



COUGAR RIDGE WEEKLY

Parent Newsletter

Volume 14, #5

Oct. 1, 2009

Cougar Ridge Elementary School
4630 167th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

Office Phone: 425-837-7300
Attendance Phone: 425-837-7232
Office Hours: 8:00 am—3:30 pm

This newsletter is also available on our school website:

www.cougar.issaquah.wednet.edu

PTSA website:

www.cougarridgeptsa.org

Jackie Tanner, Principal
Natalie Fowler, Program Assistant
Margie Calderwood, Principal's Secretary
Teri Feely, Secretary / Attendance



Students deck themselves from head to shoe with Cougar Ridge attire, for our first Spirit Day. Check out the teal sneakers too!!

Calendar



- 5th Site Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Lib.
- 13th Sage Curriculum Nite, 5-6 pm, Port. 2
- 13th Destination Imagination Info Mtg, 7:00 pm, Port. 6
- 14th October Birthday Celebrations
- 15th PTSA General Membership and Board Mtg, 8:45 am, Port. 6
- 16th Vision and Hearing Screening
- 20th Student Council, 7:20 am, MPR
- 21-22 Issaquah Schools Foundation Calling for Kids Campaign
- 23rd Spooky Spaghetti Social, 6-8 pm
- 28th Spirit Day
- 29-30 Book Fair
- 29th Kindergarten Pumpkin Carving 6:30-7:30, MPR



Ride the bus to protect classroom dollars!

We need all regular bus riders to make sure to ride the bus from **Monday, Oct. 5, through Friday, Oct. 9.**

That's when drivers will count each student who rides the bus in the morning and each student who rides the kindergarten bus at midday. These rider numbers determine the amount of funding our Transportation Department receives from the State of Washington. Already, we use local levy dollars (about \$3 million last year) to backfill the gap in transportation funding because the state's formula does not cover actual costs. The levy dollars also directly fund classroom expenses, such as curriculum and salaries. So by ensuring all regular bus riders are on the bus during the "count" week, our District can recoup the maximum amount of transportation funding to which we are entitled—and preserve more dollars for the classroom.

Wednesday Early Start—Please remember that school starts at 8:15 am on Wednesday. This Wednesday we had 18 unexcused tardies in the first 20 minutes of school. This can be very disruptive to the school learning environment.



ABSENCE AND EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES: Please remember to call the attendance line @ 425-837-7232 or e-mail the office before school if your student will be absent for all or part of the day. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day. If you are going to e-mail the teacher regarding your child's absence please Cougar Ridge's attendance recorder at feelyt@issaquah.wednet.edu. Remember to include the reason for your child's absence so it can be recorded as excused.

We know all of you try and limit early dismissals for your children to minimize disruption in classrooms. If you need to pick up your child early please send a note to the teacher or e-mail the teacher before school (if possible) and cc: feelyt@issaquah.wednet.edu. This allows the teacher some time to prepare the child for anything they may need to have ready or complete before they leave school. Please do not ask the teacher to send them to the office at a certain time to wait for your arrival. The teachers are not to dismiss children until they hear from the office to verify the parent has come in to sign their child out.

Neighborhood safety: Do you know the King County Sheriff's Office operates an [online search tool to keep community members aware of registered sex offenders](#) who live nearby? While these offenders have met their legal obligations and are aggressively monitored by Sheriff's Officers, you have the ability to check your own community and even sign up for alerts triggered when an offender moves close to a certain address, such as your home or school. [The Sheriff's Office also provides safety tips for families.](#)

Flu season: Students are definitely getting sniffles and upset stomachs in our schools, but we have not seen anything unusual thus far. District administrators continue to be in weekly contact with health experts, who have a consistent message: H1N1 is just a flu subtype comparable to the other seasonal flu strains we experience annually. Parents should assume that H1N1 is in their schools and communities, take it seriously, and act vigilantly—however, health experts say parents should not be overly concerned with whether their child's sickness is actually confirmed as H1N1 or some other strain. A doctor should be consulted if the symptoms become severe. To prevent the spread of the flu, please: **Keep children home when they are not feeling well (until 24 hours after a fever has passed), wash hands frequently, get vaccinated for H1N1 and the seasonal flu, and cover coughs with tissue or sleeve.** Parents should make a plan for back-up child care in case their students cannot go to school. The District's pandemic flu committee has been meeting regularly and has authorized extra hand sanitizers and sanitization machines for each school. [More resources for families are online.](#)

PARENT AND STUDENTS: REMINDER ABOUT DROP OFF DESK: The Drop Off Desk is located in the hallway across from the office. The purpose of this desk is for parents to drop off forgotten lunches, snacks, homework, after school activity items, etc. We ask that, as much as possible, you use this desk for any items dropped off at school. By using this desk there will be less disruptive calls into the classroom for students to come to the office to pick things up. Parents (or the office if necessary) can email the teacher letting the teacher know the item has been left at the Drop Off Desk. Thank you for your assistance in preserving a good learning environment for our students.

5th Grade Orchestra: The school district is still taking registrations for 5 grade students to participate in the 5th grade orchestra held at the middle schools? Information and registration forms can be obtained at <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/Programs/orchestra.aspx>.

Is your child interested in learning Spanish or Mandarin Chinese? Registrations are due October 3rd for Beginning Spanish (Monday afternoons), Intermediate Spanish (Tuesday afternoons) and Mandarin Chinese (Friday afternoons). Language classes will begin in November and will be held one day a week after school in the Multipurpose room. Classes will be held only if minimum participation is met. If your child is interested, please email Suzanne Marston at smarston7@comcast.net

Parent Education: Free seminar on food allergies on Thursday, Oct. 8 @ 7pm at Grand Ridge Elementary in Multi-Purpose Room. Hilary Stephens, of the Seattle Children's Food Allergy Community Health Education Program, will address the prevention and treatment of food allergies. Become educated on this important topic and learn to create a safe environment for all children. For questions, contact Jessica Burles, VP of Grand Ridge Programs, at grptsavpprograms@gmail.com



Chess Club- The Cougar Ridge Chess club began Wednesday, September 23. The club meets from 7:15 AM - 8:10 AM Wednesday mornings in the Multipurpose room. There is no charge to participate and all ages and skill levels are welcome. **All participants must submit a completed application before participating.** Find applications at our website: <http://home.comcast.net/~budda63/> Contact Jill Dixon with questions dixon_jill@hotmail.com.

Vision and Hearing Volunteers still needed: Volunteers are still needed to help with Vision and Hearing Screening on Friday, Oct 16th. There are two shifts, the morning shift is 8:15 am to 11:15 am and the afternoon shift is 12:15 pm to 2:35 pm. No experience necessary and training will be provided. If you can help, please contact Elaine Sakamoto at ehsieh1@aol.com or call 425-957-7609. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



Have you heard the D.I. BUZZ? Come find out what **DESTINATION IMAGINATION** is all about....**Tuesday, October 13, 7:00-8:00pm** in the Cougar Ridge Multi-Purpose Room. Destination Imagination is an exciting, team-building, creative problem solving program with a culminating tournament in March. Teams will be forming soon, so parents and kids come see for yourself why kids all over America say: "I DO DI, DO YOU?" **We are in need of several parent volunteers to help us have another successful year.** Questions? Contact Adina Florsheim at 747-1291 or adina_florsheim@msn.com.

CASC (Site Council) Are you looking to volunteer your time at Cougar Ridge but haven't found an evening opportunity? Are you interested in learning about our school's Continuous Improvement Plan? Would you like the opportunity to meet the school board representative from our area (Jan Woldseth)? Are you interested in learning more about the Levy that is up for vote in February? Do you enjoy a meeting that starts and finishes exactly on time? The Community Advisory Site Council of Cougar Ridge meets once a month and acts as a forum for collaboration between the school staff, parents and community. It's a great place to find out what's going on at Cougar Ridge, what's going on within the Central Corridor Schools, and what's going on within the entire District. If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, please join your Cougar Ridge Site Council on Monday October 5 at 6:30pm in the Cougar Ridge Library. On the agenda for this first meeting is an introduction and Q & A with Jan Woldseth, an update on Cougar Ridge's Continuous Improvement Plan, and an introduction/explanation of the February Levy. If you'd like to find out more about this committee, please contact this year's co-chairperson, Kate Emerson (dkesea5@comcast.net).

SAGE Curriculum Night: Tuesday, October 13th from 5:00-6:00 for parents of SAGE students.

Student Council News: Please help the Issaquah Food Bank by donating canned goods to Student Council's drop-box located in the main hallway across from the office!! This first humanitarian project of the year will run from now until **Oct. 24th**. We need non-perishable food items like canned vegetables, plastic jars of peanut butter, canned tuna, canned fruits, dried pasta, boxes of mac & cheese, etc.....please help if you are able!!!!

Let's Wrap It Up.. Thank you Cougar Ridge families and friends for your participation in our Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser. Friday, October 2nd, is the final day to turn in your Innisbrook envelopes. Orders will be ready for pick up at parent/teacher conferences in November. Questions? Please contact Holly Zakharenko (425)956-3649; holly@zakharenko.com

Spirit Wear Orders!!!! Thank you to everyone who turned in their Spirit Wear orders. Orders were placed Monday Sept. 28th and will arrive to children in their class mid - October. Orders that were made at the beginning of September were delivered Tuesday Sept. 29th. If you have any question please contact Kristin Brennock at kristinbrennock@comcast.net.

The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming Up - Volunteers Needed - The Cougar Ridge Scholastic Book Fair will be held this year on Thursday, October 29th from 8:15am to 8:30pm and Friday, October 30th from 8:30am to 4:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase books for your child at great prices and a great way to benefit our school. A significant percentage of the proceeds from the fair are credited to Cougar Ridge by Scholastic Books to purchase books and materials for the classroom and library. The book fair is run entirely by volunteers so if you would like to help, please contact Sora Brown at 736-6134 or sorabrown@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed to set-up the book fair on Wednesday, October 28th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm, Thursday, October 29th 7:15 - 8:15 am for the Teacher Preview and for two hour shifts during the book fair.

Gift A Book: Happy October Birthdays! Look for the purple Gift-A-Book form coming home today.

Spooky Spaghetti Dinner - Friday, October 23rd from 6:00-8:00 pm. Look for registration forms coming home today in your child's backpack! We are now taking pre-orders for tickets. All pre-ordered tickets will be entered into a drawing for a family to sit at our special VIP table at the dinner! If you have questions, please contact Kari Alexander jkralexander@msn.com or Stacey Eastern stacey@easternfamily.net

Spooky Spaghetti Dinner- CALLING MORE DADS!!! If you are a Cougar Ridge Dad and are interested in helping with the dinner, we need 10 more Dads to make the evening run smoothly. If you can help, please contact John Alexander jkrbalexander@msn.com Thank you!

Time for Reflections: The 40th annual PTSA Reflections Art Competition is underway! Please see the Reflections flyer in kid mail this week. 12 Finalists will be chosen and receive Cold Stone Ice Cream certificates! Entry Forms, Rules, and Guidelines (by artistic category) are available in the Reflections binder in the front hallway or at www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/forms.html.