



COYOTE HOWLER

May Events

May 1st - Parent Play Day and Popcorn Friday

May 1st: Rally for Richey Day

May 4th - 8th: Staff Appreciation Week

May 15th: General Membership Meeting & Coffee w/Principal at 8:30a

May 20th: 3rd Grade Concert at 6:30p

May 25th: Memorial Day - No School

May 27th - 29th: 5th Grade Camp

RALLY FOR RICHEY

We are getting a jump on Staff Appreciation Week by giving our awesome P.E. teacher a day of his own! The PTSA is partnering with teachers and staff to show our support for Mr. Richey this Friday, May 1st.



Mr. Richey was recently diagnosed with colon cancer and has had to take a leave of absence from his teaching duties. Many students and parents in our caring Cascade Ridge community have been asking how they can support the Richey family during this very difficult time. We are going to help lift some worry from their shoulders by providing gift cards for QFC, Target, and Costco so that groceries and other necessities can be purchased with ease. Let's Rally for Richey!

When: Friday, May 1st, Mr. Richey Day at Cascade Ridge

How: Please send a **cash donation** with your child to school on Friday if you would like to participate. Room Coordinators will be there in the morning to collect the cash. Even the smallest amount will help! Checks can be made out to Cascade Ridge PTSA, but cash is easier to process. Please contact Angie Lukens with any questions at tikicat1@hotmail.com.

Students are also encouraged to show their support and Rally for Richey by wearing Cascade Ridge, Skyline, or Mr. Richey's favorite Oregon Duck colors (green and gold) to school on Friday.

To read Mr. Richey's story and to get updates on his progress, please visit his CaringBridge site at www.caringbridge.org.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations Incoming PTSA Executive Board Members!

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend last month's PTSA General Membership Meeting. Our membership elected the following individuals to the 2015 - 2016 PTSA Executive Board. Congratulations and thanks to each and every one of these members who so willingly give their time and energy to our school and community.

President	Kelly Huber
Executive VP	Jaime Foreman
Secretary	Stefanie Magnuson
Treasurer	Krystl McCandlish
VP of Programs	Carolyn Roberts
VP of Communication	Jackie Mueller
Co-VPs of Fundraising	Khristie Tobler & Michelle Lyman
Co-VPs of Volunteers	Kanika Arora & Ajita Gopikrishnan
Co-VPs of Community Relations	Shannon Romanski & Angela Fischer

FINAL PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & COFFEE WITH PRINCIPAL



Please plan to attend our final coffee with Principal Natalie on Friday, May 15th at 8:30am in the Coyote Café. Natalie will discuss staffing and plans for next year as well as address any other questions and topics.

Immediately following the coffee, we will transition into our PTSA General Membership meeting. At this final meeting the newly elected Executive Board will present the 2015 - 16 Interim Budget. After discussing the budget we will vote to approve it so that PTSA business can continue over the summer. We will also vote on the laptop proposal that was presented by Principal Fowler and discussed at our April meeting. A huge thanks to all who attended – it is great to hear the positive feedback from the community about spending some of the PTSA reserves on the laptops and carts. For those who were unable to attend, we will vote to spend approximately \$30,000 from our PTSA reserves to purchase 2 20 laptop carts. The cost includes 40 Dell 3340 laptops (specified by the Issaquah School District) and 2 20 unit carts. These additional laptops will be used by all CRE students for a variety of purposes and will provide tremendous benefits to our school.

We hope to see you there!

PTSA SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEER

Each month the PTSA will be recognizing one of our volunteers for dedicating their time and talents to our school community.

This month we would like to recognize **Jackie Mueller!**

Jackie has served as chairperson of the Art Docent Program for the past 5 years and her dedication to growing this program is appreciated by all current and future art docents! Jackie has also lent her talents to the Baking Committee, Fine Arts Night, volunteering at school events and helping in her children's classrooms.

Thank you Jackie!



If you would like to nominate someone for the award, please email their name and your reasons for nominating them to Erinn Chapman @ erinnmchapman@gmail.com

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

Staff Appreciation Week is almost here! During the week of May 4th – May 8th, we get the opportunity to show our teachers and staff members how much we appreciate them!

- Monday is card day, homemade cards are great
- Tuesday is bring a school supply for your teacher day
- Wednesday is wear your teacher's favorite color day
- Thursday will be a staff luncheon
- Friday is bring a small treat or gift card day



Check your email from your room coordinators for more detailed information and reminders. As always, participation in Staff Appreciation Week is optional.

GIFT AND CLASSROOM PARTY POLICY

Party Policy:

Room Coordinators/Party Coordinators have the choice to ask their class for a onetime \$5 optional donation for all parties for the year.

In addition to the \$5, Room Coordinators/Party Coordinators may also ask for donated items for each party (plates, napkins, fruit, drinks, prizes).

Parties may have only one treat item along with healthy food options (pretzels, cheese sticks, fruit, veggies).

All food items will be store bought with labels and ingredients clearly visible (no build your own bars such as ice cream sundaes or cookie decorating).

All party activities and foods need to be approved by the teacher 2 weeks before the party.

Parties are not to exceed 1 hour.

Teacher Gift Policy:

Whole Class Gift:

A "whole class gift" may also be given to a teacher during the holidays and at the end of the school year. For a whole class gift, Room Coordinators have the choice to ask for a \$5 optional donation per student for the holiday gift, and a \$5 optional donation per student for the end of year gift. (**note:** if you are in a Kindergarten or LRC classroom, you may also collect a \$5 optional donation for the Educational Assistants).

Any class gift must be from the entire class, regardless of donation.

Cards should be signed from the entire class, instead of individual names.

The \$5 limit per gift solely pertains to the whole class gift, not individual student gifts (see individual gift policy below).

Handmade gifts, notes and personal letters are most appreciated by teachers.

Individual Gift:

At various times of the school year, a student and their family may want to show appreciation to their teacher by presenting them with a card or gift (ex. holiday, birthday, teacher appreciation, end of the school year, etc.). While this is not an expectation, families are welcome to do so. This is not subject to the Whole Class Gift Policy

Teacher Appreciation Week:

PTSA and the staff appreciation chair will come up with ideas for each day of the week (i.e. card, wear teachers favorite color, favorite treat day, staff lunch, lattes by parents).

Specialists will be assigned by the Co-VPs of Community Relations and will also be included each day.

No money will be collected for a "class gift" for this week, but parents are free to show their appreciation as they choose.

Room Coordinators will get the word out to class about events decided upon by PTSA for each day.

Cascade Ridge also shows appreciation to teachers and staff each month with lunch put on by parents.

Participation is optional.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR 2015-16

Information for ordering school supplies will be posted soon.

Avoid the crowds and hassle of buying supplies at multiple stores. One stop online shopping saves time and our school earns money for much needed educational supplies. Stay tuned in early June for details!



VOLUNTEER OPENINGS

We currently have several Committee Chair openings for next year. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Jaime Foreman at jaimeforeman@comcast.net. Thank you!

Website Co-Chair

Book Fair Co-Chair

Box Tops

Reflections

Science Fair

Fine Arts Night

Spelling Bee

Movie Night

PARENT ED CORNER

It's May! Which can only mean one thing...June (and the end of the school year) is right around the corner. Here is a great summer reading list for those who like to plan ahead! Start putting a few titles on hold at the library and help your kiddos keep their reading skills sharp over summer:

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/2015-summer-reading-list>

I read this article the other day and it really got me thinking. If you have a minute, take a gander and see what you think. I found it interesting and applicable to all the relationships in my life, not just with children:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rachel-macy-stafford/the-one-question-that-can-also-be-an-answer_b_7103134.html?ncid=fcbklnkushpmsg00000037

Did you know that there is a National PTA website? Chock full of great resources, like this webinar:

<http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=4109>

Lastly, do you wonder if your older kid throwing a temper tantrum is "normal"? Rest assured and read this article to ease your mind:

<http://www.positiveparentingconnection.net/big-kid-tantrums/>

NEW PTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Did you know that by joining the PTSA, you are eligible for special pricing and discounts at events and attractions in Washington State? If you haven't yet joined this year, you can still so by [clicking here](#).

Here are three new benefits available ONLY to PTSA members:

WILD WAVES THEME PARK

PTA members can obtain tickets at a substantial savings off regular admission prices. This online benefit program offers not only substantial savings, but allows you to "print and go" so you have your ticket in hand when you get to the park with no waiting in the line to purchase tickets. To access your special tickets, click the [link](#), then log into the site with the username: WSPTA; and password: summer2015. The start date to begin to use this member benefit is May 23rd – but you can purchase tickets now!

SILVERWOOD THEME PARK

PTA members can use the Silverwood Theme Park website to purchase tickets, using your own credit cards, and get a 15% discount -- exclusively for members of the Washington State PTA. Go to the Silverwood home page (URL below), click on the 'BUY TICKETS NOW' graphic in the upper right-most corner of the page, then type in the code WASHPTA15 as the Promotion Code: <http://www.silverwoodthemepark.com/>

PTA MEMBERS RECEIVE 20% OFF AT GREAT WOLF LODGE

PTA members save 20% off best available rates at Great Wolf Lodge. Valid through December 30, 2015. For reservations, visit greatwolf.com or call 866.925.WOLF (9653). Use corporate code: WSPTA984A20. Valid PTA membership card required at check-in. For more information, [click here](#).

ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

PTSA Talking Points – Cascade Ridge

April 2015



2015 Grant Awards

It's awards season at the Issaquah Schools Foundation. This year, the Foundation awarded **27 grants totaling more than \$84,000** to fund innovative programs and educational enrichments.

Here is what you as a Foundation donor are making possible at Cascade Ridge:

- Occupational therapist **Diane Knoll** received \$8,796 to fund the "Active Seating for Active Learning" initiative. The grant will promote active learning by increasing the variety of active seating options available in our classrooms.
- The **PTSA Council** received a grant of \$5,600 to provide **workshops and curriculum support to our schools' volunteer Art Docents** through a partnership with artEAST. This is the second year the Foundation has funded the Art Docent program.
- A \$7,500 **grant to the district** will build capacity among our teachers, and elementary teachers throughout the district, for the use of an instructional model known as GLAD, or **Guided Language Acquisition Design**. Originally designed for English Language Learners, GLAD promotes literacy and a love of learning among all students.

MIXED BAGS THANK YOU

Thank you to all the families and staff who ordered Mixed Bags. Cascade Ridge earned over **\$4,300** for much needed educational supplies! If you missed out, there is still time to place an online order and help support our school! Go to:

WWW.MIXEDBAGDESIGNS.COM and enter Cascade Ridge's ID #19988. Our school will earn 40% of all online orders up until JUNE 30, 2015!!

BOOK SWAP THANK YOU

Thank you Cascade Ridge families for your enthusiastic support of the 1st Annual Book Swap!

We had 250 students contribute an incredible 2,800 books!!!

Gently used books were collected before school on Wednesday/Thursday and students had fun hunting for "new to you" titles during second recess on Friday. After all the students made their selections, we still had hundreds of books left over! Teachers were invited to choose titles for their classroom libraries and the remaining books will be donated to local charities.



Adding to the Earth Week excitement, students who contributed 15+ books were entered in a raffle drawing for upcycled pencil pouches filled with gift cards and earth friendly goodies. Congratulations to our winners: Emerson Boll, Izabell Butcher, Michael Donovan, Bianca Druta, Lindsey Kusmik, Abram Mercer, Amy Scurrrell, Lauren Seigel, and Brooke Tedesco.

Many thanks to **Dean Jennifer Sehlin** and all the adult and student volunteers who made this event possible!

Adult Volunteers

Elizabeth Donovan, Jaime Foreman, Nathalie Fusaro, Lisa Grady, Carrie Haines, Anne Miller, Katrina Ostrander and Damian Spence

Student Volunteers

Mary Brady, Sean Brady, Sarah Donovan, Lily Foreman, Natalie Foreman, Kyle Gale, Annalise Haines, Kyla Jones, Ella Matias, Sydney Ostrander, Amy Scurrrell, Brea Spence, Katie Spence and Danielle Verrue,

Keeping saving those books (K-5th grade reading level)!

Look for the Book Swap to return again next year...maybe even twice.

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Angela Nicola for organizing our Cascade Ridge Talent Show! Thank you also to the helpers who made the shows go smoothly. The event was a huge success and we loved seeing our very talented students shine!

Thank you to our April Popcorn Friday volunteers: Erinn Chapman, Kellie Gazzard, Michelle Lyman, Shannon Romanski and Jaime Foreman.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

We are excited to announce that the PTSA at Cascade Ridge has created yet another way for you to get, and stay, connected with your school. For all of you who use Facebook as a communication tool, please 'Like' our new [Cascade Ridge Elementary PTSA](#) page and invite your CRE friends to 'Like' us too! The PTSA will use Facebook to keep you informed of upcoming school and PTSA events, Spirit Days, late-breaking news and anything else relevant to our school community. Please know that we will NOT post pictures of you or your children without your explicit permission.

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...

May 1

June 5

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>