

# Coyote Howler

## Cascade Ridge PTSA Newsletter



### President's Letter

Hello Cascade Ridge families,

We hope this finds you healthy and well!

This month brings continued change, with schools closed through the end of the year and many new paths to navigate. We are thankful for our amazing teachers and staff that are working tirelessly to provide new learning and support for our children. Their flexibility, dedication and resilience during this time is truly inspiring.

Next week is our chance to show our Cascade Ridge staff how much we appreciate them and everything they do for our children! You'll find all the details in the Howler below and be sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for reminders next week.

This month we will hold our first Virtual Talk with Tia and General Membership meeting on Tuesday, May 19th at 4pm. This meeting is important, as we will vote on our interim budget and the PTSA board members for the 2020-2021 school year. The meeting details, documents and link will be sent out via email in the next week. We'd love to see you there!

We miss seeing you and wish you and your families strength and peace in these trying times.

AJ Henderson and Amy Hayes

Cascade Ridge Co Presidents



Please check the PTSA [Web site](#) for the latest events

## Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week



Because we don't want to overwhelm their inboxes with e-mails, photos, and videos, we've decided to use FlipGrid for staff appreciation this year. Each staff member will have their own FlipGrid for you to upload meaningful messages. Click on the link below to access the Staff Appreciation FlipGrid and sign in using the password listed below. You will need to sign in using a Microsoft or Google account. Search for your teacher's name, and you will be able to upload messages, pictures, and videos that go along with the daily themes below. **Don't forget about the staff members other than your child's teacher that make your child's day special too!**

Grid Name: Cascade Ridge Elementary

Flip Code: [flipgrid.com/createacher](https://flipgrid.com/createacher)

Password: createacher2020

## Volunteer Spotlight

The PTSA Board would like to spotlight

### Amy Passalacqua

as our May Volunteer of the Month!

We chose to highlight Amy because Amy is involved in a wide variety of volunteer activities and programs. Currently, Amy is the School Supplies Co-Chair, a Room Coordinator and she is also on the Staff Appreciation lunch committee. Previously, Amy has volunteered as a Class Party Coordinator, representative for the Issaquah Schools Foundation as well as helped with the Color Run committee, and Science Fair. However the most wonderful thing about Amy is that she is always happy and willing to lend a hand whenever we have a volunteer shortage for an event or activity!

Amy's family includes her husband, Marc and her children, Sam (7th grade at Beaver Lake Middle School) and Drew (4th grade at Cascade Ridge).

Amy volunteers because she truly enjoys meeting and getting to know so many great people through all of the many classrooms, programs and activities that she supports. According to Amy, she's super glad to be able to give back to the Cascade Ridge community. As a highlight, Amy shared that she has especially enjoyed several years of planning class parties with the same group of now, 4th grade moms.

In her spare time, Amy's hobbies include reading, walking, and travel.

An enormous, much-deserved congratulations to Amy! Amy's energy and eagerness to volunteer at the Issaquah school district level, Cascade Ridge, individual teacher classrooms, as well as PTSA sponsored activities and programs is absolutely amazing!



## Site Council

Our last Site Council meeting for the 2019-2020 school year will take place via Zoom on Monday, May 4th at 4pm. If you are interested in participating, please contact Paula Koransky at [paulakoransky@me.com](mailto:paulakoransky@me.com).

## PTSA Volunteer Awards



PTSA service awards are given every year to outstanding volunteers for their service to our school and community. These prestigious awards recognize the contributions individuals have made at Cascade Ridge Elementary and within our local community.

Congratulations to this year's winners! We acknowledge and greatly appreciate your commitment to Cascade Ridge and our community!

- Sandy McNeese – Lifetime Achievement
- Chandra Poliseti – Outstanding Advocate
- Sandra Vanderzee – Golden Acorn
- Susan Ho – Golden Acorn
- Paula Koransky – Golden Acorn
- AJ Henderson – Golden Acorn

These deserving volunteers will be honored in a district wide newsletter as well as mentioned on Issaquah PTSA's Facebook page. When you see or virtually correspond with these deserving recipients, please give them a huge shout out and thank them for all of their hard work on behalf of our school and community – and look for their names on the Golden Acorn plaque displayed in the front hall of our school.

# Outstanding Educator Award

Cascade Ridge's Outstanding Educator award will be given every year to an outstanding educator to recognize individuals who have gone beyond the normal expectations of their job to make outstanding contributions to enhance the education of children. An Outstanding Educator can be a teacher, specialist, assistant, support staff, custodian, bus driver, administrator or community member.

Congratulations to this year's winner!

**\*\*\*\* Marlene Creaser \*\*\*\***

Mrs. Creaser was selected for Cascade Ridge's Outstanding Educator award because not only is Marlene a wonderful music teacher but her passion, enthusiasm and creativity has uplifted the school's music program to a different level and extended its impact beyond the classroom.



Since joining Cascade Ridge 2 years ago, Mrs. Creaser has doubled the number of students who participate in choir from 40 to 80 students. She has introduced new instruments to the music program such as bucket drums and ukuleles. Her passion for music inspires kids to explore new musical experiences inside the classroom as well as outside the classroom such as opera, Broadway musicals, jazz, and singing auditions. Mrs. Creaser has also been very

successful in writing and receiving grants from the Issaquah Schools Foundation as well as Cascade Ridge PTSA. This includes grants for a Brazilian artist in residency (6 week program for 5th graders taught by a local artist), a grant for a new digital piano as well as a grant for recorders and storage racks.

Mrs. Creaser has truly done an amazing job going above and beyond to instill a love and appreciation of music in the hearts and minds of students at Cascade Ridge.

Marlene will be honored in our school newsletter as well as featured on CRE's Facebook page. When you see or virtually correspond with Marlene, please give her a huge shout out and thank her for all of her hard work on behalf of our students and their music experience – and look for her name on the new Outstanding Educator Apple plaque displayed in the front hall of our school.

Questions? Please contact Susan Ho at [sh97062@gmail.com](mailto:sh97062@gmail.com)

## School Supplies

It's hard to believe but it's already time to start thinking ahead to next school year. Once again, you will be able to order your school supplies from the comfort of your home while earning money for the Cascade Ridge PTSA.

We will be using School Toolbox as our vendor again this year. Supplies will be shipped directly to your home and you can delay shipment until closer to the start of next school year if you prefer.

The School Toolbox website will be live with the Cascade Ridge supply lists after Memorial Day. Complete details will be sent out by email later in May and posted on the PTSA website. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Amy at [amy.passalacqua@comcast.net](mailto:amy.passalacqua@comcast.net) or PJ at [pjmaffett@yahoo.com](mailto:pjmaffett@yahoo.com).



## Parent Ed Corner

### Resources from Your PBSES Coach, Your Counselor and Your Dean!



Mrs. Ackley, Ms. Janelle, and Ms. McConnell are focusing on a topic related to social and emotional health each week while school is closed. They will be providing resources and activities related to each week's topic. This week's topic is **restorative practices** and **morning meetings**. To learn more about using restorative practices and morning meetings to foster trust, empathy, and accountability, [click here](#).

<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/supports>



### ISD Supports – Resources and Information

Information about ISD's meal pickup, laptop checkout, and child care programs – as well as other important community

resources during school closures is available at [Issaquah School District Supports](#).

Assistance for non native English speakers in 中文, Español, and other languages.

[Click here for the main school website](#)

### ParentWiser

ParentWiser is a parenting lecture series comprised of local and nationally-known experts who are invited to share the latest information in effective parenting with parents of the Issaquah School District. ParentWiser is run 100% by volunteer parents!

We welcome volunteers to join our team, especially those with experience in email marketing, social media, and video recording. If interested, please contact us [here](#).

### ParentWiser Past Events

*Did you know that you can view a selection of ParentWiser's past events? Check out Plugged-in Parents: Keeping kids safe, happy & healthy in the digital age and other past events here!*

## **Advocacy**

 Read the latest [message](#) from the WSPTA executive director, Andrew Estep.

*everychild.onevoice.*<sup>®</sup> Did you know? **PTA** is a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities, and an advocate for the well-being and education of all children. Locally, **The Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6** is advocate for students at both the local and state levels.

 Like **The Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6** on and **Washington State PTA** on Facebook to stay updated on issues and member benefits.