

Coyote Howler

Cascade Ridge PTSA Newsletter



President's Letter

The holidays are here! With the flurry of activity that comes with shopping and parties and family gatherings this time of year, we want to pause to wish you the happiest of holidays. We recognize and appreciate our Cascade Ridge community for its cultural diversity and we realize there are many different ways to celebrate. In the spring, the PTSA will host our biennial Festival of Cultures event, which will showcase the many different countries and backgrounds that make up our beautiful community. We hope you will join us!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our annual Holiday Gift Barn collection! Because of your generosity, many families are able to bring delight to their children who may have otherwise gone without the simple joy that comes with receiving a gift.

Lastly, a bit of personal news from Stephanie. The Middletons are moving to San Francisco! This is definitely bittersweet as we have really enjoyed our relatively short stint in the PNW, but we are also looking forward to the next adventure. The Trossachs community welcomed us with open arms and we have met so many wonderful friends! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Wishing you all the best! ~Steph

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

AJ Henderson and Stephanie Middleton

Co-PTSA Presidents



December 5th & 6th

No school -
Conferences

December 7th

Parent Play Day and
Popcorn Friday

December 13th

Choir Concert at
6:00p

December 20th - January 1st

No School - Winter
Break

Volunteer of the Month

The PTSA Board would like to spotlight

Chandra Poliseti

as our December Volunteer of the Month!

We chose to highlight Chandra because Chandra demonstrates that full-time working fathers can get involved in volunteer opportunities and make a big difference in their community.

As the PTSA Webmaster, Chandra has been instrumental in revamping the PTSA homepage.



He has been proactive with recommending ways to improve the appearance, navigation and usability of the PTSA website and is consistently one of the most responsive folks to work with; always eager to help.

Chandra also manages the Math Club website and Chairs the 4th grade Math Club. When he's not volunteering at Cascade Ridge, Chandra volunteers for the Telugu Bharati branch in Sammamish where he teaches the Indian regional language to over 80 kids.

Chandra, his wife Sirisha and their two daughters, Anarghya (5th grade) and Abhignya (2nd grade) have lived in Trossachs for the past 7 years. In their spare time, they love to travel and visit new places each year.

We are so fortunate to have multi-talented volunteers such as Chandra!

Newcomer's 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 Wednesday, January 2nd in the Coyote Café. This is an open house gathering from 8:30AM until 9:00AM. Join our PTSA Hospitality Chairs for pastries, juice and coffee and meet a friendly face before heading to class. Contact April Gregory amparnell621@yahoo.com or Pamela Kortrey pamela.kortrey@gmail.com with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Winter Enrichment Programs

WINTER ENRICHMENT CLASSES will be posted in full detail mid-December at [Cascade Ridge PTSA Enrichment](#). You will see many of the same vendors from our fall session, and many will be offering new classes!

Returning are the Piano Keyboard Club with Musical Minds, Eastside Drama Kids, Grasshopper Speak Easy Level 2, Kid Fit East Dance and Yoga, Leap4Kidz Lego Jr. Engineering, Mixed-Media Art with Crimson Canvas, Techventure Kids Create with Code Club, Drawing & Painting with Museo Art. Village Theatre is returning with Adventures at Hogwarts for older students and the Magic Treehouse for younger students. Crimson

Canvas will offer another art class: Manga Art. Techventure Kids is going to offer an Intro to Robotics Class, and Leap4Kidz is offering Game Design. Spanish continues year-round!

ENRICHMENT SURVEY

If your student is currently participating in an enrichment program, keep an eye out in the next few weeks for a short survey asking about your child's experience in the enrichment class. We are one of the only PTSAs in the district that chooses to have a say in which vendors come to our school, assuming space is available at our school, and your feedback will be invaluable! Thank you!

Please contact Leticia Watson
leticia.watson@gmail.com for any questions.

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Boxtop Winner

Congratulations to Ms. Perkin's Class – the winner of our fall box top classroom competition! Be sure to continue collecting box tops throughout the winter and be on the look out for information on our spring contest.

Parent Ed

ParentWiser

ParentWiser is thrilled to announce their next event coming up just after the winter break on **Jan 9th at Skyline HS. Jo Langford will**

be speaking about Digital Safety 101 - what kids' are doing online and how parents can help them navigate good, bad and ugly situations regarding friends, sexting, cyberbullying and much more! The content is relevant for parents of grades 3-12. (This is a PARENT ONLY event due to the sensitive nature of some content).

Learn to set limits, monitor behavior, and start the important conversations around kids' relationships to tech in a connected world. PLUS a healthy dose of Q&A.

Jo Langford is a dad, therapist and sex educator for kids and parents in greater Seattle. Jo has worked over 20 years at the intersection of adolescence, sexuality, technology and behavior, providing training for organizations and therapy to adolescents and families around a gambit of sexuality themes, including LGBTQ issues, internet safety, digital citizenship and comprehensive sex education. Jo Langford also the author of [Spare Me the Talk, a Guy's/Girls Guide to Sex, Relationships and Growing Up](#). (Buy your book in advance and bring it along for book signing!)

Free for current PTSA Members and VOICE Mentors in the Issaquah School District, \$10 donation requested of non-members.

[Register Here](#) for the # of seats you wish to reserve. Walk-Ins admitted only if space available.

Parent Tool Kit

What do I do if my kid is a bully? Explore social Awareness Skills for 4th Graders. The Middle School Brain While Learning. How to help your teen make a college video essay? Check out the [Parent Toolkit](#) it is a one-stop

resource developed with parents in mind. It's produced by NBC News Education Nation and supported by Pearson and includes information about almost every aspect of your child's development, because they're all connected. Healthy, successful children can excel in many areas – in the classroom, on the court, and in their relationships with peers and adults. Our advice also covers important topics for navigating life after high school.

Advocacy



Did you know? **PTA** is a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities, and an advocate for the well-being and education of all children. Locally, **The Issaquah PTSA Council 2.6** is advocate for students at both the local and state levels. Check out the new Top 5 Legislative Priorities that were voted in during the legislative assembly in October.

Legislative Platform

Top 5 Legislative Priorities for 2019

1. Social Emotional Learning
2. School Construction and Simple Majority for Bonds
3. Prevent Gun Violence
4. Strategies to Address the Teacher Shortage
5. Strategic K-12 Investments to Close Gaps

<https://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/>

2019 WSPTA Supported Issues

- Best Practices for School Meals – Lunch
- Best Practices for School Recess
- Engaging Families in Student Success
- Fund Paraeducator Training
- Increase Access to High-Quality Preschool
- Raise the Age of Tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems to 21
- Safe School Plans and Emergency Preparedness