



# COYOTE HOWLER

## December Events

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**December 2nd:** Parent Play Day; Coyote Wear Day; Popcorn Friday

**December 2nd:** Last day for Gift Barn collections

**December 7th - 8th:** No School - Teacher Conferences

**December 12th:** Site Council at 3:30p

**December 21st - January 2nd:** No School - Winter Break

## President's Letter

Welcome to the hustle and bustle of December! We hope you were able to join us last month for some fun at our Book Fair or at Family Movie Night. As December kicks off, we are wrapping up our collection for Holiday Gift Barn. This program, brought to the community by the Issaquah Food Bank, serves over 1,200 students in the Issaquah School District and is a great way to get your family involved in giving back this holiday season.

If you have not had the opportunity to join our PTSA yet, please join today. It is easy to do, just follow the 'Join PTSA' link on our website. Joining PTSA shows you value and are invested in your student's education at Cascade Ridge. It also gets you access to our on-line school directory! Don't forget, PTSA membership also has its privileges! Check out this link for all the great discounts you can receive <http://www.issaquahptsa.org/membership-has-benefits>.

On behalf of the PTSA Board, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Jaime Foreman

*PTSA President*

# Book Fair Thanks you!

We would like to thank all of our parents who visited with their kiddos and contributed to another very successful book fair this year. We would also like to thank all of our amazing volunteers without whom book fair could not take place. Your dedication to our school community is greatly appreciated and heartwarming.

- Jaime Foreman
- Michele Brady
- Jane
- Carrie Lam
- Jin Liu
- Krystl McCandlish
- Alyssa Miikki
- Tracey Perino
- Sandhya Kumar
- Kristen Miller
- Nadia Ali
- Ooma Palaniappan
- Lara Buis
- Michelle Bowling
- Carrie Haines
- Jeesica Tran
- Angela Fischer
- Lisa Grady
- Kim Satenberg
- Jackie Mueller

And special thanks to our wonderful Cliffords, 5th graders Anna Schultz, Ally Schaffer, Ashley Roni and Josie Hixson. And the amazing middle schoolers who gave up a Friday evening to help clean up and pack up book fair when it ended, Parker Satenberg and Courtney Gest.

## Parent Ed Corner

Not sure how to start “the talk” with your child? I have great news for you...help is on the way! Amy Lang, founder and creator of “Birds + Bees + Kids” will be coming to speak to us in the Coyote Café following the PTSA meeting on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. If you haven’t seen her in person, it is well worth your time. Check out her website at [www.birdsandbeesandkids.com](http://www.birdsandbeesandkids.com).

This event will be open to other parents in the district, so please spread the word and bring a friend or two! If you are unable to attend the PTSA meeting first, Amy Lang will begin her seminar at 7pm.

## Family Movie Night

The first Family Movie Night on November 4th with the Jungle Book was a fun and well attended event with 159 Cascade Ridge parents and children. Thank you to the following parents and teens who volunteered to help make this event a success: Adrien Brown, Brenden Boyd, Michele Brady, Michelle Challey, Nick Challey, Ty Challey, Ailsa Chen, Brian Eccles, Peter Gehrett, Liv Jordan, Pankaj Kakkar, Simon Kurgan, Hayden Kusmik, Vikranth Mandadi, Lloyd Raphael

Next Family Movie Night will be held on Feb. 3rd - Secret Life of Pets!

## PTSA Newcomers Breakfast

Are you a new family at Cascade Ridge this year? Whether you started back in September or are just joining us for the first time in January we would love to see you and your family at the **Newcomers Breakfast on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Coyote Café. This is an open house gathering from 7:45AM until 8:15AM.** Join our PTSA Community Relations Chair for donuts, juice and coffee and meet a friendly face before heading to class. Please contact Angela Fischer at [afischer515@yahoo.com](mailto:afischer515@yahoo.com) with any questions. Hope to see you there!

# Talent Show

The 2017 Cascade Ridge Talent Show is one night only!

Please join us on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> for a night of entertainment!

Act One 5:30-6:30PM

Intermission

Act Two 7:00-8:00PM.

Calling all Cascade Ridge Performers grades K-5, the stage is waiting for YOU! Space is limited this year, there are 15 spots per Act so don't wait, sign up today. Can you sing, dance, or play an instrument? How about magic, or ball tricks, maybe some extreme hula-hooping or double-dutch jump roping is where you shine! Show us your talent and creativity, we can't wait!

New this year we are looking for **two 5th grade student MC's** to help keep our program flowing. Talent Show Committee Chairs will work with these students to create a script. If your child is interested they will need to sign up by selecting MC for their performance category. We are also looking for several **student comedians from all grade levels**. If your child would like to be on stage telling jokes while the stage is being reset please sign up by selecting student comedian as your performance category. These students will be responsible for coming up with their own jokes. The MC's and the comedians will need to be at a one rehearsal.

We are also looking for a few performers outside of Cascade Ridge to perform during the intermission. These could be teachers, parents, CRE alumni or other specialty performers from the community. If you or someone you know may be interested in this opportunity please contact Angela Fischer at [afischer515@yahoo.com](mailto:afischer515@yahoo.com) for more details.

Registration opens on December 1, 2016 and will close once all spots are full or on January 11, 2017. Register by visiting the PTSA website, <http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Home>. Please note all performers will be required to attend a dress rehearsal. Upon registration you will be prompted to select your rehearsal date, only one rehearsal is needed unless the student would like to attend both nights.

For questions contact Talent Show Chairpersons, Angela Fischer ([afischer515@yahoo.com](mailto:afischer515@yahoo.com)) and Melissa Bortnick ([melbortnick@yahoo.com](mailto:melbortnick@yahoo.com))

## Nominating Committee

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](http://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 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 2017-2018 PTSA Board and we always want to get a diverse group of members from our broad community on the Board. Please contact Jaime Foreman at [jaimeforeman@comcast.net](mailto:jaimeforeman@comcast.net) or Sandy McNees at [sandy\\_mcnees@hotmail.com](mailto:sandy_mcnees@hotmail.com).

## Volunteer Spotlight

The PTSA Board would like to throw a spotlight of recognition on

### **Tracey Perino**

Tracey is one of those volunteers who can be seen helping behind the scenes at the PTSA events, willing to pick up the slack wherever there is a need. She spent several hours this year, staying late helping out at events such as the Walkathon and the Book Fair.



# Help Wanted!

Volunteer opportunities for upcoming PTSA events have been posted on the [PTSA website](#). Please do take a moment and see if you are able to lend a hand to our hardworking chairs. Just look for the icon and this will show you all available volunteer needs.

## **Calling all Holiday Bakers!!!**

The Baking Committee could use some additional help with the staff cookie exchange on December 13th. If you would like to do some holiday baking for our amazing Cascade Ridge Staff, please e-mail Paula Koransky at [paulakoransky@me.com](mailto:paulakoransky@me.com). Thank you!

## **Open: PTSA Treasurer**

Are you good with numbers? Will you be the one to help us in this time of need? We are desperately seeking a treasurer. This role is vital for the successful execution of the PTSA. We currently have Krystl, the Fundraising Chair, doing an amazing job doing double duty – but are desperately looking to give her some relief. See the [PTSA website](#) for a full description.

If interested, please contact Ajita Krishnan/Nadia Ali: [volunteers@cascaderidgeptsa.org](mailto:volunteers@cascaderidgeptsa.org)

## **Open: Coyote Art Walk Chair**

The PTSA is seeking a **co-chair** to coordinate the Spring Coyote Art Walk. We do have one enthusiastic parent interested in chairing, but is looking for a partner.

This event showcases arts and crafts created through the year by our kids under the guidance of the classroom art docents.

Plenty of support is available for this popular school event. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Roberts at [tycar74@hotmail.com](mailto:tycar74@hotmail.com)

We are so very grateful to all our hardworking volunteers!

A shout out to Gabriella Szilagyi and Sandhya Kumar who efficiently assisted with Picture Retakes on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To Melanie Kusmik, hats off for coordinating a fun-filled family movie night. We are looking forward to the next one in February! Thanks to her team of volunteers - Adrien Brown, Brenden Boyd, Michele Brady, Michelle Challey, Nick Challey, Ty Challey, Ailsa Chen, Brian Eccles, Peter Gehrett, Liv Jordan, Pankaj Kakkar, Simon Kurgan, Hayden Kusmik, Vikranth Mandadi, Lloyd Raphael.

Book Fair Chair Extraordinaire – Nathalie Fusaro – thanks for running the successful Bookaneer Book Fair. Thanks to all the many parents and students who together kept things rolling along smoothly.

Thank you popcorn stand volunteers who braved the November cool to help to make Parent Play Day extra special.

Carol Folkman, Darlene Baker, Jen Belding, Lara Buis and Paula Koransky

*It is our hope that we thank by name each and every one of the amazing volunteers that make the PTSA activities possible. Please do forgive any inadvertent omissions from this list, and do let us know at [volunteers@cascaderidgeptsa.org](mailto:volunteers@cascaderidgeptsa.org) and we will correct the oversight in the next edition of the Howler.*

## 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>



# PTSA Volunteer Service Awards

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 following award(s) annually to PTSA volunteers.

## *Outstanding Advocate*

Recognizes and honors an individual for continued and dedicated service to ALL children, and a demonstrated commitment to helping create strong policies relating to the health, welfare, safety, and education of children and youth. Volunteers who try to change things for the benefit of children at a local unit (school), district, state or national level are advocates.

**Award:** The recipient receives a plaque and pin and a \$75 scholarship is given in the recipient's name to the Washington State PTA Financial Grant Foundation.

## *Honorary Lifetime Membership*

An Honorary Lifetime Membership is awarded to an individual as recognition of distinguished service to children and youth. The purpose of the Honorary Lifetime Membership is to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to the development and growth of PTA local unit (school) or council.

**Award:** The recipient receives a Life Membership pin, congratulatory card, and an Honorary Life Member card.

## *Golden Acorn*

Recognizes the contributions of an individual that has gone above and beyond in their volunteer efforts at Cascade Ridge Elementary, and within our local community. Volunteers that demonstrate an outstanding personal commitment to improving the lives of children and youth through their service to the school, district, and community are awarded the Golden Acorn.

**Award:** The recipient receives a certificate and pin and a \$65 scholarship is given in the recipient's name to the Washington State PTA Financial Grant Foundation.

We will be seeking nominations for this award soon after Winter Break, so be thinking about who you would like to nominate and keep your eyes open for the announcement.

Questions : [volunteers@cascaderidgeptsa.org](mailto:volunteers@cascaderidgeptsa.org)



# Holiday Happenings

## *Bellevue Holiday Ice Skating Fundraiser*

The Bellevue Downtown Association is offering a fundraising opportunity for our school at the 2016-2017 Bellevue Magic Season Ice Arena. Mention that you are with Cascade Ridge at the admission counter, and a \$3 donation will be made to our PTSA for each paid rink admission during specific dates: Nov 25th – Dec 16th, 2016 & Jan 3rd – 8th, 2017.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

(during fundraising dates listed above)

Mon: 3pm-9pm

Tue: 3pm-9pm

Wed: 1pm-9pm

Thu: 3pm-9pm

Fri: 3pm-10pm (opens at 11am on Nov 25)

Sat: 11am-10pm

Sun: 11am-6pm

Admission to the rink is \$12/person (includes skate rental), \$9/person for those eight and under. Note: You do not need the flyer in order to get the donation-just mention you are with Cascade Ridge.

## 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...

### **December 2nd**

## Brown Bear Carwash

Order now!

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 \$8.00).

PTSA Website:

Now you can order your car wash tickets from the PTSA website with an option to pay via credit card or check. The tickets will be delivered to your child through their classroom, within a few days after payment is received.

We have 4 packages available online:

1 for \$5

4 for \$20

10 for \$50

20 for \$100

<http://cascaderidgeptsa.org/Packet/PassiveFundraising>

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CASCADE RIDGE PTSA!!



## Fundraising

Do all your online shopping through Amazon Smile! The link below will take you directly to the Cascade Ridge PTSA sponsor page. Shop as you normally would, using your regular or Prime account. Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible AmazonSmile purchases directly to the PTSA.



Start shopping: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-2113434>



Collecting and turning in box tops is an easy way for you to help earn money for Cascade Ridge PTSA. We are hoping to reach our goal of \$1,000 again this year. Start collecting your box tops today and keep an eye out for turn-in dates and class competition details. If you aren't familiar with the "Box Tops for Education"

program or want to see a list of eligible products, please visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com).



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**REDEEM** Redeem points and let the fun begin. Donate your Kellogg's Family Rewards points to Cascade Ridge Elementary PTSA!