



COYOTE HOWLER

April Events

April 3rd - Parent Play Day and Popcorn Friday

April 6th - 10th: No school - Spring Break!

April 13th: Last day to register for Talent Show

April 15th: Last day to order Yearbooks

April 22nd: 5th Grade Concert at 6:30p

April 23rd - 24th: Talent Show

April 24th: General Membership Meeting at 8:30a

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Cascade Ridge Families,

The sun is out and Spring Break is just around the corner which means we are down to our last couple months of school – yikes! I hope that many of you were able to attend the Science Fair at the end of March and that it exceeded your expectations. Judging by the number of kids running around enjoying the exhibits, eating pizza and drinking the “Science-Ade”, the night appeared to be a tremendous success. **A HUGE thank you to Laurie Jones and her Science Fair team for all of the months of work it took to pull off this single evening!** As always, the number and caliber of student projects was amazing and it was so much fun to talk to the students about their findings.

We still have one big school-wide PTSA event coming up at the end of April, our very popular Talent Show! The Talent Show is such a great way to showcase the many, varied talents of our CRE students and our school's supportive community spirit. Just about anything goes at this fun event so tell your kids to grab a friend and start practicing! All of the details can be found on our PTSA website.

Finally, I would really like to encourage you to attend our next General Membership meeting on April 24th (see article on the next page). Besides electing our new PTSA Executive Board, we have an opportunity to use some of the PTSA's reserve funds to purchase new laptops and a laptop cart for use by all CRE students. Principal Fowler will give a presentation about the many benefits of the laptops and we will discuss the financial details and get feedback from our school community.

Have a wonderful Spring Break and as always, please contact me anytime with thoughts, feedback or ideas at brooksann10@gmail.com or (425) 533-3229.

Cheers,
Ann Brooks, PTSA President

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please join us at our next PTSA General Membership Meeting on Friday,

April 24th at 8:30 am in the Coyote Café. We have two important topics for discussion:

1. We will elect the 2015 – 2016 PTSA Executive Board (please see the proposed slate below).
2. We will hear a presentation by Principal Fowler about using \$15,000-\$22,000 of our PTSA reserve funds to purchase 20-30 new laptops and a laptop cart for use by CRE students (we will vote on this proposal at our May GM meeting).



As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your opinions with us at this meeting.

2015-2016 PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES

The 2015 Cascade Ridge Nominating Committee proudly submits the following slate of nominees to the general membership for election to the 2015-2016 PTSA Executive Board:

President: Kelly Huber

Executive Vice President: Jaime Foreman

Secretary: Stefanie Magnuson

Treasurer: Krystl McCandlish

VP Communications: Jackie Mueller

Co-VP Fundraising: Michelle Lyman and Khristie Tobler

VP Programs: Carolyn Roberts

Co-VP Volunteers: Kanika Arora and Ajita Krishnan

Co-VP Community Relations: Angela Fischer and Shannon Romanski

Please plan to join us at our next General Membership meeting on Friday, April 24th at 8:30am in the Coyote Café. We will elect the 2015-2016 PTSA Executive Board at this meeting. Many thanks to this year's PTSA nominating committee: Lara Buis, Dulcy Hixson, Diane Pattillo, Shannon Romanski, Krystl McCandlish and Jaime Foreman.

OPEN POSITIONS

We need you! There are several great opportunities to get more involved at Cascade Ridge during the 2015-2016 school year.

Did you and your family have a great time at our Fall Festival and Walk-a-thon? We are looking for someone to chair next year's Walk-a-thon. Better yet, grab a friend and co-chair the Walk-a-thon! If you are interested, please contact Michelle Lyman @ chelle_lyman@yahoo.com or Khristie Tobler @ krt17@comcast.net



Do you love photography? Does your child enjoy looking through the Cascade Ridge yearbook? We are in need of a Yearbook Chair for next year. If you are interested, please contact Stefanie Magnuson @ stef.mag@hotmail.com.

Can you help add some pizzazz to our PTSA website? We could really use an on call volunteer familiar with basic graphic formats and web design. Time commitment would only be 1-2 hours a month. Contact Michele Brady at brady1093@yahoo.com for more info!

Does your student enjoy participating in the Reflections Contest? We are in need of a Reflections Chair for next year. If you are interested, please contact Kelly Huber @ kellyahuber@aol.com or Marci Bartholomae @ kevin_marci@hotmail.com

PTSA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

We are excited to announce each month the PTSA will be recognizing one of our dedicated volunteers for their lending outstanding time and talents to our school community.

To kick off the first month, we would like to recognize Laurie Jones!

Laurie has served as chairperson for the past two years of our successful and popular Science Fair. And aside from Science Fair, Laurie can also be seen around school volunteering in her children's classrooms and handing out popcorn on Popcorn Friday!

Thank you Laurie!

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



GOT TALENT?

Got Talent? So you think you can dance, sing, tell jokes, juggle, play the piano, violin or have the next rock band to hit it big? Here's your chance to share your talent. The CASCADE RIDGE PTSA proudly presents the 4th Annual TALENT SHOW! Mark your calendars for two entertaining evenings: **Thursday, April 23rd and Friday, April 24th.** Rehearsals for all acts will be held on **April 16 and 17**, right after school. Whether you are performing or cheering the talent on, you won't want to miss these amazing shows! To register and find out more details, please visit the Cascade Ridge PTSA website at cascaderidgeptsa.org and follow the Talent Show link.

Start preparing your acts – Ready, Set, Action!

2014 - 2015 YEARBOOK

Have you ordered your students their yearbooks for the 2014-15 school year? Can't remember? You can go online to <http://cascaderidgepts.org/page/yearbook/verify> to see whether or not you have placed an order. If you haven't ordered one yet, visit <http://cascaderidgepts.org> to order one now. **The deadline for ordering is April 15th** and we do NOT order extra yearbooks. We will not be able to fulfill requests at the end of the year so please place your order to ensure that your student is not disappointed.

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Gale at galesintheusa@gmail.com.

BOOK SWAP

Bring your gently used books to SWAP for "new to you" books & SHARE the love of reading with other kids! Students are invited to bring **up to 10 books** to trade (K-5th grade reading level only please, no board books). Books will be collected before school on April 22-23 and swapped during 2nd recess on April 24.

Do you have extra books to share? Help us create a Lending Library for local charities. For each additional 5 books turned in, students will receive an entry in our prize drawing!

Questions? Contact Michele Brady at brady1093@yahoo.com.



PARENT ED CORNER

If you are anything like me, you're shaking your head in disbelief as the calendar page turns to April. How did this happen? School just started, right? Believe it or not, the home stretch of the school year is not far away and I'm already thinking about the NEXT grade level!

If you have a "graduating" 5th grader and are heading towards middle school...these articles might be for you! Check out this link and you might find something that applies to you and your family:

<http://www.wnyc.org/series/being-12/>

Here is another one for parents of tweens & teens...it's a quick video that takes you to a link to some interesting podcasts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFhWtKcSaF4>

Sometimes I look at my kiddo and wonder how we'll ever get to the "leaving the nest stage"! Responsibility, life skills, resilience.... I saw this chart the other day about life skills and it sparked some great conversation between myself and a few other parents. Check it out and see what you think:

http://www.thirtyhandmadedays.com/2015/03/guidelines-for-practical-life-skills-for-kids/?utm_source=kidsactivitiesblog.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=pubexchange_facebook

What do you think of this idea? Standing desks?! Interesting read!

<http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/10/how-standing-desks-can-help-students-focus-in-the-classroom/>

SCIENCE FAIR RECAP

To the 119 Science Fair volunteers that helped make it all happen and the 2015 Science Fair Committee; Laurie Jones, Jaime Foreman, Blythe Mercer, Kim Evans and Dindo Reyes, we say.....

THANK

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The 2015 Science Fair was a blast for all! The excitement for science began with a kick-off assembly from the Pacific Science Center in January, following this we had a record high of 278 students working diligently at home on their projects. Finally, the big day came on March 26th and the student scientists shared their work with our volunteer judges and other students during the school day. New this year, students and adults enjoyed voting for their favorite projects in five fun categories as they browsed the displays! Then, the real party came that evening when the curious kid came out in all of us. Parents and kids marveled over student projects and demonstrations and followed their maps around the school to explore the 13 exhibits! Some highlights included a lively real time weather exhibit from King 5's Jeff Renner, the cute chameleon from the reptile exhibit, a fascinating salmon dissection from the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, manipulating Mindstorm robots, an amazing look into the microscopic world, a shocking look into our own mouths with the tooth exhibit, mining for minerals, exploding water rockets, the smell of strawberries from the strawberry DNA extractions, lasers in the library and the list goes on! Visitors enjoyed all this while scarfing down scientific snacks, pizza and colorful Science-Ade!

MATH IS COOL

Congratulations to the 5th grade students of Math Club who represented Cascade Ridge Elementary School in the *Math is Cool Competition* on March 20th. This was the first year that our school participated in this competition, thanks to the unwavering enthusiasm of parent volunteer coaches, Ajita Krishnan and Olga Lepekhina, who helped coordinate the opportunity to participate!

Overall CRE came in a phenomenal 12th out of the 26 schools that participated in the division. Our 5 teams included 20 students from 5th grade who have been crunching numbers since last November under the skillful guidance of their volunteer coaches: Alan Cooper, Sravani Cheeti, Rocio Aguirre and Ripal Gandhi. Not only was this a great learning experience, but the kids also had wonderful time. Out of the 251 students that were competing, the 35th and the 37th highest individual scores were those of our own Alan Sun and Aaron Yuan! Congratulations boys!

The Math Club is now preparing for the Washington State Math Championship in Blaine and the Math Olympiad hosted by The Washington State Math Council. We are very proud of our students and wish them the very best for the upcoming events!





ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Your Place at the Table

Have you reserved your seat for ***Nourish Every Mind?*** The Issaquah Schools Foundation's signature event is your opportunity to meet, mingle and learn how much our students benefit from your support. Join us for the **17th Annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon** on May 14 at the Issaquah Community Center or the **2nd Annual Nourish Every Mind Breakfast** on May 20 at Eastridge Church. For more information, contact your PTSA's Schools Foundation representative or Carolyn Kennedy at carolynk2@hotmail.com.

New Scholarship Opportunity!

The Issaquah Schools Foundation impacts every student at every school. Now, high school juniors and seniors can earn a \$1,000 college scholarship by describing how donor-funded Foundation programs have impacted their education. The Foundation's new **Impact Scholarship** will be awarded in two categories—written and oral. Application deadline: April 13. Learn more at <http://issaquahschoolsfoundation.org/for-students/impact-scholarship/>.

Bringing Big Ideas to Life

Our Balloon Brigade was back on the town on March 27 to surprise the winners of our **Kateri Brow Big Idea/Biggest Need Grants**. Twelve teachers received Kateri Brow grants ranging in amount from \$1,500 to \$9,800 to fund innovative programs for students throughout the district. Learn about this year's awards at isfdn.org/grants/kateri-brow-2015.

2015 ANNUAL WSPTA CONVENTION

April 17-19 2015@ Bellevue Hyatt Hotel, Bellevue, WA

The WSPTA Annual Convention is just around the corner -- April 17 – 19, 2015 at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel! Convention is the place where PTA leaders go to be inspired, and truly understand the power of this association and what it has accomplished for kids. Convention classes and general sessions help PTA leaders understand the issues, and learn the skills to be powerful and effective leaders and advocates.

This convention is open to all PTSA members at Cascade Ridge.

If you would like more information or are interested in attending, please contact Ann Brooks at brooksann10@gmail.com.

MIXED BAGS THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting Cascade Ridge's Spring Fundraiser with Mixed Bags! If you missed your opportunity to get in on the catalog sale, you can still order online until June 30th-make sure to use ID#19988! Our school will earn 40%!

Stay tuned for our school's grand total from the spring catalog sales!

THANK YOU

Thank you to Jen Belding, Erinn Chapman, Kellie Gazzard, Michelle Lyman and Jaime Foreman for serving Popcorn during 2nd recess. An even bigger Thank You to Diane Pattillo for all the hours she puts into making Popcorn Friday happen!



Thank you to Laboratory Laurie for another GREAT Science Fair! It was a great night of family entertainment and scientific learning!

Thank you to Dulcy Hixon and Tobi Roni for always providing fantastic cupcakes for the monthly birthday celebrations!

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...

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>