

PTSA Connection

COUGAR RIDGE PTSA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

For the parents, staff, and community of Cougar Ridge Elementary

2008 – 2009

PTSA

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Nourish Every Mind



The Issaquah Schools Foundation's 11th Annual Benefit Luncheon, held October 16th, raised \$324,000 to support Issaquah schools. Over 850 community members gathered at the Issaquah Community Center for what many are exclaiming to be the 'best ever' Luncheon. Particularly exciting for the Foundation was the number of new faces in the crowd. "We asked our Table Captains to invite people unfamiliar with our work," says ISF Executive Director, Robin Callahan. "It's important to increase the community's knowledge about our schools, our funding situation and the enormous change we can effect by working as a collective." PTSA participation played a significant role in the Luncheon's success. Every PTSA in the District filled a table or more. A quick glance around the room revealed that hundreds of additional PTSA parents were in attendance. Increased parent participation is key to the long term success of the foundation. Our district has 16,000 students from 12,000 families and yet last year there were only 2,500 donors to the foundation. By contrast Bellevue Schools Foundation represents roughly the same number of students but raised \$1.7 million last year. To find out more information about the Issaquah School Foundation or to make a donation, please visit their website:

<http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org>.

Hats off to Penny Moss and Leah Medway, our PTSA ISF Liaisons for helping to make this event so successful. Thank you!

Your PTSA Dollars at Work

Thanks to the Cougar Ridge PTSA for contributing over \$3,000 toward the fifth graders' Camp Orkila Trip in September and \$2,600 to the Issaquah Schools Foundation at this month's luncheon.

In September and October, the PTSA board approved the following funding requests:

- ☆ \$150 for Cyndi Moring to fund a replacement vendor for "Draw Squad"
- ☆ \$150 for McKenzie Walsh to obtain a spelling source book
- ☆ \$125 for Mrs. Fee to purchase owl pellets for study by her 4th grade class
- ☆ \$250 to purchase a button maker for use by the third grades and others at the school
- ☆ Up to \$825 to purchase Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary materials for each 5th grade class
- ☆ \$950 to purchase specialized timers to enable individual students to visualize and manage their time
- ☆ \$250 to support programs at Tiger Mountain Community High School, which does not have support for its own PTSA



Find committee information, financials, and other information on the web at:

<http://www.cougarridgeptsa.org/>



Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly

The Washington State PTA legislative assembly was held October 3rd and 4th. The assembly determined that the Washington State PTA's primary legislative focus for 2008/2009 would be the following five issues:

- Basic Education Funding
- Strengthening Math and Science Curriculum and Education
- Washington State Assessment System Improvements
- Support State Board of Education Core 24 Framework
- Support Rational Approaches to Teacher Compensation

The legislative assembly also selected 7 additional issues that they would support if third parties proposed legislation on these issues, including autism insurance parity, school emergency preparedness, school traffic safety, training for school nurses, firearm violence prevention, and conditional scholarships. More information on these topics is available at the Washington State PTA web site: <http://www.wastatepta.org/>

Significantly, the Washington State PTA legislative assembly voted 129 to 106 **not to support** an increase of the levy lid to 36% for all districts. Issaquah's levy lid is 24.97%. By comparison, Bellevue School District, with a similar overall population, is able to raise approximately \$8 million more dollars for its schools than Issaquah because of its higher levy lid. The state PTA's decision not to support an increase in the levy lid further highlights the importance of the Issaquah Schools Foundation. The Issaquah Schools Foundation provides the only available way to close the gap in funding for our Issaquah schools. For more information, visit the Issaquah Schools Foundation web site:

<http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org>

Do You Shop At Amazon.com?



If you enter the Amazon.com website through the weblink on the ISF home page, Amazon will donate up to 8% to the Issaquah Schools Foundation.
Make your dollars count!

PTSA General Membership Meeting

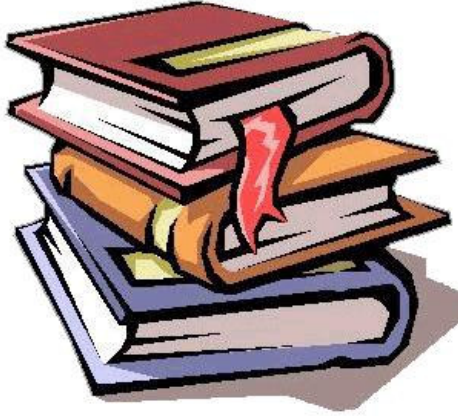
Thursday, November 13
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Multi-Purpose Room

Special guest speakers will discuss the WASL and the new report card format.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.
Please join us!

PTSA Membership

Cougar Ridge PTSA Membership for the 2008-2009 school year is closing in on its goal of 100% membership for the 12th consecutive year. In order to reach that milestone, every Cougar Ridge student must have one adult paid member. We are approximately 25 members short of the 100% goal. Reaching that milestone shows that we are an active and involved parent community, and it gains Cougar Ridge special recognition at the Washington State PTA convention. If you haven't joined PTSA yet, please help our school reach it's 100% target by filling out a membership form (<http://cougarridgeptsa.org/formlist.asp>). You will also receive a Student Directory with your paid membership.



Book Fair

The Book Fair was a great success this year and we would like to thank all those hard working volunteers and generous parents and students that contributed to the fair. The total sales were over \$12,000. This event generated \$4283 in Scholastic book credit for the classroom teachers and \$1427 for the library to purchase books from Scholastic throughout the year.

We also raised \$269 for the One For Books promotion, which means that Scholastic will donate 269 books to kids in need. Additionally, we were able to purchase \$269 worth of books for First Place, a school for homeless students in Seattle.

THANK
YOU

A Big PTSA Thank You To...

...**Elaine Sakamoto** and the many volunteers who helped facilitate the Vision and Hearing screenings and school photos.

...**Stephanie Schuehle**, our Student Directory chair, for getting the directory published and in the hands of our membership.

...**Karen Fusaro, Linda Chin, and Madeleine Balgley** for organizing, staffing, and running the Scholastic Book Fair.

...**Gini Salvador** for heading up the PTSA membership drive.

...**Penny Moss** for recruiting and coordinating volunteers for fitness assessments in Ms. Patton's classes.

...**Shelly Hall**, our Legislation representative, for keeping us informed about the educational issues facing our legislature.

...**Kate Emerson**, our Classroom Support Coordinator, who got the school's room parents up to speed on responsibilities, guidelines, and policies.

...And from the **Gift-A-Book Program**: Thank you to the families of Jordi G, Ethan G, Tyler P, Emma P, Sean G, Stephanie O, Leah E, Marissa N, Alyson N, Ryan M, Alex W, Aidan B, Francisco C, Cate S, Christine J, Maxeen B, Seth P, Shane P, William B, Yana S, Kimberly L, Ella H, Sarah-Jane B, Kellan O, Sienna O, Bryce M, Ethan K, Zachary S, Ben E, and Lekha S. for donating to the Gift-A-Book program in September and October. Our school library is thrilled!



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