



COYOTE HOWLER

December Events

December 1 - 5: Caring Through Sharing

December 5: Parent Play Day!

December 22 - Jan 2: Winter Break

January 5: School Resumes

January 9: Parent Play Day!

January 19: No School! MLK Day.

January 29: Festival of Cultures

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Holidays CRE Families,

Regardless of the holiday your family celebrates, the season is upon us, and if you are like me, you are feeling the crunch to get your shopping done before the kids get out of school for winter break! November was a busy month for the PTSA with our math club groups beginning, our four week Eager Reader program wrapping up, and our annual Scholastic book fair occurring. December promises to be a much slower month. The only PTSA sponsored event during December is our Caring Through Sharing program. Caring Through Sharing is such a terrific way to support local families in need, and it is so much fun to watch students eagerly fill their classroom collection boxes! The CRE community is so generous and together we can make the season brighter for so many. Be sure and ask your student(s) what their classroom theme is and read more about the program on a later page of the Howler.

In January the PTSA will be forming our nominating committee to recruit the next slate of officers for our 2015-16 Executive Board. **OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU...**The PTSA Board has 10 positions. Eight of us are moving on next year and will be leaving open Board positions. **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 me at brooksann10@gmail.com. I would be happy to reach out to anyone who you might suggest as well.

When school resumes in January, there are a number of PTSA events to look forward to. In January and February we have the Festival of Cultures, Geography Bee and a showing of Race to Nowhere. March brings the always anticipated Science Fair and in May we will hold the student Talent Show. I hope that you and your children are able to participate in any of all of these events and look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers,

Ann Brooks, PTSA President



PTSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2015-2016

Each school year the PTSA Nominating Committee puts together the slate for the PTSA Board for the following school year. Ideally the committee is made up of 5-6 PTSA members who recruit members of the Cascade Ridge community to serve on the PTSA Board. The committee meets several times between February and April to discuss potential candidates and the incoming Board members are voted on at the April PTSA GM meeting.

Several Nominating Committee members have already been appointed but we are still in need of several more. If you are interested in serving on the 2015-2016 Nominating Committee or if you have questions about the committee please contact Helen DiMeco at hdimeco@comcast.net or Ann Brooks at brooksann10@gmail.com.

PTSA BOARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2015-2016

Are you interested in being on our PTSA Board or do you know someone who would be really great in a Board position next year? Please take a quick look at the Board positions and their related job descriptions on our website www.cascaderidgeptsa.org (click on PTSA and then Board Members) and let us know who would fit any of these positions. If you know of someone who would generally be a great Board member but you're not sure in which specific position, we also want to hear from you!

Starting in January, our Nominating Committee will be collecting the names to slate for our 2015-2016 PTSA Board and we always want to get a diverse group of members from our broad community on the Board. Please contact Helen DiMeco at hdimeco@comcast.net or Ann Brooks at brooksann10@gmail.com with any names and ideas you have!

CARING THROUGH SHARING

Hello Cascade Ridge Families! It is time again for all CRE families to show our gratitude for all we have by helping those in need. Like last year, this year Caring Through Sharing (CTS) will support the Issaquah Food Bank, a local organization that provides gifts and goods for families in our area who could use a helping hand this holiday season.

Because the need is great, the Issaquah Food Bank is no longer handing out gift tags, as they did in years past. **Instead, each classroom has been given a theme (such as "hats, mittens and scarves") and students who choose to participate are encouraged to bring in NEW items supporting the theme.** Caring Through Sharing classroom representatives have already kicked off the program and announced the theme for your student's classroom. All students also have the option to bring in either gift cards (Safeway, Target, Fred Meyer, or QFC, in any dollar amount) or gift wrapping supplies (wrapping paper, tissue, gift tags, tape, ribbon, bows).

Gift collection will happen during the week of Monday, December 1st – Friday, December 5th. Please bring your items to your classroom and leave them in the designated Caring Through Sharing boxes as directed by your classroom rep. Please note that items should **NOT** be gift wrapped. The gifts will be delivered on Monday, December 8th!

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Caring Through Sharing classroom representative for more information. You may also contact the Caring Through Sharing Chairperson, Chrisann Penz, for help as well:
chrisannpenz@yahoo.com.

Thank you, in advance, for your help in making the holidays brighter for so many local families!



PARENT ED CORNER

Thank you to all that were able to attend Mari Steven's workshop on motivating kids (without losing your mind!) on November 13th. We had a great turn-out and the response to her presentation was overwhelmingly positive! I think everyone that attended walked out with at least a few new tidbits for their parenting tool kits! We are so fortunate to have access to such wonderful resources and a big thank you to our PTSA for funding the event!

Well, the holidays are upon us! In my house, that means that along with excitement and fun, stress levels are up. Here are some articles that might help ease some of the holiday craziness:

<http://savvyparentssafekids.com/2011/11/keeping-your-kids-safe-and-keeping-your-sanity-during-the-holidays/>

http://www.cherylerwin.com/blog/display.cfm?entry_id=3E54C2DD-782B-CB27-DF61199AF7A12C07

Hoping to run a few errands without your children in tow? This was a great thought-provoking article about what to consider when deciding on the appropriate age for leaving your kiddos "Home Alone"!

<http://savvyparentssafekids.com/2013/08/home-alone-is-your-child-ready-are-you/>

GEOGRAPHY BEE

The 3rd annual Cascade Ridge Geography Bee will be a enjoyable and friendly event allowing students to share their geographic knowledge and learn fascinating facts about our interconnected world. We have registered with the National Geographic this year and practice quiz questions are available online for practice at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/quiz/today>.

There's also Geography Bee Challenge app for mobile devices.

The bee is a multiple choice competition where teams of 4-5 similar grade students answer questions appropriate to their grade level about U.S and world geography. Dates for the first or second week of February will follow.

CASCADE RIDGE PTSA GOLDEN ACORN AWARD NOMINATIONS

Our wonderful Cascade Ridge community is extremely generous with volunteer time. This school year, we will have had hundreds of volunteers involved in the many events and programs sponsored by the PTSA. All that we do throughout the year would not be possible without this active involvement.

The Washington State PTSA Council honors outstanding volunteer service for children by awarding the Golden Acorn Award annually to PTSA volunteers.

The benefit of presenting a Golden Acorn Award is two-fold. First, it recognizes individuals who have given outstanding service to children. Secondly, it supports scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary education.

This award is, above all, a PTSA award whose winners volunteer in ways that meet the mission of the PTSA: promoting the health, welfare, safety and education of all children and youth in the home, school, community, and place of worship. Volunteers demonstrate an outstanding personal commitment to improving the lives of children and youth through their service to the school, district, and community.

Cascade Ridge honors our local volunteers through participation in the Golden Acorn program. We will be seeking nominations for this award soon after Winter Break, so be sure to think about who you would like to nominate and keep your eyes open for the announcement. Erinn Chapman (erinnmchapman@gmail.com), our PTSA VP of Volunteers will be happy to answer your related questions.



BOOK FAIR



THANK YOU Cascade Ridge families for your generous support of the Book Fair! Together, we raised \$2,500 and added over 200 new titles to classroom bookshelves. We also earned a Scholastic credit to use toward book prizes for next year's Eager Reader program.

Special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who made it happen! We truly appreciate all the hours spent on decorations, set up, running the cash registers, helping students, and clean up!!! Thanks to Lauri Kinnan for the awesome Cafe castle decorations...all our set up volunteers Sally Andrews, Marci Bartholomae, Lara Buis, Alan Cooper, Jaycee Cooper, Nathalie Fusaro (Josh & Allison, too!), Mi Goelkel, Yun Li, Angie Lukens, Lauri Kinnan (Callie, too!), Nicole Montgomery, Diane Pattillo, Lorie Piper, Margot Purcell, and Dawn Zhao...our dedicated cashiers Jaime Foreman, Tracey Perino, Carolyn Scurrrell, Lorie Piper, Michelle Bowling, Carrie Haines, Rocio Aguirre, Angela Fischer, Krista Gale, Sandhya Kumar, Nicole Montgomery, Stephanie Khanna, and Nathalie Fusaro... and everyone who helped clean up Nathalie Fusaro, Angie Lukens, Margot Purcell, and Sujatha Murugesan.

Thanks also to our enthusiastic BLMS and Skyline student volunteers Mary Brady, Grayson Cooper, Paul Druta, Grace Fassio, Annalise Haines, Madeline King, Ethan Kinnan, Ajay Pai, Matthew Shang, and Nithin Tamilselvan. Volunteering at the Book Fair is a great way to earn NJHS service hours and we would love to have you back again next year!

And, last but not least, thanks to the 5th grade students who braved the crowds and brought Clifford to life Sean Brady, Jack Haines, Parker Satenberg, Danielle Verrue, Ryan DiMeco, and Ryan Penz.

EAGER READER SUCCESS!

Another year of Eager Reader is in the books! Congratulations to all of our Eager Readers and thank you to all of our students and families for their support. Over 550,000 minutes of reading were logged over the month of the program. The students earned a fun assembly with Charlie Williams aka "The Noise Guy" as their prize for exceeding their 500,000 minutes goal.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all of our classroom volunteers. They packed and delivered many prize bags over the past month and the program would not have been a success without their effort!

Thank you to Michelle Brady for keeping the website and minute logs running.

We would like to send a special Thank You shout out to our Red Robin Issaquah and Hop Jack's in Klahanie for providing a kids meal as the week 4 prize.

Congratulations to the following classes who won the grade level reading competition and earned a pizza party during their lunchtime:

Kindergarten - Ms. Reents's class with 6,615 minutes

First Grade - Mrs. Lanman's class with 19,620 minutes

Second Grade - Mr. Marckx's class with 27,770 minutes

Third Grade - Mrs. Shawver's class with 26,696 minutes

Fourth Grade - Mrs. Christensen's class with 35,397 minutes

Fifth Grade - Mr. Ullom's class with 40,162 minutes

Thank You to Pizza Pazzo in Klahanie for providing pizza to our winning classrooms.

Thanks to everyone for their support in keeping our kids reading!

Tiffany Parker
Eager Reader Coordinator



REFLECTIONS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Thank you to all of our student "artists" who participated in this year's PTSA Reflections cultural arts competition. Twenty two Cascade Ridge students submitted original works for judging, and the talent and creativity of these students was amazing!

Congratulations to our 12 finalists whose work will represent Cascade Ridge at the Regional Level:

- Literature: Amal Masood
- Music Composition: Claire Mayfield
- Photography: Dayle Lincicome
- Visual Arts: Rishika Arun, Pahal Thaker, Dhruv Thaker, Phillip Huang, Sanya Cheeti, Ayeda Masood, Ananya Ajila, Albert Li, Himaja Kotti

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our volunteers for our November Popcorn Friday – Jen Belding, Amy Simpson, Laurie Jones, Kellie Gazzard and Jaime Foreman!

Thank You to Jeff Brooks for chairing this year's National PTSA state-wide arts education contest, Reflections. This program would not have happened without you!

Thank you to Krystl McCandlish for all of your hard work and attention to detail with the school directory.

Thank you to Julia Yu for all your hard work in following up on matching funds dollars!

Thank you to Khristie Tobler for all your hard work on submitting our Box Tops!

Thank you to ALL the Box Top Classroom Reps who helped calculate class Box Top Totals - Elana Clayton, Kim Mathew, Nancy Chin, Ilabelan Kanniappan, Shannon Romanski, Simona Saint, Kanika Arora, Kerri Shek, Priva Talreja, Shari Peran, Natalie Wilcox, Angela Fischer, Stefanie Magnuson, Amy Ferng, Marnie Hutchings, Erica Fewel, Katy O'Brien, Rebecca Henle, Stephanie Khanna, Cyndi Sears, Julie Clark, Alisa Chan. Thank you to Lori Piper and Teresa Marshall for collecting Box Tops from the school foyer.

Thank you to Jen Belding for organizing a great Parent Education night!

Thank you to Rocio Aguirre, Sravani Cheeti, and Kanika Arora for getting Math Club up and running.

Thank you to Michele Brady and Lauri Kinnan for organizing a successful book fair. The students love all of their new books!

Thank you to Nicole Brenner for your continued help with Coyote Wear! Our students look great!

Eager Reader was a great success with many minutes logged. Thank you Tiffany Parker!

Thank you to all the Eager Reader helpers that distributed prizes and contributed to the success of the program: Sravani Cheeti, Amy Teller, Michelle Lyman, Sunshine Kragh, Melanie Kennedy, Teresa Mundel, Kathy Allison, Teresa Marshall, Vicky Thind, Tara Farhad, Kelly Huber, Marci Bartholomae

Thank you Erinn Chapman, Jaime Foreman and Marci Bartholomae for helping with Picture Retake Day.

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...

December 5

January 9

February 6

March 6

April 3

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>