



COYOTE HOWLER

September Events

September 2: Popsicle Social

September 12: Welcome Coffee

September 18: 5th Grade Parents

September 26: Coffee & Cake Social

Popsicle Social

PTSA sponsored Popsicle social will be on Tuesday, **September 2nd at 9:30am.**

Join us outside the Coyote Cafe for a popsicle after you meet your new teacher.

Welcome Back Coffee

September 12th at 8:30am in the Coyote Cafe. It's hard to believe that the first day of school is here! Let's start out the new school year right with coffee, snacks, and conversation with fellow parents and staff! Come and talk with Principal Natalie Fowler and get to know what's happening at the school. Catch up with old friends, meet new friends, and learn about the exciting programs and events being offered at Cascade Ridge this year. Hope to see you there!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all our Cascade Ridge Students, Parents and Staff and WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! I hope you all had a fabulous summer break and enjoyed the amazing weather. Hopefully the sun and warm temperatures will continue in September and ease the transition for our kids (and parents and teachers) back into the classroom!

This special edition of the Coyote Howler includes most of the information you'll need to make your way through the first few chaotic weeks of school. For new families, the Coyote Howler is the PTSA's monthly newsletter that details ongoing and upcoming PTSA activities, volunteer opportunities and other relevant information. You can choose to have future issues sent directly to your email inbox during your First Day Packet sign-up and all editions are available for viewing, downloading, and printing from our website at www.cascaderidgeptsa.org. Speaking of our website, we encourage you to visit it often to stay informed. Our webmaster, Rajeev Goel, is continuously updating the site (daily) and adding new features thus making it one of the most effective ways to communicate within our school community.



5th Grade Parent Meeting

Calling all 5th grade parents. Such a great year ahead for our 5th graders. 5th grade parent meeting will be held **September 18th at 6:45pm**, during curriculum night. Come hear about the 5th grade service project, 5th grade camp and 5th grade Cast-off. We will be celebrating the kid's last year of elementary school with all these fun activities. For questions contact Chrisann Penz chrisannpenz@yahoo.com or Jaycee Cooper jaycee.cooper@gmail.com

Coffee & Cake Social

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. Whether you are new to the community, or have been around for a while, join us for a warm greeting over coffee and cake. Please mark your calendar for **September 26th from 9:30am - 11:00am** 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!

Based on survey results from parents and staff last year, the overall consensus is that we, as a PTSA, are correctly prioritizing our efforts, both in terms of our budget and our programs. Our focus for the new school year will continue to support and expand upon the core educational needs of our students as well as providing new offerings, both technical and creative, that complement the curriculum and continue to push our students forward. Take a moment to read more about the varied offerings your students and the community can be a part of in on subsequent pages.

Of course, these great programs and events are only made possible through your participation in our fundraising efforts. Our single main fundraiser, the Walkathon and Fall Festival, will occur on October 3rd. We are already hard at work putting together an event that promises fun for the entire family while hopefully collecting enough money at the beginning of the year to support the entire year's budget.

Without a doubt, Cascade Ridge has excelled in parent, teacher, and student involvement, and our successes at our school are tied directly to continued enthusiastic participation from all of you. Look for opportunities, both big and small, to volunteer on committees or in areas that excite you! The Volunteer Form in your First Day Packet has options for everyone – please ask if you have questions about any of them or would like more information.

I'm looking forward to a great year. I hope you will contact me anytime with suggestions, questions, concerns or general feedback. Go Coyotes!

Ann Brooks,

PTSA President

brooksann10@gmail.com

You're Invited for Some "Lei'd Back" Fun!



2014 WALKATHON & LUAU

Time for our Annual FUNdraiser!

Friday, October 3rd, 2014

4:00 – 6:30 PM

- ★ Walk laps & win prizes (Or just cheer!)
- ★ Nosh yummy fare
- ★ Enjoy music, games & entertainment
- ★ Shop at the Silent Auction & Raise FUNds

But first, the \$53,000 question – why a fundraiser?

Together with families, your PTSA raises money to bridge the gaps in public funding for enriching programs. Help us meet our \$53,000 goal!

What do the funds support?

Drama program * Technology enhancements * 5th Grade enhancement *
Art/Science enrichment * Classroom grants *
Eager Reader * Caring through Sharing * Art docent programs *
Science Fair * Spelling Bee * Destination Imagination *
Festival of Cultures * Instructional support programs *
Math Club * Staff Appreciation * Safety Patrol Grant – and **more!**

Is this event really fun?

Just ask any of the kids in your neighborhood! They love racking up their laps as they round the course again and again. There's something for everyone – games, prizes, dancing, and loads of mouthwatering concessions. And the silent auction's always got a few exciting surprises!

I want to pitch in! How?

- * Volunteer at the event
- * Donate an item, gift or service to the silent auction (think tickets to games & shows, vacation home getaways, a service offered by your business, etc.)
 - * Ask your employer for a donation match or corporate sponsorship
 - * Invite your friends & family
 - * Mark the date and join us!

PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please join us at our first PTSA General Membership meeting on October 10th at 8:30am in the Coyote Café. At this meeting we will introduce the Exec. Board, approve the mission and goals for the year, discuss and update the 2014-15 budget and provide details about our many plans for the year. We hope to see you there!

YOUR PTSA

Our PTSA leadership team has been working hard this summer planning programs and events to benefit our school community. If you have a question, idea, compliment or concerns feel free to contact anyone on the team.

Position	Name	E-Mail	Phone
President	Ann Brooks	brooksann10@gmail.com	533-3229
Executive VP	Helen DiMeco	hdimeco@comcast.net	206-510-7372
Treasurer	Krystl McCandlish	krystl@hotmail.com	369-2144
Secretary	Pamela Franklin	psfranklin@comcast.net	392-8960
VP, Communications	Stefanie Magnuson	stef.mag@hotmail.com	206-683-1504
CO-VP, Programs	Marci Bartholomae	kevin_marci@hotmail.com	961-0352
CO-VP, Programs	Kelly Huber	kellyahuber@aol.com	369-4948
CO-VP, Volunteers	Erinn Chapman	erinnmchapman@gmail.com	392-4659
CO-VP, Volunteers	Jaime Foreman	jaimeforeman@comcast.net	837-8847
CO-VP, Community Relations	Angie Lukens	tikicat@comcast.net	657-0777
CO-VP Community Relations	Juli Kubicki	sjkubicki1@live.com	270-3772
5th Grade Committee Chair	Chrisann Penz	chrisannpenz@yahoo.com	557-9944
5th Grade Committee Chair	Jaycee Cooper	jaycee.cooper@gmail.com	657-0553

2014 - 2015 COYOTE WEAR

Help your kids show their school spirit and support Cascade Ridge PTSA with your purchase of Coyote Wear this year. Based on feedback from the community, we've added even more new items so that there is something for everyone! Look for our table at the Popsicle Social and in the school lobby to view samples. All ordering is done online at: <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org>. Don't miss out – the last day to order is Friday, September 26th and we will not have another chance to order this school year.

Questions? Contact: Nicole Brenner at nicbrenner@yahoo.com

NEW THIS YEAR - VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Starting this year, we will have a mandatory Volunteer Orientation for all volunteers. This includes anyone that will be volunteering in the classroom or through one of our PTSA programs. Please mark your calendar for one of the following dates for a meeting in the Café.

- Friday, September 12th at 9:30am (immediately following Coffee with the Principal)
- Wednesday, September 24th at 6:30pm
- Friday, October 10th at 9:30am (immediately following the PTSA General Membership Meeting)

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

We love all of our volunteers who give their time and talents to our children and staff at Cascade Ridge. Please remember to get your Washington State Patrol Form filled out. This must be turned in before you volunteer at school! 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.

For the safety of our school community, all visitors and volunteers are asked to sign in at the office upon arrival and sign out when leaving. Volunteer Badges need to be worn and visible at all times. If you do not have a Volunteer Badge with your picture on it, please come to picture day on September 30th and get your free picture taken.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS - WE NEED YOU!

Cascade Ridge needs your help! We have a variety of volunteer positions open for this fall that are critical to our school and the success of our kids.

The following committees need chairpersons ASAP:

Geography Bee Chair

Reflections Chair

PARENT EDUCATION CORNER

Welcome back to all our Coyote Families! The goal of this year's "Parent Education Corner" is to provide monthly tidbits of information as well as keep everyone informed of opportunities both at our school and within the Issaquah School District.

First, the beginning of the school year is exciting and fun but it can also be stressful and cause anxiety for some our kiddos. Here is a great article about how to help your child navigate those anxious feelings:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/renee-jain/9-things-every-parent-with-an-anxious-child-should-try_b_5651006.html

When that homework starts to pile in, here is an article to help set up a system that works for YOUR family:

<http://www.findananny.net/blog/how-to-help-your-child-with-homework/>

If you are the parent of a "new" middle schooler, this workshop might be for you! It's being held at the Sammamish EX3 Teen & Recreation Center on September 27th costs \$80 for you and a buddy.

<http://savvyparentssafekids.com/calendar-and-events/>

Lastly, as our kids are headed out the door (some on their own for the first time), it's a great opportunity to review some safety rules. Even though we live in a safe community, it's never a bad idea to make sure your kids know what to do.

<http://savvyparentssafekids.com/safety-tips-recommended-reading/>

Happy September!

SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED

Are you interested in serving on Cascade Ridge's Site Council for the 2014-2015 school year? The Council's mission is to support Cascade Ridge's mission of challenging, supporting and celebrating each student as they learn, work to meet standards, and excel to be their best both socially and academically. Site Council consists of the Principal, Cascade Ridge Staff, a PTSA Executive Board representative and parent representatives from the CRE community and meets about 5 times a year. We have several open positions for parent representatives for the 2014-2015 school year. If you are interested in finding out more about Site Council please contact Helen DiMeco at hdimeco@comcast.net.

PTSA WEBSITE NEWS - ONLINE DIRECTORY IS LIVE!

Did you know that we added a new online directory to our cascaderidgeptsa.org website last spring? While our printed PTSA directories will not be available until later this Fall, you can take advantage of our online directory now to contact new school friends and neighbors!

After logging into your cascaderidgeptsa.org website account, simply click on the "Online Directory" link on the left navigation bar and you can search by name for parents and/or students at Cascade Ridge. Note that this feature is only available to authorized website users who have an account at cascaderidgeptsa.org.

By default, if you are included in the school's printed directory, then all of the information you have previously submitted to the PTSA website will be available to online directory users. This information includes your name, address, phone number(s) and email address as well as the names of any children at Cascade Ridge, their grade and their teacher's name. You can choose to hide information about yourself by looking up your own name in the directory, and then clicking on the button next to the field that you want to hide. Once hidden, this information will not be visible to other users when they perform a search.

FOR ENRICHMENT AND ENJOYMENT

Cascade Ridge PTSA sponsors a variety of programs during the school year. Please remember as you complete your First Day Packet, there are many opportunities to volunteer for any of these programs. Whether big or small, one time or ongoing - our programs only happen with volunteer support. For more information, please contact Kelly Huber at kellyahuber@aol.com or Marci Bartholomae at kevin_marci@hotmail.com.

Keep checking the PTSA website and newsletters for more information!

Reflections

Start creating! 'Reflections' is a national, cultural arts competition where students create their own original works in one of the following categories: literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, film/video, dance/choreography. The theme for 2014-15 is 'the world would be a better place if...'

Deadline for submissions is early November.

Eager Reader

Eager Reader is a voluntary reading incentive program, designed to foster a love of reading. Students read outside of school to earn prizes. Each minute spent reading counts toward both individual and class totals en route to fun prizes – including gift cards at participating merchants, books and a kindle!

Eager Reader starts October 10 and continues for four weeks.

Art Docent

Led by parent volunteers in each classroom, the Art Docent program teaches students about famous works of art, artistic concepts and techniques through the completion of hands-on monthly projects.

Math Club

Numbers your thing? 4th and 5th graders interested in honing their math skills are invited to join the Cascade Ridge Math Club. Our talented mathematicians meet Monday or Wednesday mornings before school en route to a regional Math Olympiad in the spring, where our Coyotes are pitted against students from other schools.

Caring Through Sharing

Caring Through Sharing supports our community by offering a collection point for gifts and groceries during the holiday season. Each classroom needs a parent-volunteer coordinator and is assigned a category (for example – pajamas or art supplies) and families are asked to participate by donating items.

The event starts on December 9 and culminates in a caravan delivery to the Issaquah Food Bank in early December.

Caring Coyotes

Caring Coyotes is a year-long program designed to reinforce the importance of community involvement and the spirit giving. Once each month the club meets after school to perform various community service projects. Students decide what local community initiatives to support – usually 3-5 outreach events per year.

Science Fair

How can you tell if an egg is raw or hard boiled by looking at it? What is oobleck? How does soil impact the growth of plants? These questions and more may be answered this year at the 13th Ridge Science Fair! The much anticipated event lets students explore a topic of their choice. Students work on their project over several weeks and proudly display their work. Join all our budding scientists on March 26, 6-8 pm for a spectacular scientific show!

Geography Bee

Where in the world is Timbuktu? What is the capital of Brazil? What is the largest city in China? All these questions and more will be answered in a fun test of geography facts and figures. Please join us on January 27-28... great prep for our Festival of Cultures on January 29th

But wait there's more...

While most of our programs are led by volunteers and therefore free to any/all students, some programs are offered in a classroom atmosphere either before or after school and are offered by outside vendor/professionals. While we are still confirming logistics, the following classes are slated for the 2013-14 school year:

- Sports
- Orchestra
- LEGO
- Technology
- Drama

PLUS... there are also some additional programs in the works... so stay tuned to both the next issues of the Howler and check the PTSA website frequently for updates and new additions!

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...

October 3

November 7

December 5

January 9

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

A WORD FROM YOUR HOWLER EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of the Howler for the 2014-15 school year. You'll notice this year that the look and feel of the newsletter has changed. This "fresh coat of paint" is intended to update the look and feel of the newsletter and also try out some new approaches of presenting the information. This should be considered version 1.0. You will see ongoing tweaks/improvements as the year goes on. Please don't hesitate to send me your comments/concerns/questions to danm@danmiller.net. Thank you!

Cascade Ridge 2014-2015 Year-At-A-Glance

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Meet the Teacher, 9:00-10:00am
- Popsicle Social, 9:30-10:30am
- 3 First Day of School
- 4 First Day for KG
- 12 Coffee w/ the Principal, 8:30am
- Volunteer Training, 9:30am
- 5 1st Day Packet Paperwork Due
- 18 Curriculum Night for 3rd-5th,
Mrs. McLoughlin, LRC1, 5:30-6:15pm
- Staff Intro & Welcome, 6:15-6:45pm
- Curriculum Night for K-2, LRC2,
6:45-7:30pm
- 5th Grade Parent Mtg., 6:45-7:30pm
- 24 Curriculum Night for SAGE 3rd
Grade Parents and Reading Explorers,
5:30-6:15pm
- Volunteer Training, 6:30pm
- 26 Coffee and Cake Social, 9:30am
- 30 School Picture Day

OCTOBER

- 3 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 3 WAT, 4:00-6:30pm
- 7 Vision and Hearing Screening
- 10 Eager Reader Begins (4 weeks)
- 10 General Membership Mtg, 8:30am
- Volunteer Training, 9:30am
- 20 Site Council, 3:30pm

NOVEMBER

- 3-6 Book Fair, time TBD
- 7 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 7 Picture Re-take Day
- 7 Eager Reader Ends
- 11 Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER

- 3-4 Conference Day - NO SCHOOL
- 5 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 8-12 Caring Thru Sharing
- 15 Site Council, 3:30pm
- 22-31 1st Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

JANUARY

- 1-2 1st Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
- 5 School Resumes
- 9 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 19 Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
- 27-28 Geography Bee, 5pm
- 29 Festival of Cultures, 6-8pm

FEBRUARY

- 6 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 6 Coffee with the Principal, 8:30am
- General Membership Mtg, 8:30am
- 9 Site Council, 3:30pm
- 16-20 Second Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

MARCH

- 6 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 9 Site Council, 3:30pm
- 25-26 Non-Fiction Book Fair, time TBD
- 26 Science Fair, 6-8pm

APRIL

- 3 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 6-10 Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
- 29-30 Talent Show Rehearsals, time TBD

MAY

- 1 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 6-7 Talent Show, 6:30-8pm
- 15 Coffee with the Principal, 8:30am
- General Membership Mtg, 8:30am
- 18 Site Council, 3:30pm
- 22-25 Memorial Day Weekend - NO SCHOOL
- 27-29 5th Grade Camp

JUNE

- 5 Parent Play Day on the Playground
- 17 Last day of school