

December 8, 2011  
11/12 School Year, Volume 6, Issue 9

## SCHOOL NEWS

### "Reach Far, Be Grand"

**We make Grand choices that don't cause a problem for anyone.**

*Did you know...* that early bird tickets to the Grand Ridge PTSA auction (currently \$60) end December 31st...and the price then goes up to \$75 each? Be sure to get your tickets now to this wonderful February 11th event to **support Science, Art, Music** and other programs at Grand Ridge. Go to: [www.grandridgeptsa.org](http://www.grandridgeptsa.org) and click on the auction logo in the upper left corner.

### *Thanks for Your Help...*

Here's a big "thank you" to all the Grizzly families who sent in their dead batteries and florescent light bulbs. In 1 week we collected over 800 batteries that would have gone into our landfill. Now they will be taken to the Factoria Waste Center for proper disposal. This is a year-long 3<sup>rd</sup> grade project so continue to send in batteries and light bulbs. The collection bins are in the front hall. Thanks for being green and grand!

### *Spirit Day!*

Students, wear your pajamas to school on December 14<sup>th</sup> ! Sponsored by the Grand Ridge Student Council.

## PTSA NEWS

For more information on the following articles, go to [www.GrandRidgePTSA.org](http://www.GrandRidgePTSA.org)

### *Grand Ridge Auction*

**February 11, 2012 - GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

Please support elevated learning for every student at Grand Ridge by participating in the Auction. All proceeds raised will support the **Science, Art** and **Music** curriculums and other PTSA programs. Washington State education funding is in trouble, and the auction will help pay for programs vital to our children's education. Supporting the auction directly helps your child(ren). WE NEED YOU! Buy your tickets today. For more information [CLICK HERE](#) or [REGISTER NOW](#).

General information about the Grand Ridge Auction is available in the following languages. Click [here](#) to see the information.

日本 (Japanese)

한국의 (Korean)

español (Spanish)

中国 (Chinese)

## *Membership*

It's never too late to become a member of the Grand Ridge PTSA. Sponsorships are available and are kept completely confidential. Simply print and fill out a membership form on the PTSA web site [www.grandridgeptsa.org](http://www.grandridgeptsa.org), write sponsorship on the top, and turn it into the school. We'll take care of the rest! Please keep this in mind if you have kids in multiple schools. Memberships at 2-3 schools can seem daunting, so sponsorship is a great option. Sign up today!

## *Gifts from Gilman*

This year's Gift from Gilman was a roaring success. We collected over 390 pounds of food, cleaning supplies and toiletries. We also collected 40 bags of clothing including numerous new coats, jeans, shoes, boots, pajamas, and more! We send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated items and to the many helpers that made this possible. Many children will have a much warmer winter with all of the wonderful donations.

## *eScrip*

Make your holiday shopping count! Families that shop through the [eScrip online mall](http://www.eScrip.com) can earn Grand Ridge PTSA hundreds of dollars! Stores include Gap, Barnes & Noble, Nordstrom, Toys R Us, Apple Store and many more! Visit [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com) for more information and how to register for free.

## *Cultural Diversity Council*

**Teşekkür ederim (Thank You)** to Pinar Mertan for her leadership, creativity, and hours of work in chairing the Cultural Diversity Council's celebration of the country and culture of Turkey.

### **Cultural Focus for December: Winter Celebrations**

The Cultural Diversity Council will be sharing traditions celebrated in December from various countries, such as cleaning the home to have a fresh start for the New Year. Combining this with the spirit of giving during the holidays, we are asking the kids to donate a gently used toy found in their cleaned room. Please have them bring the item to school on 12/13 to be collected and donated to Eastside Baby Corner.

Find out about more things you can do with your kids to learn about winter celebrations around the world by visiting [Cultural Diversity](http://www.grpsavpprograms@gmail.com) on the PTSA website. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the Cultural Diversity group, please contact Lisa Callan at [grpsavpprograms@gmail.com](mailto:grpsavpprograms@gmail.com).

**Coming up--Cultural Focus for January: Korea**

## *Legislative Update*

Action Alert from your WA State PTA: State could cut school year. This would mean redefining Basic Education to give kids less.

Balancing the budget by cutting school days sets kids up for failure -- both in this budget cycle and the ones to come. The legislature is taking up the proposal this week in Olympia, and Washington State PTA is asking members to take action.

To cut school days, the state would have to redefine the Program of Basic Education and argue that children don't need that time in class. This would affect kids today and future generations to come. It would also set our association back further from our top priority: improving and fully funding basic education. Today, basic education only covers for about 5 hours of the school day. That sixth hour is "enhancement funding" and is compliments of your local levy or from state levy equalization funds.

Children need more, not less, instructional time. They already face tough odds. Consider:

- 1 in 3 Washington fourth-graders is below standard in reading. (2011 Nation's Report Card)
- By 2018, 2 out of 3 of our jobs will require a college degree or credential, but Washington's high school graduation rates hover roughly in the bottom third nationally. (The BERC Group College Tracking Data Services)

Education is the state's paramount duty. A downsized economy will be our norm for the foreseeable future and our children need real solutions. To take action, click [here](#), it only takes less than 5 seconds!

### *Men of Grand Ridge*

All are welcome to help clean up our school grounds. Let's bundle up and take a bite out of the weeds on Saturday, 12/17 at 1-3pm.

### *Science Fair Is Coming! - March 21, 2012*

Interested in volunteering with the Science Fair? Come and get involved - we are looking for people that are interested in helping with this wonderful event. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 12/13 at 9:30 in the YWCA meeting room. Questions? Email: Theora Dalupan at [tdalupan@hotmail.com](mailto:tdalupan@hotmail.com)

### *Issaquah Schools Foundation*

Greetings Cyber Shoppers! Don't forget that shopping at Amazon.com can mean extra money for the Issaquah Schools Foundation. Just add a click to your shopping list and go to [www.isfdn.org](http://www.isfdn.org) first, and then click the link to the Amazon.com site. Once you are there - BOOKMARK it as your Amazon link. Taking this quick detour means 8% of your purchase is donated back to ISF, without any charge to you! Make everyone's season brighter this year and shop today! Also, don't forget to visit the Foundation's **Business Partner** page to find great local deals that benefit you and our schools.

## CALENDAR

### December

13 .....Science Fair Meeting at the YWCA, 9:30am, sponsored by PTSA

- 14 ..... Spirit PJ Day - Wear your pajamas to school!
- 17 ..... School Grounds Clean-up, 1:00-3:00pm, sponsored by PTSA
- 19-Jan 2.....**No School** First Winter Break
- 31 .....Last day for early bird Auction prices

### January

- 2 .....**No School** -- last day of Winter Break
- 11..... Spirit Day - Wear your colors! K-Red, 1<sup>st</sup> Green, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Yellow, 4<sup>th</sup> Orange, & 5<sup>th</sup> White
- 19 .....ELL Family Resource Night, Issaquah High School, 6:30-8:00pm
- 30-Feb 8...Stanford Testing

### February

- 1-8 .....Stanford Testing (began on Jan 30)
- 6 -March 9<sup>th</sup> .....WA English Language Proficiency Assessment
- 8 ..... Spirit Day - Crazy Hair!
- 15 .....New Parent Kindergarten Information Night 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
(enrollment packets available for pick-up)
- 28 .....Science Fair Kick-off Assembly "Radical Reaction," 9:30am (Grades K-2)