



COYOTE HOWLER

January Events

January 18th: No School,
Martin Luther King Day

January 22nd: Coffee w/
Principal, Volunteer
Orientation, PTSA General
Membership Meeting at 8:30a

January 25th: No School,
Teacher Work Day

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year Coyote families! In this time of resolutions, I hope among the efforts to *lose weight, be more organized and eat healthy*, there are also a few *'volunteer at Cascade Ridge' or attend one PTSA meeting*.

Conveniently, we have you covered - please join us on Friday morning, January 22nd at 8:30am to get information about upcoming events and programs, as well as learn about a proposed expenditure for a new YMCA recess program and vote on this year's nominating committee.

We are looking forward to the many PTSA events and programs that 2016 has to offer! From spelling bee to science fair, art walk to talent show - PTSA offers something for everyone!

See you on the 22nd!

Kelly

kellyahuber@aol.com

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want a great opportunity to work with friends and benefit your child's education? Cascade Ridge PTSA is in search of a group of 5 energetic volunteers to create our fundraising committee for 2016-17! No one needs to "chair" this, but instead work together as a team to plan/create our fundraising event next fall! Interested? Grab some friends and contact Kelly Huber (kellyahuber@aol.com) or Jaime Foreman (jaimeforeman@comcast.net) for more information!



COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Please join Principal Natalie Fowler in the Coyote Cafe for conversation and coffee on **Friday, January 22nd at 8:30am**. This is the second of our three coffee dates where Natalie will be sharing what is happening at Cascade Ridge this school year. Mark your calendar for the final coffee date of the year: April 22, 2016.

Have time to stick around? Please do! The PTSA General Membership meeting and Volunteer Orientation that is scheduled to begin immediately following Coffee with the Principal.



HOLIDAY GIFT BARN

Thank you Cascade Ridge! The Holiday Gift Barn program was a huge success. Over 1,300 Issaquah, Renton and Sammamish children received new toys, clothing, stocking-stuffers, socks, underwear, scarves, puzzles, books and more with the support of generous families like yours. Thank you for making the holiday season brighter for 500+ families! A special thank you to all of the Holiday Gift Barn reps for talking to your classrooms and making collection boxes. Thank you to the Room Coordinators for communicating with parents. Also, thank you to the volunteers who helped collect all the gifts and drive them to the Gift Barn. WELL DONE!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Coyote Art Walk: NEW DATE!

The Art Walk will now be held in May instead of January.

The PTSA is seeking a Chairperson to coordinate the Art Walk to exhibit the beautiful creations of our coyotes. The work is tailored to the volunteer. The art work is created under the guidance of the Art Docents. All you need to do is create an art gallery to show case the work of the young artists!

Grab a friend to co-chair! Plenty of support is available and the work is very fulfilling. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Roberts at tycar74@hotmail.com

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Fifth-Grade News is Online, All of the Time!

You can keep track of 5th-grade news and events by clicking on the "News" icon on the PTSA website, or bookmark this link: <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Page/Newsletter/5thGrade>.

Fifth-Grade Cast-Off Ceremony Slideshow – Deadline April 4th

This year for the 5th grade slideshow, we would like to include pictures of the 5th graders throughout their entire time at Cascade Ridge. We will be taking photos throughout their 5th grade year, but we could use your help in providing photos from Kindergarten through 4th grade. Please upload no more than 3 pictures to the following site by Monday April 4th:

K-4th Grade Photos

<https://onedrive.live.com/?cid=061d00f9ab202f69&id=61D00F9AB202F69%2121202&authkey=%21ADAq09YTzOoV4ek>

PARENT ED CORNER

Happy New Year! For me, the New Year is always exciting and full of new possibilities. Among those are new habits that I always have grand plans of embracing. I know that statistically, people don't tend to keep their New Year's Resolutions but it's always fun to dream! I thought this was a cute way to look back at the year that has passed as well as look forward to the new one with your kiddos....bonus keepsake as well!

<http://www.thirtyhandmadedays.com/2014/12/printable-new-years-resolutions-kids-2015/>

In looking back, I want to thank all who were able to attend the workshop given by Kim Estes on December 8th. It was a busy time of year to pencil in a few hours away but it was well worth the time. Great News! If you missed it, she will be at Grand Ridge Elementary on January 14th and will be covering even more of the cyber safety topic. Here is more information on the event:

Child Safety Workshop

Thursday, January 14, 2016 – Grand Ridge Library, 1739 NE Park Drive, Issaquah, WA

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

This workshop is about child safety topics. Kim Estes of Savvy Parent Safe Kids will talk about sleepovers and playdates, teaching body safety, smartphone safety, what apps should kids avoid, online safety, Super 10 rules, red flags and warning signs. We all want to keep our kids safe...

Additionally, the Issaquah School District is providing two more parent education opportunities in January. Be sure to check them out:

Grading Practices by Dr. Thomas Guskey

Wednesday, January 6, 2016 – Skyline High School, 1122 228 Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Parents of Issaquah School District students are invited to an evening presentation with author and internationally known expert on grading practices, Dr. Thomas Guskey, who will share research, describe new directions in grading policies, and offer suggestions for enhancing communication between parents and teachers for both elementary and secondary levels.

Safe Dating - Talking to Your Teen

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 – Skyline High School, 1122 228 Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

In *Safe Dating- Talking with Your Teen*, Robin Wright of Wright Conversations will help parents learn more about teen dating abuse and gives parents the tools they need to discuss it with their teens. Specifically parents will learn the dynamics of dating abuse, how to create a comfortable environment for discussing the topic, what conversations should specifically cover such as respect, affirmative consent, relationship boundaries, warning signs, and how to leave an abusive relationship. Every teen deserves and has the right to a safe and healthy dating relationship. Students are welcome to attend with their parents.

PTSA VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The PTSA Board would like to "spotlight" Carol Schweitzer and Diana Pugh for their dedication to our school community!

Both Carol and Diana are part of the small Staff Appreciation team at CRE. Each month these creative gals help plan the theme and menu for the luncheons that feed over 70 part and full time Cascade Ridge staff members. In addition to the planning, both help decorate for and execute the luncheons AND put their amazing culinary skills to use cooking and baking for the monthly feasts. They give of their time generously, always behind the scenes with their smiles and positive attitudes and are truly a delight to work with!

Thanks Carol and Diana for being such great assets to our school!

The Schweitzer Family



The Pugh Family



SPELLING BEE

Registration is now open for students to join the spelling fun at the 5th Annual Cascade Ridge Spelling Bee. All grades are welcome to join in this friendly competition of oral spelling ability.



Participants will take the stage one at a time and will be asked to spell a word out loud. (Students will repeat the word, spell it, and repeat the word again.) Each correctly spelled word earns a trip to the next round. The bee ends when there is just one speller standing!

The bee will take place over three evenings, as shown in the schedule above, to accommodate each grade. Any student may participate but must [register online](#) by **January 31st, 2016**. Complete rules, tips, and practice word lists are available online at cascaderidgeptsa.org.

Questions? Feedback? Contact spellingbee@cascaderidgeptsa.org.

We look forward to 'Bee-ing' at the Spelling Bee!

Join us for the 5th Annual Spelling Bee		
KG	Tuesday, February 23rd	5:30pm
3rd	Tuesday, February 23rd	7:00pm
1st	Wednesday, February 24th	5:30pm
4th	Wednesday, February 24th	7:00pm
2nd	Thursday, February 25th	5:30pm
5th	Thursday, February 25th	7:00pm
<p><i>Registration is required. Find out more and register online at cascaderidgeptsa.org by Jan 31st 2016.</i></p>		

EAGER READER SUCCESS

Another year of Eager Reader is in the books! Congratulations to all our Eager Readers and thank you to all our students, families, and teachers for their support. The students earned a fun assembly with Alex Zerbe aka "The Zaniac" as their prize for achieving their 500,000 minutes goal.



Please join me in sending a big thank you to all our classroom volunteers. They packaged and delivered approximately 2,000 prize bags over the 4 weeks of the program. Eager Reader would not be possible without their help.

- Krystl McCandlish
- Kathy Allison
- Elizabeth Chiu
- Marissa Schulz
- Tara Farhad
- Aiwen Guo
- Amy Teller
- Amy Passalacqua
- Anamika Malhotra
- Emily Ma
- Sandhya Kumar

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

Thank you also to Kelly Huber, Carolyn Roberts, Teresa Mundel, Michele Brady, Elizabeth Chiu, Emily Ma, Anamika Malhotra, Amy Passalacqua, and Krystl McCandlish, for helping distribute the free books to the students during lunch.

Thanks to everyone for their support in keeping our kids reading! Hopefully your kids had fun and picked up some good reading habits along the way.

Tiffany Parker

Eager Reader Coordinator

DECEMBER THANK YOUS

For coordinating the **Eager Reader Program** we would like to thank **Tiffany Parker!** She made sure that her team of parent volunteers kept every class and every child motivated. Thank you Tiffany!

The **Holiday Gift Barn** was coordinated by **Marci Bartholomae, Juli Kubicki and Angie Lukens**. Thank you Marci, Juli and Angie for enabling everyone to give back to the community and for making the program a huge success.

Thanks to Amy Passalacqua, Darlene Baker, Ana Malloy, Jessica Tran, Michelle Lyman, Jennifer Rohleder, Anne Miller, Elana Clayton, Angie Lukens, Carrie Haines, Jeanna Schmidt, Colleen Gutierrez, Nathalie Fusaro, Lara Buis, Nigar Suleman, Ann Brooks, Amy Simpson, Michelle Lyman, Marci Bartholomae, Helen DiMeco, Sarah Dunbar who were the individual class representatives for this program and spoke with the kids about the importance of giving.

Jen Belding coordinated the parent education night and we were able to attend a workshop on Tween Safety right here in the Coyote Café. Thanks Jen for putting this together for the parents!

For making the Staff Appreciation luncheons a huge success we would like to thank **Ann Brooks**. Thanks Ann for the tremendous effort that goes into planning these luncheons and of course for your precious time!

The rain and the cold weather never dampens Popcorn Friday. Thank you **Lara Buis** and her team for popping in on these special Fridays!

It is our endeavor to thank and mention by name all our hardworking volunteers every month. Sometimes we do not have all names of the volunteers who help out or might inadvertently omit to mention some volunteers. If you notice that, please do let us know and we'll make it right in the newsletter next month!

IT'S TIME FOR THE PTSA VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS!

The PTSA service awards - **Golden Acorn - Outstanding Advocate – Honorary Lifetime Membership** - are given every year to outstanding volunteers for their service to our school and community.

Please help us select outstanding volunteers from the Cascade Ridge community to receive an award by nominating someone you feel is deserving!

- To nominate, simply email the name of the person you would like to nominate to our Volunteer Appreciation Chair, Erinn Chapman at erinmchapman@gmail.com.
- Erinn will reach out to the nominee to let them know they've been nominated (keeping the name of the person whom nominated them confidential).
- The nominee will be asked to select from a list all the areas they've volunteered in over the past year.
- The PTSA Volunteer Service Awards Committee will review the nominees and make the final selections.
- Nominations are due by February 12th.

Questions? Please contact Erinn Chapman at erinmchapman@gmail.com.

Thank You Sponsors

Cascade Ridge gives a huge shout out to:

- Tingey Orthodontics
- Elite Roofing & Remodel
- Carla Marsh - Realtor
- SportClips Haircuts
- Eastside Pediatric Dental Group
- Cathy Santiago - Realtor
- Washington Awards



These corporate sponsors generously donated funds towards our annual fundraiser this year! The entire Cascade Ridge community thanks you!

NEW BOND FOR THE NEW YEAR

Building the Future for ISD Students - School Construction and Maintenance Bond

April 26, 2016 Ballot – Quick Facts

What is a school bond?

- ***The State of Washington does not fund the regular building or maintenance of public schools. Instead, local voters must approve school bonds for this purpose.*** Similar to a mortgage, bonds may be paid for over 20 years, helping to keep annual costs lower for taxpayers. Issaquah School District's current bonds are, on average, paid off in nine years. This shorter duration saves taxpayers' money.
- ***State law mandates that bond dollars be used only for building and maintenance, not classroom operations or salaries.*** Careful bond planning, however, is one critical way districts preserve classroom funds. For instance, if a roof fails at an elementary school, the cost of replacement can be upwards of \$2 million, equivalent to 23 teaching positions. If no bond funds are available, classroom operations dollars must be used instead.

What is in the 2016 Bond?

- ***The construction of four new schools:*** The District has grown by more than 2,000 students in the past four years and is conservatively projected to add an additional 1,500 to 2,000 students in the next five years. This continued enrollment growth requires the addition of two new elementary schools, a 6th middle school and a 4th comprehensive high school.
- ***Property for school sites:*** The District must acquire the property needed for the new schools in the 2016 Bond.
- ***Rebuild Pine Lake Middle School:*** Originally built in 1974, PLMS will be completely reconstructed on site, providing a new learning environment with updated technology and energy efficient operations.
- ***Critical Expansion/Modernization of six existing elementary schools:*** In order to accommodate growing student populations and provide for State funded Full Day Kindergarten; Discovery, Endeavour, Sunset, Cougar Ridge, Maple Hills and Clark Elementary schools will all be expanded/modernized by four to eight classrooms each.

How will the 2016 bond impact taxes?

- In relation to current property taxes, residents can expect to see NO increase in the tax rate if the bond is approved. The tax rate will remain at or below the current \$4.14 per \$1000 of assessed property value.
- How do we keep your tax rate stable? The District has experienced rapid growth in the total assessed value of property due to continued new construction of housing and commercial properties as well as higher valuations for existing homes. Additionally, in order to support our goal of predictable taxes, the District has structured a decrease in its current long term tax collections allowing for the "new" taxes generated by the 2016 Bond to not increase your tax rate.

For more information, visit the district website: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/2016-school-bond-feasibility>

ADJUSTING SCHOOL START TIMES

The Issaquah School District has received numerous requests from parents and community members asking for a later start time for our high school students. In response, the Superintendent directed senior staff to study the issue from an operational and financial standpoint with the following parameters.

- School start and end times for all grade levels must occur between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- The tiered bus system, which saves hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, must be kept intact.
- The change to the high school start time must be significant.
- The costs associated with changing to later start and end times must be fiscally responsible.

<u>Proposed Bell Times</u>		
	Start	Dismiss
Elementary	8:00 am	2:25 pm
AM Kindergarten (M-F)	8:00 am	10:30 am
PM Kindergarten (MTXF)	11:10 am	2:25 pm
AM Preschool (MTXF)	8:00 am	10:31 am
PM Preschool (MTXF)	11:54 am	2:25 pm
ECEAP (MTXF)	8:00 am	11:00 am
Headstart (MTXF)	10:55 am/11:30 am	2:25 pm/3
Middle School	9:10 am	3:35 pm
High School	9:00 am	3:55 pm
Wednesday Schedule		
Elementary	8:00 am	12:15 pm
Middle School	10:25 am	3:35 pm
High School	10:10 am	3:55 pm

After careful study by the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Transportation in conjunction with District administrators, the following proposal has been put forth for consideration:

The District plans to make a decision by mid-March. The change is operational in nature, and therefore the decision of the District, rather than the School Board. The District will reach out to families, staff, and community members with an online forum called Thought Exchange in mid-January to gain feedback on the proposed start and end times. Public meetings will subsequently be held so that the District and the community can dialogue and discuss the pros and cons of changing the bell times.

To read this article in full and/or share your thoughts, visit the ISD website: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/operations/bell-times-study>

VOLUNTEER HOUR MATCHING

Dear Cascade Ridge parents,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for volunteering at various PTSA and school activities. It is your involvement day in and day out that help make Cascade Ridge a vibrant community. You are all very much appreciated!

One of the areas of opportunity to help support our school, staff and students is the employee volunteer hours matching program. Many of our volunteers work for companies that gladly contribute millions every year to ensure their employees remain engaged in the communities. For example, Microsoft donates \$25 per hour for their employees' volunteer time. Several more examples can be found below. In order for Cascade Ridge to receive matching funds for volunteer hours, employees who donated time need to submit a request for matching funds in the company's internal online system.

For Cascade Ridge, please use the following information when requesting matching fund for volunteer hours:

Cascade Ridge PTSA

2020 Trossachs Blvd SE

Sammamish, WA 98075

EIN (tax ID) # 91-2113434

Thanks again and we look forward to a fantastic year at Cascade Ridge Elementary!

Julia Yu

Matching Funds Chairperson

huinan@yahoo.com

Some example of companies that offer volunteer hours matching :

Companies	Volunteer Hour Matching		
	Minimum	Maximum	Rate
Amgen	15 hr	60 hr	\$500/15 hr
Bank of America	50 hr	100 hr	\$5/hr
Boeing	25 hr	240 hr	\$10/hr
Expedia	5 hr	67 hr	\$15/hr
Google	5 hr		\$10/hr
Intel	20 hr		\$10/hr
Microsoft	4 hr		\$25/hr
RealNetworks	10 hr	60 hr	\$15/hr
Starbucks	25 hr	100 hr	\$10/hr
US Bancorp	5 hr	40 hr	\$5/hr

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thanks to everyone for sending in your Box Tops. Keep on clipping and turn them in anytime - they really add up!

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.



You can help raise money for our school in 2 easy steps:

1. Clip, paste, and or tape your Box Tops to the collection sheet found on the school website [here](#), or simply place Box Tops in an envelope/baggie with the teacher's name on front.
2. Bring your collection sheets or envelope/baggie to your classroom teacher now until the end of February.

The classroom that collects the most Box Tops by the end of February will win a prize, so be sure to include your teacher's name with all Box Tops you turn in. Please remember that Box Tops that are expired or are missing the expiration date do not qualify.

Questions? Contact our Box Top chair Elana Clayton at: elanaclayton@gmail.com

BROWN BEAR CAR WASH

Happy New Year! How is your resolution list coming together?

- 1) Eat Healthy
- 2) Exercise
- 3) KEEP MY CAR CLEAN

...Wait...what?!?

We can help you with #3! Order your Brown Bear Car Wash tickets today! Get a clean car, save money and earn \$\$ for Cascade Ridge PTSA! For every \$5 ticket purchased CRE PTSA earns \$3.50 (normal price for basic exterior car wash is \$6.39).

You can purchase tickets by emailing Nicole Brenner at nicbrenner@yahoo.com with the number of tickets you would like, your student's name and student's teacher. Then simply deposit a check in the black PTSA box located in the CRE lobby and we will send your tickets home with your student.

CASCADE RIDGE PTSA: WE'RE ONLINE, ALL THE TIME!

Did you know you can have school and PTSA events automatically added and updated into your calendar app of choice? Checkout the details at: <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Event/ViewElsewhere> (you'll need to be logged into your PTSA account.)

Another way to stay connected: "Like" us on [Facebook](#)! Get the most up to date information on all upcoming school and PTSA events, Spirit Days, late-breaking news and everything else relevant to our school community right in your news feed. If you like our page already but aren't seeing our news on your feed, make sure to check our page every Monday for new posts. Don't forget to tell your Cascade Ridge friends to like us too!



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>



COME OUT AND PLAY!

Don't forget to 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. The kids love to see their loved ones during the school day. 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. Upcoming dates are...

Upcoming dates are...

February 5th

March 4th

April 1st

May 6th

June 3rd