you, your spouse, or anyone you know is interested in learning more, please reach out to the nominating committee to learn more.

The PTSA has a number of activities coming up in the next few months:

- At the end of January (January 27<sup>th</sup>), we are excited to hold CRE's second annual Geography Bee (there will be no Spelling Bee this year). We have partnered with the National Geographic Bee and have access to a huge database of fun trivia questions. Look for more details in this Howler edition.
- On Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, we hope you will travel the world with us at the CRE Festival of Cultures. Beginning at 6pm, the gym and café will showcase the cuisine, cultures and entertainment of our diverse community!
- The thought-provoking movie "Race to Nowhere" will be shown to our parent community on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

We have more events on the heels of these so continue to read your PTSA Howler so that you don't miss out. As always, please contact me anytime with thoughts, feedback or ideas at [brooksann10@gmail.com](mailto:brooksann10@gmail.com) or (425) 533-3229.

Cheers,  
Ann Brooks, PTSA President

# FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

*Thursday, January 29th, 2015, 6-8pm*

Come travel the world with us!

There will be international displays, activities/games, food, entertainment, and prizes to restaurants of different cuisines.

Our event this year will feature host families representing countries from all over the world - Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Scotland, Swaziland, The Netherlands, and USA.

Want to host a country?

If you are interested in hosting please contact Bona Park at [chris\\_bona@msn.com](mailto:chris_bona@msn.com) or 425-427-9307

## ATTENTION GLOBETROTTERS AND GEOGRAPHY FANS!

The Cascade Ridge Geography Bee invites all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to join the fun on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 pm in the Café.

The Geography Bee promises to bring the world to Cascade Ridge with questions on US and world capitals, mountain ranges, weather systems and more! The National Geographic website is an excellent resource for building knowledge and taking prep-quizzes. Check out [www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/quiz/today](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/quiz/today)

Registration to participate and more information will be available on the PTSA website coming soon... [www.cascaderidgeptsa.org](http://www.cascaderidgeptsa.org).

We look forward to traveling the world with you!



## COFFEE W/NATALIE & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please join us on **Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am** in the Coyote Cafe for coffee with Principal Natalie Fowler. Natalie will lead a discussion around the new Smarter Balanced Assessment and share how the teachers and students at Cascade Ridge have been trained for the new assessments. Immediately following this discussion we will transition into our second PTSA General Membership meeting. At this meeting we will formally elect our Nominating Committee for the 2015-16 school year, review our operating budget and share information about the upcoming programs and events.

As always, these meetings are a terrific way for you to share your feedback with our PTSA board. We hope to see you there!

## PARENT ED CORNER

Mark your calendars now for the showing of "Race to Nowhere" here at Cascade Ridge on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-7pm. Free!!!!

Are you making New Year's Resolutions at your house? Here are some age appropriate ideas for the kiddos!

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/news-features-and-safety-tips/Pages/Healthy-New-Year-Resolutions-for-Kids.aspx>

Parent Education Opportunity: Supporting Students with Writing at Home January 21, 2015 – Pacific Cascade Middle School Commons, 24635 SE Issaquah Fall- City Road from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

An evening presentation with Penny Kittle, a nationally recognized expert in teaching writing to children and adolescents. Penny is the author of *Public Teaching: one kid at a time*, *The Greatest Catch: a life in teaching*, *Inside Writing: how to teach the details of craft* (co-authored with her mentor and friend, Donald H. Graves), *Write Beside Them: risk, voice, and clarity in high school writing*, and *Book Love: Developing Depth, Stamina, and Passion in Adolescent Readers*. She believes in curiosity, engagement, and deep thinking in schools for both students and their teachers. Recently, Penny co-edited (with Tom Newkirk) a collection of Don Graves' work, *Children Want to Write: Don Graves and the Revolution in Children's Writing* published by Heinemann in May of 2013.

For more information contact: Teaching and Learning Services at (425) 837-7113.

Finally, back in early December (it seems so long ago....) I had the pleasure of seeing Amy Lang speak at Discovery Elementary. It was very eye-opening and she facilitated a wonderful discussion about talking to our kids about the "birds and the bees". Check out her website at <http://www.birdsandbeesandkids.com/> and if you get a chance to go to one of her workshops, it's well worth it!

## LABELS FOR EDUCATION



A big thank you to all the families who have been supporting Cascade Ridge through the clipping of Campbell's Labels for Education. After tallying the labels that we currently have, we have an exciting total of 3965 points. These points will be redeemed for fun and exciting supplies for the school. It's easy to do, clip the UPC codes from participating products and turn them into the school. We have a convenient drop box (look for the Campbell's Soup bin) in the front lobby below the table. You can also register your grocery store cards online to collect extra points electronically. Register today at [http://www.elabelsforeducation.com/Sites/Campbells\\_eLabels/Page/HomePage](http://www.elabelsforeducation.com/Sites/Campbells_eLabels/Page/HomePage).

## GOLDEN ACORN NOMINATIONS

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 by nominating someone you feel is deserving!

- To nominate, simply email the Golden Acorn Awards Committee Chair Erinn Chapman at [erinnmchapman@gmail.com](mailto:erinnmchapman@gmail.com) with their name.
- Erinn will reach out to the nominee to let them know they've been nominated (keeping name of person whom nominated them confidential).

- The nominee will be asked to fill out a quick list of all the areas they've volunteered in over the past year.
- The PTSA Golden Acorn Awards Committee will review the nominees and make the final selections.
- Questions? Please contact Erinn Chapman at [erinmchapman@gmail.com](mailto:erinmchapman@gmail.com).

Nominations are due by February 13th. Thank you!

## CARING THROUGH SHARING

Thank you Cascade Ridge! The Caring Through Sharing Program was a huge success.

Thank you to all who donated! We were able to bring several car loads of great stuff to the Holiday Gift Barn. A special thank you to all of the Caring Through Sharing Reps for talking to your classrooms and making collection boxes. Thank you to the Room Coordinators for getting the information out to the parents. And to the volunteers who helped collect all of the gifts and drive them to the Holiday Gift Barn. THANK YOU!

Michelle Lyman

Krystl McCandlish

Angela Fischer

Nichole Wengert

Hailan Fan

Ilavelan Kanniapdan

Elana Clayton

Blythe Mercer

Emila Ma

Helen Dimeco

Erinn Chapman

Kim Streamer

Michele Brady

Kim Mathew

Nathalie Fusaro

Kim McNesby

Ajita Krishnan

## HOLIDAY GIFT BARN THANK YOU

To all our Holiday Gift Barn Volunteers and Donors -

Thank you so much for your generosity! With your support we were able to support 650 families and get brand new toys, clothing, stocking-stuffers, socks, underwear, scarves, gloves, hats, games and books to 1,300+ children. We appreciate your generous gifts and time. Together the Issaquah and Sammamish communities created a gracious space for families to shop in a holiday-spirited and dignified environment. I'm confident there are going to be lot more happy children Christmas morning because of all your goodness.

As the director of the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank I have the privilege of connecting with each of the families we serve. After 4 years at the IFCB I've had the opportunity to meet our client's newborn babies and I have seen those children grow and thrive. I've seen those kiddo's eating carrots pulled fresh from Seattle Tilth's

Pickering Barn Garden at our Summer Lunch Program. I've been lucky enough to hold many infants and toddlers while parents shop for groceries. I've also been fortunate to be a part of a team that has helped many families with children remain housed or go from being homeless to being housed. So please know each of the families you helped this holiday season are going to be filled with joy and love because of you.

I cannot tell you enough that your donation and your time is meaningful! We could NOT do it without you. I hope you continue to participate and commit your time and resources to the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. We need your support and participation year round. If you are interested in learning more about IFCB please e-mail me or call and I will give you a tour of our facility.

Sincerely,

Cori Walters

Executive Director

Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank

## **THANK YOU TO OUR DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS**

Thank you to our December Popcorn Friday Volunteers: Catherine Cline, Erinn Chapman, Michelle Lyman, Kellie Gazzard and Lorie Piper

## COME OUT AND PLAY!

Join your student(s) on the playground throughout the school year! On the first Friday of each month, we invite all Dads (Moms, grandparents or other special guests too) to join us on the playground during recess. Visitors sign in at the front office, get a visitor's badge and then join your student outside for recess! Please remember to get your Washington State Patrol Form filled out. This must be turned in before you can attend a play date! Forms can be found in the office or online on the school website under Quick Links. A new one needs to be filled out every year.

Dates are...

**January 9**

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

## ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

### Happy New Year!

Our community rocks! Your donations topped off our **All in for Kids** Annual Fund campaign in December, allowing us to begin 2015 with even more support of our students and schools. Because of you, the **Start Strong Program** for freshmen will be expanded and we'll be able to fully fund our **Academic Enrichment Grants**. THANK YOU for continuing to elevate education for every student in the District. Our best wishes for a fantabulous 2015.

### Mail Call

If you made a donation to the Foundation during calendar year 2014, please keep an eye out for your tax-receipt letter. It should hit your mailbox by Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Call us at 425-391-8557 if your copy does not arrive by this date.

### Planting the Seed

**Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the Annual *Nourish Every Mind Luncheon, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>* at Issaquah Community Center and/or *Nourish Every Mind Breakfast, Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>* at Eastridge Church. The Breakfast**



and Luncheon are THE BEST ways to learn about the District/Foundation partnership and see how students directly benefit from your investments. Plus, both events are inspiring and fun!

If you'd like to join us as a Table Captain or event volunteer, please contact Audrey Clark, [Audrey@isfdn.org](mailto:Audrey@isfdn.org).

### **Empty Closets = Full Tummies**

Value Village is opening a store in Issaquah and has selected the Issaquah Schools Foundation as its local nonprofit partner. All clothing and household goods donated at the Issaquah store February 17-21 will result in a cash donation to the Foundation. We'll direct the money to the Basic Student Needs program which provides food, health care, clothing and school supplies for students in need. Stop by 5530 E. Lake Sammamish Parkway with your donation, and thank Value Village for supporting our students.

### **Cracking the Code**

Thanks to your donations, computer-coding instruction will soon be available at several elementary schools. The Foundation has approved training for 19 elementary teachers so they can bring **Scratch programming** into their classrooms. Developed at MIT, Scratch is a programming language that allows children to design interactive media using stories, games and animation. The Free Scratch Coding Clubs will be piloted at four elementary schools this spring. With their launch, Foundation donors will bring computer programming to students at every level – elementary, middle and high school.

Staying Safe Online

## **CALENDAR UPDATE**

In an effort to ensure the school-year calendar is always current, we will not be printing it in the monthly Howler. You can always find the most up to date information on the PTSA Web site at: <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Event/MonthCalendar>



# Teaching Your Child How To Share Smart & Stay Safe Online

Sponsored by the Issaquah PTSA Council, the Briarwood Elementary PTSA proudly presents *Teaching Your Child How To Share Smart A and Stay Safe Online*. Where parents can learn practical and effective strategies that can be put into action as soon as you get home!

**Dates:**

Thursday January  
29, 2015  
6:30 pm

**Location:**

Briarwood Elementary  
Library

**School address:**

17020 SE 134th St  
Renton, WA, 98059

**Cost:**

Free

Just like the real world, the digital world holds tremendous opportunities as well as pitfalls. By sharing your expectations early and often about online behavior, you can help your child make healthy decisions in the digital world. The best online protection your child will ever have is between their ears.

Join Anne Livingston to learn about:

- What activities elementary kids are doing online?
- Understand the risks they may encounter
- Get scripts to help establish rules & contracts
- Learn tips for managing your digital family
- Hear what is ahead in middle school

**WELCOME ANNE LIVINGSTON**

Anne Livingston is a parent, kid’s privacy expert and author. Her articles have been featured on many parenting and security company websites, such as a Platform For Good, and CSID. Her new book, *Talking Digital: A Parent’s Guide For Teaching Kids How To Share Smart And Stay Safe online*, is available on Amazon.

**CLASS REGISTRATION**

There are no fees or membership requirements. Everyone is welcome

