

IMPORTANT DATES

October

- 7 - Skate Night
- 8 - Reflections Art Contest Begins
- 9 & 10 - NO SCHOOL. Child Care Available
- 16 - PTA Board/General 6:30pm. All Welcome
- 31 - Popcorn Day, 50¢/bag

November

- 3 - 20th Food Drive
- 10 & 11 - NO SCHOOL. Veteran's Day
- 13 - PTA Executive/Board Meeting
- 14 - Harvest Carnival; Popcorn Friday
- 26 - Early Release Day
- 27 & 28 - NO SCHOOL. Thanksgiving Break

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2008-09 PTA Executives

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RIDGECREST RAMS

PTA Newsletter

October 2008

16516 10th N.E., Shoreline, WA 98155

(206) 361-4272

A letter from the President

Hello Ridgecrest families,

We have made it through the first month of a new school year! The start to this year has been very exciting for me and my family. We are all getting used to getting up early and leaving the house with all of our necessary belongings! It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Delgado to make Ridgecrest an inviting successful school. I must give a big "thank you" to Mrs. McDonald and Ms. Mollenst for helping the PTA in ways you will never know!

Our first PTA meeting was well attended and we have some great volunteers who have come forward to organize the many exciting events we will all enjoy with our families. There are many opportunities for you to be involved in PTA. Whether you want to chair a committee or volunteer at an event for an hour, we welcome and encourage everyone to find a way to enrich the experience for all of our children. It is always good to have ideas come from different people who have so much to offer. Please let us know if you have something to share, a special skill, unique job, hobby or craft.

One of the goals of PTA this year is to lighten the load for the teachers. We hope to have a copy center up and running by the end of October. Teachers will place their orders and anyone with 10 minutes to spare can stop by the work room and make copies for them. Do you have a few minutes to spare when picking up or dropping off your child? Ridgecrest has an amazing group of teachers and staff that really make a difference in our children's lives. Let's support them any way we can!

One way to be supportive is to vote! Your vote counts. Hopefully the candidates you support are supporting teachers and education. We are the advocates for our children until they can vote themselves. By the playground conversation I hear at school some of them would vote now if they could! Education funding is a must for our children to become successful productive adults. There is a lot of work to be done to ensure a quality education for all children.

In closing, I would like to say that I am extremely thankful for the members of the PTA Executive Committee and their willingness to work together and share the load. I have high hopes that this year will be a positive experience for our community. —Tracey Batara, Co-President



VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

If you have moved since you last registered to vote, **PLEASE** make sure you are registered at your current address. You can easily update your address on-line by visiting the Washington State Secretary of State website at:

<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx>.

See Page 3 for more detailed information about the voting process.

Make Sure Your Address is Up-To-Date!



Wednesday, October 8
WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Children, parents and community leaders around the world are encouraged to walk to school during the month of October.

The 2008-2009 Reflections theme is:

“WOW!”

The Reflections program is a cultural arts competition, providing an opportunity to students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. Categories include: literature, choreography/dance, photography, visual arts, film/video, and music composition. All students will have their original works displayed at a reception on December 3, 2008. Visit <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Reflections/reflect.htm> for information, and more will be coming home with our kids!

MOCK ELECTION DAY COMING UP!

On October 30, 2008, American students and parents in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and around the world will cast their votes for senators, congressmen, and governors and on key national issues.

The only rule for participation in the 2008 Mock Election is this: There are no rules. The National Student/Parent Mock Election encourages enrolling in this year’s mock election to get our school’s votes counted and our student’s voices heard.

It’s free to enroll, and when you enroll, you will be providing students an opportunity to change the sense of powerlessness that keeps young Americans, and their parents as well, from going to the polls into a sense of power of participation in their democracy.



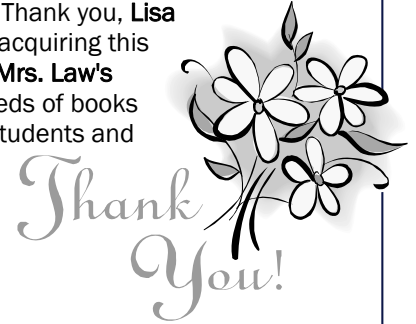
Visit <http://nationalmockelection.org/> for enrollment information.

THANK YOU!

There are always so many people to thank for their kindness and generosity, and this month is no exception. In particular, the Ridgecrest PTA officers would like to thank the **teachers** for helping to make the Back to School BBQ a huge success! A special thanks to **Mr. Peterson** for organizing a large portion of the event! We appreciate the joint effort.

Also, a big thanks to **Kathleen Cozens** and **Ballard Camera** for donating the photo processing for the Student of the Week pictures. and to **Vicki Molleston** for her work on the Student Directory. Thank you, **Edith Frates**, for connecting with the many organizations listed in “Community Contacts”.

Ridgecrest recently received eleven beautiful book shelves donated by **Borders Books**. Thank you, **Lisa Rammell**, for your efforts in acquiring this amazing gift. **Parents from Mrs. Law’s class** have unpacked hundreds of books that are now accessible to students and teachers. Thanks to you all! Peek into Room 10 when you are at the school to see the transformation!



SAVE THE DATE!

Ridgecrest Harvest Carnival

Friday, November 14th

5:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Games!! Prizes!! Treats!!

Food & Fun For The Whole Family!

This is an event you don’t want to miss!

Contact Bridget Carranza at bridget.carranza@gmail.com to volunteer at a booth, bake cakes, serve food....



More will come home with your kids!

RIDGECREST VOTES FOR 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in our *Legislative Issues Survey* held at Curriculum night. Below are the Top 5 survey results which will be carried forward to the Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly, where PTA representatives from across the state will vote on final Top 5 priorities for the 2009 Legislative Session.

| <u>Ridgecrest Top 5 Legislative Issues</u> | <u>% of Total Votes</u> | <u>PTA Long-Term Position Statements</u> | <u>Support</u> | <u>Oppose</u> |
|--|-------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Basic Education Funding | 25.4% | Children with Special Needs | 33 | 0 |
| 2. Strengthen Math & Science Curriculum | 24.4% | DREAM Act | 10 | 1 |
| 3. Rational Teacher Compensation | 13.9% | Core 24 – Meaningful High School Diploma | 10 | 0 |
| 4. Autism Insurance Parity | 8.6% | | | |
| 5. WASL Improvements | 7.3% | | | |

WHY VOTE?

The right to vote is a duty as well as a privilege. It is important for all citizens to vote in every election to make sure that the democratic, representative system of government is maintained. Persons who do not vote lose their voice in the government.

To help you be informed about the candidates and issues, the Office of the Secretary of State publishes a voters' pamphlet containing information about state ballot measures and candidate statements. Some counties also produce local voters' pamphlets. Other sources of information about candidates and issues include local newspapers, television, libraries, political parties, and through candidate campaigns.

HOW TO VOTE IN WASHINGTON STATE

Some quick facts about voting in Washington State:

To be **eligible** to vote you:

- Must be a United States citizen
- Must be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day
- Must have lived in Washington State for 30 days prior to the election (exceptions apply to military and overseas voters)
- Must not maintain a registration in more than one county or one state or under more than one name
- Must not be denied voting rights for being subject to guardianship
- Must not be a convicted felon without restored civil rights

Additional facts as it relates to a mail-in Ballot:

What are mail elections?

Mail elections are an alternative to polling place voting. Prior to each election a ballot is automatically mailed to every eligible registered voter to the address on record. Many voters enjoy the extra time to review the ballot before casting a vote that comes with voting by mail.

As a registered voter in King County, what do I have to do to vote by mail?

If you live in King County that offers both absentee ballot voting and poll site voting, you'll need to request an absentee ballot from the County Auditor, which you can easily do on the website <http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/Voting/Absentee.aspx>. You may choose to request an absentee ballot for a single election or to receive

absentee ballots permanently.

You will then automatically receive a ballot. You will need to keep your residence and mailing addresses current with your County Auditor to ensure your ballot is mailed to the correct location.

When are the ballots mailed to the voters?

Washington State law requires ballots be mailed to voters at least 18 days prior to an election.

What do I do if my ballot doesn't arrive?

If Election Day is approaching and you have not received a ballot, contact your County Auditor's Office for a replacement ballot. If you would like a replacement ballot to be mailed to you, do not wait until the day before the election to request one. If there is not enough time to receive a replacement ballot by mail, you may pick one up in person.

When must the voted ballot be returned?

Mail ballots must be **post-marked on or before Election Day**. If the Auditor's Office receives a ballot after Election Day that was not post-marked on or before Election Day, the votes on the ballot will not be counted.

It is never too late to begin, get involved in the process now. Stay informed, talk about issues, and help get other people enthused. And on Election Day, vote knowing you made a decision that you believe will benefit you, your state, your country, and your world. Then you will know that you have made your voice heard.



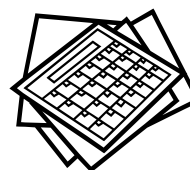
Looking For Something **FREE** To Do?

Come skating at Highland Ice Arena!!

18005 Aurora Avenue North (206) 546-2431

Friday, October 10th, 9:30 a.m.—5:15 p.m.

No admission fee/Skate rentals are \$3.00 a pair



Take a look....

Claire Wycoff, a Ridgecrest 3rd grader, is featured on the June, 2009 page of The Shoreline Public Schools calendar, with her yummy entry of "Ice Cream Tower".

FUNDRAISERS

As I write, we are in the midst of Innisbrook Online, the Fall Fundraiser and it is quite hectic. A reminder that to reach the goal of \$15,000 we need either \$65 in sales for each child at the school or \$32.50 in donations per child. Sales can be made up to the Monday (the 6th) after the sale ends. We will be counting the orders that week. Please do what you can to help out. Success with our Fall Fundraiser means we can look forward to the Spring Walk-a-thon as our only other large fundraiser. The Walk-a-thon is a great hit with the kids and a lot of fun. Contact me to be on this fun committee—it's never too early to start planning. Volunteers please contact Philip Scott at 206-363-4974 or email psrcpta@gmail.com. Remember, we can't do it without you. Thanks for all your efforts!



Ridgecrest earns money throughout the year with Escrip. Participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty card, credit card and debit/ATM card purchases to our school. Go to www.Escrip.com to register. Ridgecrest's Escrip number is: **8566078**. Register any one or all of your grocery loyalty, credit, or debit cards. Contributions are made to the school based on your purchases and are tracked through your cards.

Last year Ridgecrest earned a whopping \$830 from collecting box tops! We're off to a great start already, so keep them coming in! Check out <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> For a list of products and coupons.

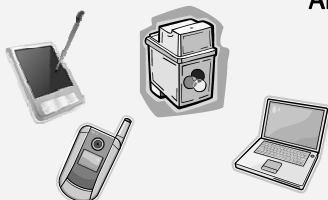


What a great way to tip off the fall! They now use recycled materials to make their wrapping papers! Innisbrook is helping to make our world a bit more green. Thanks!



Simply shop Albertsons and Ridgecrest will receive a percentage of your eligible purchases in cash!

Join today at www.albertsons.com and click on "In the Community". Click on the above logo, and "Sign me up!"



And don't forget to bring in your old cell phones, laptops, PDAs and ink cartridges. We can recycle these items and receive money!

We're on the web!

<http://ridgecrest.shorelinepta.com/index.htm>

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

A special "Thank You" goes out to all of the community organizations that participated in the Curriculum and Information Fair. Shoreline has such rich resources. Here is a list of some participants and how you can contact them.



- Shoreline YMCA—www.seattlemca.org/daleturner;
- Center for Human Services—Tanya @ (206) 362-7282;
- Campfire Girls—Janelle Kriston @ (206) 461-8556, ext. 8910;
- Girl Scouts—Emily Nolan @ (206) 633-5600;
- Awanas—(206) 362-8363;
- Ridgecrest Neighborhood Assn—Patty Hale @ (206) 784-9289;
- Lake City Girls Drill Team—Kendra @ (206) 948-9440;
- Shoreline Childrens Center—Linda Averil @ (206) 361-4256;
- Shoreline Library—www.kcls.org;
- Shoreline Historical Museum @ (206) 542-7111; www.shorelinehistoricalmuseum.org;
- Ridgecrest Elementary Clubs: Math Olympiad & Destination Imagination;
- And last but not least, the Ridgecrest PTA.

Get involved and be a member!



Join the Ridgecrest PTA today. Together, we can be a powerful voice for our children. Pick up a membership envelope in the main atrium, or print one out at: http://www.pta.org/pta_member_benefits.asp

