



THE COYOTE CONNECTION

Parent Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 01

September 02, 2010

Cascade Ridge Elementary School
2020 Trossachs Blvd. SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

Natalie Fowler, Principal
Mardi St. Laurent, Principal's Secretary
Jennifer Kirsch, Registrar/Secretary
Marsha Elves, Healthroom/Office E.A.
Karen Thies, Nurse

Office Phone: 425/837-5500
Report an Absence: 425/837-5500 press 2
Or email kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu



A Note from Natalie

Over the past two months, I have been settling into my new office and getting to know the wonderful staff here at Cascade Ridge. I have witnessed the dedication and passion our teachers have for our students and families and how hard they have worked to get their rooms into tip top shape for the first day of school. I have gotten to know PTSA board members and have learned more about all the wonderful ways the community supports Cascade Ridge. And while my excitement grew with each of these opportunities, nothing compared to the first day of school, when all those smiling faces filled the hallways, classrooms and playground. Our students are at the heart of all we do and it is with MUCH excitement and joy that I welcome you all to the 2010-2011 school year!

Communication is the key to a strong organization. In an effort to successfully partner with our families, we have slightly changed the way we will be communicating with you. Every Thursday afternoon, our weekly newsletter, The Coyote Connection, will be posted on our school website. The newsletter will include both school and PTSA news and replaces the YELP as our weekly communication tool. E-NEWS will only be utilized for district or school related information that is of a time sensitive nature. Our PTSA will continue to publish their monthly newsletter, The Howler, so keep your eyes out for it. I hope that by having a weekly school newsletter, you will feel fully informed about all the wonderful activities and happenings going on at Cascade Ridge.

Lastly, I would like to welcome all our new families and students to our school. Being the "new kid" myself, I have to say that I couldn't imagine a more welcoming community. I look forward to getting to know all of you better. This is going to be a GREAT year!

Calendar of Events

September

- 6th Labor Day-No School
- 10th Coyote Wear Orders Due
- 14th Curriculum Night Grades K-2, 6:00-7:00
- 14th PTSA General Membership Meeting 7:00
- 16th Curriculum Night Grades 3-5, 6:00-7:30
SAGE Curriculum Night 5:15-5:55, P4
- 23rd & 24th Picture Day

October

- 1st Dad's Play Day
- 15th Walkathon



Challenge, Support and Celebrate Each Student

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff to Cascade Ridge:

Natalie Fowler - Principal
 Jenise Clausen—Part Time Program Assistant
 Aimee Fentress—PM Kindergarten
 Emily Temple—1st Grade
 Angela Morrison—4th Grade Science Tech
 Erin Perea—5th Grade Science Tech
 Nona Wright—Literacy Support

Brooke Noone—Resource
 Holly Light—OT
 Anita Cahill— EA
 Sheri Studer—Baker
 Holly Wehner— Grade change to 4th
 Lynette Springborn—Grade change to 4th
 Bret Dunham—Music

Don't Forget Our New Bell times:Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri -

Start Time 8:30 AM End of Day 2:53 PM
 AM Kindergarten - Start Time 8:30 AM End of Day 11:03 AM
 PM Kindergarten - Start Time 11:42 AM End of Day 2:53 PM

Wed.

Start Time 8:15 AM End of Day 12:30 PM
 AM Kindergarten 8:15 AM End of Day 11:03 AM
 No PM Kindergarten

Please Review Your Students Family Access Account

Please follow the below steps to retrieve **OR** set up your Family Access Log In/Password:

- Log onto the Issaquah School District website: www.issaquah.wednet.edu
- Click the Family Access tab on the left hand side of page.
- Click log in to Family Access on the right hand side of page.
- If you do not know your log in and/or password or you are retrieving it for the first time, click on forgot login and password button.
- Enter your email address (the one provided to the office at time of registration).
- Click on submit button.
- Login and password will be sent to your email address

If you find an error; email changes to kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu.

Attendance:***If your child is ill or going to be late for school:***

Please call the school office prior to school starting at 425-837-5500 and press 2 to leave a message regarding your student's absence **or** you may email our attendance secretary, Jennifer Kirsch, at kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu

**If you are going on vacation:**

Please submit in writing either by note or email to kirschj@issaquah.wednet.edu the following information:

- Student Name
- Teacher
- Reason for absence
- Dates of absence

If you must be out of town outside our normal school vacations, please be sure to visit

<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/documents/assessment/testcal1011.pdf>

to obtain standardized testing dates. It is our goal to have all students present during our testing dates. If your child is absent during these important dates he/she will have to be scheduled for make up testing and will miss regular instructional time as a result of being pulled from class.

Messages to your student:

If you need to get a message to your child about a change in end-of-day plans, please call the **office, not the classroom**. The office makes those calls into the classroom at the end of the day to limit classroom disruptions. **Please help us by limiting these messages to emergency changes only!**

Issaquah Schools Foundation Supports Cascade Ridge Elementary School

As we start the new year, I want to help 'spread the word' about a partner that helps make possible so much of what makes our schools special—the Issaquah Schools Foundation. The Foundation is a community-supported non-profit that works year-round to raise funds to bridge the gap between the dollars the state provides for basic education and the money our schools require to give students the comprehensive 21st Century education they need for success. With parent and community support, the Foundation is able to fund programs and investments that advance academic achievement, support struggling students, and promote professional development. Here at Cascade Ridge, one of the ways the Foundation has enriched our learning environment is through Academic Enrichment Grants. Each year, our teachers can apply for funding in amounts from \$100-\$10,000 for programs and/or materials that bring learning to life through technology, innovation, science, math, literature and the arts.

Since 2001, Cascade Ridge has received **\$11,290** from ISF in direct grants. From 2008 to 2010, Foundation funded investments at Cascade Ridge include:

- **School of Rock**-A half-class set of acoustic guitars with hard cases and extra strings are used for 5th grade music classes. (2007-2008 / \$4572)

In 2008-2009, a music grant was funded to benefit all elementary schools:

- **Learning Music Through Technology:** Music software that provides an engaging way to teach and reinforce a variety of music skills and concepts and help differentiate instruction. (2008-2009 / \$1250)

In addition, ISF's funding provides:

- **A NEW - K-5 Science Curriculum** adoption to ensure our students meet state requirements and experience the wonder of science from their first day in school.
- **National Board Certification Scholarships** that give teachers access to the 'pinnacle' of professional development programs; equipping them with the tools to develop inquisitive, engaged learners. **Cascade Ridge currently has one National Board Certified teacher.**
- **VOICE** (Volunteers of Issaquah Changing Education) - a mentor/tutor program that pairs caring community volunteers with struggling students to improve academic performance, boost self-esteem, and help curb the high-school dropout rate. **At Cascade Ridge, seven students are being served by three mentors.**
- **GLAD** - a 'best practices' professional development program that helps teachers reach students of every learning style and help them excel. **Cascade Ridge has 25 GLAD trained teachers!**

The Foundation needs your help to continue providing these programs—and more, to our students. Please consider donation to their **Calling for Kids** Annual Fund Campaign this fall. Your gift, whether \$5 a month or \$500 will make a tremendous difference in the quality of educational resources **Cascade Ridge** can make available to your student. **Flyers and information were distributed during Back-to-School business Days and are available in our office. You may also donate online at www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org.**

The Foundation is asking every parent to participate. We hope you do. Together, we can prepare our students for success in school, college and career.

Thank you for making Issaquah Schools the best they can be.