



COYOTE HOWLER

February Events

February 1st: Site Council Meeting at 3:30p

February 2nd: 5th Grade Camp Parent Meeting at 6:00p

February 5th: Parent Play Day, Coyote Gear and Popcorn Friday

February 10th: 2nd Grade Concert at 6:30p

February 12th: PTSA Service Award Nominations Due

February 15th - 19th: No School - Second Winter Break

February 22nd: Kindergarten Info Night at 6:00p

February 23rd - 25th: Spelling Bee at 5:30p

February 26th: Box Tops Contest Ends

President's Letter

All You Need Is...

It's February already?! In a classic ode to valentines, Paul McCartney and John Lennon once sang 'all you need is love'... maybe true, but as we look forward to an extremely busy spring and further to next school year - I would amend that to also include... 'all you need is love and volunteers'.

Last year the Cascade Ridge Science Fair presented nearly 250 student experiments – plus offered fun concessions and featured numerous local exhibitors. Please consider lending a few hours to host our CRE families and engage our budding scientists in a fun evening. Email sciencefair@cascaderidgeptsa.org for more info.

Likewise, at our last general membership meeting we voted in our Nominating Committee, who will find volunteers to serve on the PTSA Board and other chair positions for the 2016-17 school year. Thank you to our Nominating Committee – Jen Belding, Sandy McNees, Jackie Mueller, Angela Fischer and Mary Jo Webb - for tackling this responsibility. If you are interested in learning more about a position on the board, please contact one of these committee members.

Lastly, please consider lending your voice to our Fundraising Committee as we plan for the fall. Orange Ruler? Walk-a-thon? Silent auction? Be a part of the decision-making that will keep our programs going for 2016-17. Did you know PTSA pays for a portion of our teaching assistant salaries? All the more reason why fundraising is VITAL to Cascade Ridge. Help us plan NOW for next year's success!

Questions? Feedback?

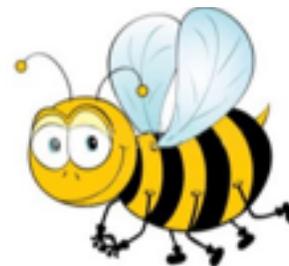
Ready to be your child's biggest advocate and volunteer?

Contact me... kellyahuber@aol.com

Cascade Ridge PTSA Spelling Bee

We are super excited for all the students who registered for the Spelling Bee. It is going to be an amazing night!

For tips on how to study for the bee, and for K-5 word lists, please visit the Spelling Bee page at cascaderidgeptsa.org, and click on the tabs "[Rules and tips](#)" and "[Practice word lists](#)".



The bee will take place over three evenings in the Cafeteria, as shown in the schedule below. *We are still looking for **great volunteers** to make the event a success. If you are interested to be a pronouncer, a judge, or to give out rewards, please contact us.* For any questions or if you missed the registration deadline and still wish to participate, please 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

Science Fair

It is that time of the year once again, when we bring to you our budding scientists with their amazing experiments, innovation and out of the box thinking!!!!

Come join the Cascade Ridge Team of scientists on Thursday, March 31, at the Science Fair 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

We have some exciting exhibits lined up for you yet again from Fitness to Nutrition to Reptiles to Laser to Salmon Dissections to just name a few . Come along with your family to this great Cascade Ridge tradition and enjoy a fun filled family night with pizzas, scientific snacks, drinks and lots of sweet treats to purchase - yum!!!!

For grades K- 4, the Registration deadline is March 14, 2016 so go online at cascaderidgeptsa.org to register now. Don't forget to order your colorful project display boards and find all kinds of information to help you with your experiments!

We need volunteers to pull off this great event! If you are able to volunteer for one of the many areas of this event (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, don't forget to capture the moment of your scientist in action, and send it across to us to be displayed during the Science Fair. Please remember to submit the pictures to sciencefair@cascaderidgeptsa.org by March 25, 2016.

Glassbaby

During our Science Fair on Thursday, March 31st (6-8pm) we will have a representative from Glassbaby come with a variety of glass votives, "glassybabies," to choose from. They will be on sale to take home that evening! We will also have an online link that week for those who cannot make it or want to continue shopping!

Cascade Ridge will receive 10% of all sales made! For more information on Glassbaby, check out: www.glassybaby.com

CASCADE RIDGE



SCIENCE FAIR 2016

YMCA Play Everyday

Starting on February 1st, the PTSA will begin a partnership with YMCA's playEVERYDAY program on Mondays. Coach James will be here for lunch recess to provide students with **optional** recess activities and games. The goal of the program is to get all kids playing by providing group games that all kids can participate in with no waiting time and that they can easily duplicate on their own. These games are designed to further develop the student's interest in physical activity. Be sure to ask your child if they have met Coach James at recess.

Reflections Competition

PTA's Reflections Art Contest has wrapped up at the district level. Our student's art work was on display at Issaquah High School, along with the district finalists from other participating schools in the Issaquah School District. Cascade Ridge had twelve entries this year, ten in Visual Arts, one in Music composition and two in Literature.



Congratulations to Cascade Ridge Elementary 4th grade student Ananth Krishnan. His music composition, titled "Witch's Craft", has advanced to the WA State PTA Level of the National Reflections contest.

The judges were impressed with the 256 entries selected to complete at the district level of the competition and it was difficult to select only 53 finalists.

Congratulations and thanks to all 39 Cascade Ridge students for their creative and thoughtful entries this year! Hopefully, you are inspired to enter again next year, and have inspired your fellow Coyotes to participate as well!

Seattle Sounders

Coming this May...Cascade Ridge Elementary Night with The Seattle Sounders FC!

Keep your eyes posted for more information coming soon about a night out to see the Sounders play! Cascade Ridge will benefit from each ticket purchased! Tickets will be \$21 each, and \$3 will be donated back to our school. Exact dates/times will be posted soon!



Parent Ed Corner

Happy February!

Here are some of the great parent education opportunities that are coming soon in the Issaquah School District:

Success: Stay Organized, Manage Time and Study Skills

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – Pacific Cascade Middle School, 24635 SE Issaquah-Fall City Road, Issaquah, WA

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Help your teen succeed by learning practical organizational, time management, and study skills that be personalized to the individual learning style. Put basic office supplies to use and reduce mind clutter. This presentation is by Jenni Butz of Pacific Learning Academy.

Anxiety — Yours, Mine, and Ours

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 – Issaquah High School, 700 2nd Ave., SE, Issaquah, WA

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

This lecture will discuss research on teen stress by author of *Wise Minded Parenting* (among other publications), Laura Kastner, PhD. Some stress is good! Challenges energize, focus, and motivate use. Stress management and resilience are key personal strengths that can determine success or failure. Learn how to help, rather than hinder, your teens' stress management.

State of Mind Mini-Conferences

Saturday, March 19, 2016 – Issaquah High School, 700 2nd Ave., SE, Issaquah, WA

Saturday, April 2, 2016 – Liberty High School, 16655 SE 136th St., Renton, WA

Saturday, April 23, 2016 – Skyline High School, 1122 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA

12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

Adults and students are invited to attend one, two or all three State of Mind mini-conferences focused on topics related to youth mental health. Each school mini-conference will have a different focus, including how to cope with stress, how to help friends who are struggling with depression, or how to detach from technology. Each mini-conference will also offer a core of basic classes in topics such as the impacts of drugs on the developing brain, healthy relationships, body image, and living with mental illness. Registrations for these conferences, as well as programs with a list of speakers and topics, will be available by February 15th.

Incredible Intensity of Just Being Human -- Kick Off Event

Friday, April 29, 2016 – Issaquah Senior Center

6:00 p.m.

The Issaquah Schools Foundation and ArtEast are partnering on the "Incredible Intensity of Just Being Human" project. This very special months-long event will bring an art exhibit focused on the themes of mental illness and mental health to Issaquah schools and community. The exhibit itself will run from April 18 through June 30th and feature juried art located at three different art galleries in the greater Issaquah area. In addition, the exhibit will serve as a platform for panel discussions, tours, and school/community art, poetry and music activities focused on the theme of mental wellness. Everyone is invited to attend this kick-off event, which will be followed by a reception located at the ArtEast gallery on Front Street in downtown Issaquah. Put this on your calendars! More information and a complete list of activities will be provided later in the spring.

Lastly, I caught this segment on the Today show and thought it was worth sharing. Might be a good time of year to discuss those safety plans with your family! <http://www.today.com/video/why-you-have-less-time-to-escape-a-house-fire-today-than-30-years-ago-601680451516>

PTSA Movie Night

Minions galore! It was a fun successful night. About 180 Minion fans gathered in the Café for movie, crafts and treats. A big Tank YU! (thank you in Minion language) to our Movie volunteers: Melanie Kusmik, Michele Brady, Anne Miller, Farzana, Jane Huber, Erin Park, Thevina, Anne Fischer, Iralde Jose Sicilia, Andrew Schweitzer and the school support staff.



Missed out on the fun? Don't worry! We will be having another movie night upcoming in May. Look for your chance to vote which movie we show in April!

PTSA Volunteer Spotlight

The PTSA would like to “spotlight” Michele Brady for her dedication to our school community!

Michele maintains the PTSA website in all its complexity. Whether you are registering your child for a program, clocking minutes for Eager Reader, signing up for volunteer positions or looking for information about upcoming events, Michele is the one who makes it all come together. She (along with the graphical expertise of Shuling Huber) is always refining this valuable resource that serves our community so well.



This year Michele was also instrumental in bringing the PTSA classroom volunteer process online, this saved many hours of manual work for our volunteers as well as made it much easier for parents to sign up to volunteer.

In addition to the significant contributions above, Michele is always willing to help out wherever the need may be – such as Book Fair chair, support to the new chairs and a familiar face at school, always popping in to help in her kids' classrooms.

Michele is a delight to work with, quick to understand any requests and implement solutions with amazing speed.

Thank you, Michele, for being such a great asset to our school! We are so lucky to have you as part of our volunteer force, and the Cascade Ridge PTSA thanks for your dedication!

Volunteer Thank You

Big thanks to Kim Vivash and Teresa Marshall and their team of helpers for Cascade Ridge's first Movie Night. It was a fun night and we are looking forward to the next show!

Last week was Class Picture Day, when we take all the group photos seen in the yearbook. This would not have been possible without the help of Kanika Arora, Brooke Daggett, Ajita Gopikrishnan and Krystl McCandlish. Thanks so much for your time and help.

Volunteers Needed

Art Walk Chair:

The Art Walk is an opportunity for our creative coyotes to exhibit the arts and crafts that they have been creating throughout year, with the help of their wonderful classroom Art Docents. It is currently scheduled to take place in May.

We are still hopeful that there is one or more of you out there who will volunteer to coordinate this PTSA event. The halls of the school already look like an art gallery with the amazing artwork. We would love to open the doors in the evening so that the community can appreciate the abundant artistic talent in the school. Please consider chairing this event – you will have plenty of support. The PTSA is only as strong as its volunteers – your involvement helps enrich the school experience.

If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Roberts at tycar74@hotmail.com

Science Fair Volunteers:

We can never have enough help for the Science Fair – volunteers are needed for judging, award distribution, science demonstrations, concessions, set up and tear-down. This event is just around the corner and help is still needed. Please contact the Sandhya Kumar (<mailto:sciencefair@cascaderidgeptsa.org>) or sign up [online](#).

PTSA Volunteer Award 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 erinnmchapman@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.
- Questions? Please contact Erinn Chapman at erinnmchapman@gmail.com.
- Nominations are due by February 12th.
- Thank you!

Fundraising Chairs 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!

Box Top Competition

Time is running out to turn in those Box Tops!

The classroom that collects the most Box Tops by **February 23rd** will win a **Yo Plateau** class party!

Mrs. Thomas, Ms. Perkin, Mr. Ullom, and Mrs. Jochim are leading the way, but it's a tight race with many classes close behind. Any class can win!

To enter:

1. Simply place Box Tops in a Ziploc bag with the teacher's name on front. Alternatively, you may clip, paste, or tape your Box Tops to the collection sheet found on the school's website [here](#).
2. Bring your Ziploc bag or collection sheets to your classroom teacher between now and **February 23rd**.

The classroom that collects the most Box Tops by February 23rd will win a Yo Plateau party.

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.



Fifth Grade News

Next Newsletter Publication

Look for the second edition of the 5th Grade Newsletter mid-February for up to date information on camp, service project, ceremony and party!

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](#)

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>



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>

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!



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