



COYOTE HOWLER

February Events

February 6: Coffee with Natalie and General Membership Meeting at 8:30a

February 6: Parent Play Day and Popcorn Friday

February 6: Volunteer Orientation at 10:00a

February 9: Kindergarten Information Night at 6:00p

February 11: 2nd Grade Concert at 6:30p

February 16 - 20: No School! Second Winter Break

February 26: Parent Education - Race to Nowhere Movie at 6:00p

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

GO SEAHAWKS!

I know that is a strange way to begin the February letter, but our written materials for the Howler are due before Sunday's big game to meet our publication deadline. Born and raised in the Seattle area, I have to give one more shout out to the Seattle Seahawks! It has been unbelievable and so much fun to see how this team has brought our CRE school community even closer together. There was so much blue and green at school last Blue Friday – from the decorations outside and inside to the creative to the creative outfits worn by staff and students alike. Regardless of the outcome of the Super bowl or which team you and your family support, we can thank the Seahawks for extending the season and the fun for all of us.

January was a busy month at Cascade Ridge and for the PTSA. We held our first National Geographic Bee for 4th and 5th grade students and it was truly impressive to see the knowledge about US and world geography that the participants possessed. A huge thanks to **Nigar Suleman** for chairing the event. At the end of the month, we held our biannual Festival of Cultures, and I know I speak for all in attendance when I say that it was definitely one of the year's highlights! The attendance was phenomenal and it was so much fun to see all of the kids and parents dressed up in clothing from their native countries. Thank you to **Bona Park** for chairing the event and to **ALL of the host families** for the work they put into their country booths! It is extraordinary to see how many cultures are represented at CRE.

Mark your calendars now for our parent education movie coming up at the end of February and our annual Science Fair in March. You can get all of the details about both events on subsequent pages of this Howler. I would also encourage you to read about our new Cascade Ridge Elementary PTSA Facebook page and our new Coyote Care Network program. Both are being implemented because of direct feedback from the CRE community.

As always, please contact me anytime with thoughts, feedback or ideas at brooksann10@gmail.com or (425) 533-3229.

Cheers,

Ann Brooks, PTSA President

COFFEE W/NATALIE & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendar for this month's Coffee with the Principal on Friday, February 6th at 8:30am. Debra Hawkins, the Director of Assessment & Research for the Issaquah School District and 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!

FEBRUARY BOX TOP CLASSROOM COMPETITION

It's Box Top submission time! We earned \$766.80 from our last Box Top drive! We are so close to our \$1,000 goal for the year.

You can help us reach that goal by clipping, pasting, taping and turning in your collection sheets. If you aren't familiar with the "Box Tops for Education" program or want to see a list of eligible products, visit www.boxtops4education.com for more information.

It's so easy, simply follow these steps:

1. Clip, paste and or tape your Box Tops to the collection sheet found on the school website. (Be sure to check that the Box Top has not expired.) Here is the link for the Box Top form:

<http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Doc/PassiveFundraising/2015WinterBoxTop.pdf>

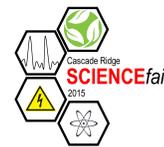
2. Turn in your collection sheets to your classroom by Monday, February 23rd. Be sure to write your teacher's name on the sheet!

The classroom that turns in the most Box Tops will receive a Yo Plateau class party!

Questions? Contact our Box Top chair Khristie Tobler at: krt17@comcast.net

SCIENCE FAIR

The Cascade Ridge 2015 Science Fair is right around the corner (March 26 from 6:00p to 8:00p)! There will be hundreds of great student experiments and many hands-on activities from salmon dissection to rockets and reptiles to DNA. We will also have hot slices of pizza to purchase, lots of sweet treats, scientific snacks and drinks. Come along to this great Cascade Ridge tradition and make it a great night with the family!



For grades K-4, the Registration deadline is March 9th so be sure to go online at cascaderidgeptsa.org to register, order a colorful project display board and find all kinds of information to help you with your experiments!

We still need volunteers to pull off this great event! If you are able to volunteer for one of the many areas of need (set-up, judging, concessions, assistance with various activities at the Fair, tear-down) please sign-up when registering your student for the science fair or contact sciencefair@cascaderidgeptsa.org.

Lastly, we would love to have pictures of your student in action to be displayed during the Science Fair. Please submit pictures of your student working on their science fair project to sciencefair@cascaderidgeptsa.org by March 20th.

SPRING FUNDRAISER!

Our Spring Fundraiser is coming in March! We will be selling Mixed Bags! This company offers eco-friendly tote bags, travel bags, kitchenware, home goods and so much more!

Catalogs and more information coming in March!

COYOTE CARE NETWORK

The Cascade Ridge PTSA and school administration are excited to announce a new program called "Coyote Care Network". This partnership came about because of the kindness and generosity of our school community. If a need by a CRE family is identified, either with the family's permission or anonymously, an email will be sent out to cascaderidgeptsa.org users who elect to receive Coyote Care Network communications. If the need can be met by someone on the distribution list, then they can respond to either the PTSA or school contact to facilitate handoff. Please note that our expectation is not to spend school or PTSA funds but instead to assist families by informing our caring Cascade Ridge community and assisting with the facilitation of play dates, meal delivery or carpool help, or collecting new/used items.

There is no obligation to participate – but since we are introducing this program mid-year, we have initially set all website users to receive Coyote Care Network emails. If you would like to 'opt out', you can de-select this preference by clicking on this link: <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Page/General/DeleteAccount>

As with any new program, this is a work in process so please reach out to us with questions and feedback.

PTSA contact: Angie Lukens – tikicat@comcast.net PTSA Community Relations

Cascade Ridge contact: Natalie Fowler – fowlern@issaquah.wednet.edu School Principal

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.

Do you need another incentive to 'Like' us? We will be holding random drawings throughout the month of February and rewarding people with Starbucks gift cards. We'd love to draw your name!

GOLDEN ACORN

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 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 erinnmchapman@gmail.com.

Nominations are due by February 13th. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need you! Are you looking for a way to get more involved at Cascade Ridge? Do you want to get more involved outside of your child's classroom? Do you want to get connected with fun people? We have many great committee positions that will be opening up next year and this is a great opportunity to get involved. There is something for everyone: small and large roles; short term and long term commitments; chair positions that can be completed at home as well as positions that will bring you up to the school. What are you waiting for? More information can be found on these positions at <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Program> or <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Page/Ptsa/BoardMembers>. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please contact Jaime Foreman, jaimeforeman@comcast.net.

Executive Committee Positions

- President
- Secretary
- VP-Communications
- VP-Fundraising
- VP-Programs
- VP-Volunteers
- VP-Community Relations

Committee Positions

- Yearbook Chair
- Facebook Chair
- School Supplies Chair
- Art Docent Chair
- Reflections Chair
- Spelling Bee Chair
- Math Club Chair
- Baking Committee Chair
- Popcorn Friday Chair

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

We 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. If you did not get a chance to attend either Volunteer Orientation in the fall, please plan to attend the last one this school year on Friday, February 6th at 10am in the Cafe following the PTSA General Membership Meeting.

PARENT ED CORNER

We hope to see a lot of you at this month's showing of "Race to Nowhere" here at Cascade Ridge Elementary on February 26th from 6pm-7pm. **Free!!!!** If you haven't seen it before or would like to see it again, this is a great opportunity. If you are unfamiliar with the movie, here is a quick synopsis:

Race to Nowhere is a 2009 documentary film written by Maimone Attia and directed by Vicki Abeles and Jessica Congdon. Part of the power of Race to Nowhere is in its personal story. The film came into being after director Vicki Abeles discovered that the pressures of school, homework, tutoring and extracurricular activities were making her middle-school daughter physically sick. The notion that her daughter – a seemingly normal teenager – had been diagnosed with a stress-induced illness was a painful wake-up call and a catalyst for change.

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

If that date/time doesn't work with your schedule, you can also see Debra on **Monday, February 9th from 7-8pm at Grand Ridge Elementary**. Topics there will include testing anxiety, the Smarter Balance testing and Highly Capable assessments.

Finally, Mid-Winter break is quickly approaching! Don't have any plans and want to local stay-cation ideas? Check out this article: <http://www.thriftynorthwestmom.com/staycation-things-to-do-seattle/>

SAFETY CORNER



By Pamela Franklin, PTSA Safety Patrol Liaison

Welcome to 2015! It is hard to believe we are ½ way through our school year. This is the perfect time to talk safety with our students who ride a BIKE or SCOOTER to school. First off, BRAVO for encouraging your kiddos to ride a bike or scooter to school! We have record numbers of students getting to school via bikes and scooters, and we look forward to seeing those numbers increase as the spring months and better weather draw closer.

Cascade Ridge is always evaluating systems for keeping all students safe. Since the start of the school year, we have worked hard to establish routines for students who choose to ride bikes, scooters or skateboards to school. Due to the increasing volume of students choosing this, close calls and run-in's, the following guidelines will be in place **effective immediately**:

Bike/Skateboard/Scooter Riders

New Guidelines

- Students who ride bikes, scooters, or skateboards **to school** from the north end (Glencoe and neighborhoods north) will have two choices:
 - Cross to the west sidewalk (opposite the school) at the Sterling Square crosswalk and **ride** bikes or scooters on the sidewalk. If you are on a bike, you can use the designated bike lane. Proceed to the main crosswalk and cross with the crossing guards & Ms. Paula (at the south end of the school.) Walk scooters or bikes at the start of the school campus.
 - If you choose to come to school via the east sidewalk (closest to school), students will now need to walk their bike, scooter or skateboard all the way from the crosswalk at the Glencoe (this includes kids who are in K-2 and supervised by their parents.) The pedestrian traffic on this sidewalk is very heavy, which makes it necessary for this change.
- Students **going home** will follow the same options.
 - Cross at the main crosswalk with the crossing guards & Ms. Paula to the west sidewalk (opposite the school) and ride north to all neighborhoods.
 - If you choose to use the east sidewalk (closest to the school), bikes, skateboards or scooters will be walked from the main crosswalk and all the way north until you reach the Glencoe crosswalk. This includes directly in front of the school.
 - Bikes on the east side of the school going home may use the bike lane. Scooters should not use the bike lane on either side, in either direction.

Festival of cultures

A BIG Thank You to Bona Park for chairing this year's Festival of Cultures! Thank you for the dedication, time and effort you put into this event. Your attention to every detail made for a wonderful, fun-filled event for our community.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our gracious and magnificent host families, who created a truly amazing evening of color, cuisine and culture!

Australia – Melanie Carbon

Canada - Betty Sur

China – Zhaoan Liu, Aiwen Guo, Liang Tang, Yingtao Wang, Jiayin Yu, Helen Fan, Renee Xie, Lei Zhang, Lei Tian, Sien Zhou, Yun Li, Zheng Chen

Colombia – Ana Malloy

Egypt - Samah Desouky

England – Mark Scurrrell, Carolyn Scurrrell

Finland - Alyssa Miikki

France – Alexandrine Lagrave

Germany – Christie Jucht, Carolyn Santos

Honduras – Nancy Colindres

India – Swarna Chilakala, Ramya Krishna, Shalini Sivakumar, Sujatha Iavelan, Sravani Cheeti, Savitha Janardhan, Suvarna Darapu, Namrata Shrivastava

Israel – Shirly Shemesh

Japan – Carrie Lam, Erich Smick

Mexico – Maria Rodriguez

The Netherlands – Michelle Lyman

Scotland – Deirdre Sherwood

South Korea – Yeun Choi, Dana Kim, Susie Park, Hyesang Yoon

Spain – Peggy Sicilia

Swaziland – Kristi Lincicome

U SA - Ann Brooks, Helen DiMeco, Stefanie Magnuson and Khristie Tobler

A special thank you to our wonderful performers and sponsors for their generous support and commitment to our community: Agave, Albertsons, Bolly Steps Dance Academy, Chan's Place, Fred Meyer, Hwang's Tae Kwon Do, Northwest Kung Fu and Fitness – Lion Dance, The Ram, Rick Fogel – Whamdiddle, Safeway, Thai Ginger, Trader Joe's, Tutta Bella, QFC, Zeeks Pizza

Thank you to our incredible set up/clean up and sound crew who worked quickly behind the scenes so that we could all enjoy the evening: Erinn Chapman, Mr. Dunham, Jaime Foreman, Jakob Kubicki, Juli Kubicki, Angie Lukens, Kody Lukens, Diana Pugh, Nichole Wengert, BLMS middle School volunteers

What would we have done without our special MC for the evening, Mrs. Fowler. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support throughout the planning and evening.

A very big thank you to our fabulous Cascade Ridge Staff, PTSA Board, parent volunteers, and student volunteers for all their support and hard work to make this event a success.

Thank you all for coming!



FEBRUARY THANK-YOUS

Class picture day was a success. Thank you to Neena Rana and Renee Xie for helping.

The kids enjoyed popcorn Friday. Thank you Jen Belding, Lori Piper, Michelle Lyman and Jaime Foreman.

We all learned a little more geography at the Geography Bee. Thank you to Nigar Suleman for helping make the Geography Bee a great event, Ann Brooks for a fabulous job as the Moderator and Announcer and Kim Evans for being an excellent judge and scorekeeper.

REFLECTIONS WINNER

Congratulations to Cascade Ridge Elementary 5th grade student Dayle Lincicome. Her photograph, titled "River of Hope", has advanced to the WA State PTA Level of the National Reflections contest and was one of only 5 photography entries in the K-5 division to advance from the Issaquah School District. Way to go Dayle!



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...

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>

ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



It's February and the Issaquah Schools Foundation is all about the love. Who's on our Valentine's list? Our parents, volunteers and donors, our teachers, and our students! **We LOVE** seeing your children discover, develop and achieve their academic potential.

Save the Date for *Nourish Every Mind*

Join us for the **Issaquah Schools Foundation's 17th Annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon** on **Thursday, May 14** at the Issaquah Community Center and the **2nd Annual Nourish Every Mind Breakfast** on **Wednesday, May 20** at **Eastridge Church**. Contact your PTSA/ISF Rep to reserve a seat at your school's table or Jenell Tamaela, j.tamaela@isfdn.org.

You Shop, They Give, Students Win!

You can earn money for our students when you shop with Amazon and Fred Meyer.

- **Use the Issaquah Schools Foundation website to log onto amazon.com.** You'll earn 8% of your purchase for the Issaquah Schools Foundation. Visit isfdn.org for our Amazon link.
- **Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Issaquah Schools Foundation** at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. Search for us by name or number, 9119.

Empty Closets = Full Tummies

Donate to Issaquah's new **Value Village** store **February 17-21**, and the **Issaquah Schools Foundation will receive a portion of your donation**. Proceeds will benefit the Foundation's **Basic Student Needs program**. Stop by 5530 E. Lake Sammamish Parkway with your donation, and thank Value Village for supporting our students.

Bring the Happiest 5K on the Planet to Town

The Issaquah Schools Foundation has the opportunity to bring the Color Run to town this August. We need your help assuring organizers we can attract 2,000 participants.

1. [Click Here](#) to go to the Color Run website
2. Look for the 'JOIN VIP List' box on the right side of the page.

3. Add your name and email.
4. Select Issaquah as your first choice city.
5. Submit.

Color Run will tally all entries received by **February 28th**. Thank you!

WASHINGTON STATE PTA NEWS

Student Essay Contest – Male Role Model in My Life

The Washington State PTA (WSPTA) is once again offering the Men's Essay Contest. This is an opportunity for students to write essays about an important man in their life.

WSPTA acknowledges the importance of men in children's lives, and offers an annual essay contest for students to showcase the important men who make positive impacts in their lives. There are categories for K-12, plus a special author category for students who receive services, as defined by the ADA.

Entry deadline is March 1, 2015. Find further details and entry form here: http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/PTA_mens/index.html