

## SCHOOL NEWS

### "Reach Far, Be Grand"

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

***Did you know?*** The Grand Ridge PTSA is a 501(c)(3) organization, and that membership fees and donations to the Feed Gilman campaign are tax deductible? Also, many companies will match these donations. See the employer matching gift program information below to learn how you can double your contribution.

### ***Optional On-Line Payment System***

New this year and available beginning September 19 - payments on line! With Touchbase, you now have the option on paying for student classroom materials and field trips on line with a credit card at your convenience. There is a small fee associated with paying this way and we are still happy to accept your check or money order.

If you are interested in the on line payment system, please click on the following link for the log-in page and detailed instructions:

<https://web.issaquah.wednet.edu/touchbase/?dord=116> Once you have paid, please print the receipt and send it to your child's teacher for confirmation. Contact Cyndi Thompson at [thompsonc@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:thompsonc@issaquah.wednet.edu) for questions. **Important! Your log-in for Touchbase is your log-in for Family Access, but the password is your student's last name in lower case.**

### ***Change in Attendance Policy***

For absences over five consecutive school days, you will need to complete two forms, our Prearranged Absence form and the Excused/Unexcused Absence form. You can find both of these on the Grand Ridge website at

<http://www.grandridge.issaquah.wednet.edu/Forms.htm>

Please note that if an absence results in more than 20 consecutive school days, your child will be withdrawn from school. Upon return, you will need to re-enroll your child, but your child may not be placed back in the same classroom. Please come to the office to obtain the proper form for this type of absence.

## *What's happening outside of school?*

Check out Grand Ridge's Community Fliers at <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/fliers.aspx>.

# PTSA NEWS

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

## **FUNDRAISING**

### *Feed Gilman*

Does your car need one of those cool paw magnets you've seen? All families who donate to the Feed Gilman campaign will receive a paw magnet. Display it proudly knowing you're helping support classroom programs such as author visits, assemblies, reading support materials, writing study units, and much more that would otherwise go unfunded. Gilman is our school mascot and he's a bear hungry for a great education! Look for the bright green flyer in your back to school packet, or download it from the PTSA web site at [www.grandridgeptsa.org](http://www.grandridgeptsa.org)

### *Does your employer participate in a Matching Gift Program?*

Many Northwest companies participate in a matching program. This is a great way to double your donation to Grand Ridge PTSA. Contact your Human Resources Department for Corporate Matching Donation information and paperwork. The employee must initiate this process through their company. Once the paperwork has been completed by the employee, the company will then contact the PTSA to complete the process. Many Corporate Match Donations are completed online. Take care to designate Grand Ridge PTSA as the recipient, and thank you so much for your support of our PTSA.

If you have questions regarding the Corporate Matching program at Grand Ridge please contact Lynn Brueckman: [Lbrueckman@gmail.com](mailto:Lbrueckman@gmail.com)

## **VOLUNTEER**

### *Committee Chair Meeting*

Do you chair a PTSA committee, or would you like to? We are having a meeting on Thursday October 6th at 9:30 in P7. We will go over a lot of helpful information with regards to working on any PTSA programs or events. Come learn who to contact, what you need, where inventory is, and how to get into our new storage container! Please email Carolyn Kennedy [carolynk2@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynk2@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

## **Training**

Volunteer Workroom Training is highly recommended if you plan to volunteer for your child's teacher this year. These are helpful half-hour sessions designed to make you a whiz around the workrooms. Three more sessions are available: Tuesday, September 27th at 9:20am, 1:00pm & 5:00pm. Questions or can't make these times? Email [grptsavolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:grptsavolunteers@gmail.com)

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Grand Ridge Book Swap**

Start Saving Those Books!

Now that the kids are in school, it's a great time to clean out those bookshelves! On October 13th we'll be holding our school's second annual children's book swap at Grand Ridge. Please start saving those gently used children's books now. We're looking for picture books and chapter books of all genres that are appropriate for elementary aged students. You may drop off your donated books to Grand Ridge Elementary September 26-October 7th. If you would like more information, or would like to lend a hand in organizing this fun event, please contact Sara Winnick at [swinnick@ihmail.com](mailto:swinnick@ihmail.com). If you have any questions please contact Kim Goodman at [grptsavpevents@gmail.com](mailto:grptsavpevents@gmail.com).

## **ARTISTS WANTED!**

### **2011- 2012 PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM**

**"DIVERSITY MEANS...."**

For more information go to:

[www.grandridgeptsa.org/Page/ReflectionsArtContest/Reflections Art Contest 2011-12](http://www.grandridgeptsa.org/Page/ReflectionsArtContest/ReflectionsArtContest2011-12)

## **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!**

PICTURE DAY TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 15TH. WE WERE ABLE TO GET ALL PICTURES TAKEN IN ONE DAY! A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR CHAIR, NATHALIE ISENSEE AND OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS, JOANNE MOCKFORD, JULIE CROFF, SOBIA KHAN, NANETTE HARVEY, JESSICA BURLES AND CINDY TEFFT. THESE LADIES DID AN AMAZING JOB GETTING ALL THE CLASSES TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY AREA AS QUICKLY AND AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Receive up-to-date PTSA news, information and reminders on **Facebook**. "Like" us at [www.facebook.com/grandridgeptsa](http://www.facebook.com/grandridgeptsa)

## LEGISLATURE

Dear Grand Ridge PTSA Member,

Every year, voting delegates, who represent schools from all over Washington State, meet in October at Legislative Assembly. They discuss and vote on what topics to make top priorities. Washington State PTA lobbies in Olympia on behalf of all members for the well-being and education of Washington youth. We are gathering feedback from all PTSA members in order to better represent you!

[http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/association\\_position/index.html](http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/association_position/index.html)

The survey needs to be completed by September 25th.

1. Vote Here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JJK9WVD>

2. Read this very comprehensive report on the 2011 Legislative Session:

[http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/session\\_2011/2011\\_Focus\\_On\\_Schools.pdf](http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/session_2011/2011_Focus_On_Schools.pdf)

3. Read this index of advocacy action items:

<http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>

I appreciate your input as we strive for a better education.

Sincerely,

Leslie Warrick

Grand Ridge Elementary Legislative Representative

## CALENDAR

### September

26 .....Begin Turning in Book Swap Books

27 .....First PTSA General membership Meeting

29 .....Vision and Hearing Screening

30 .....Vision and Hearing Screening

### October

20 .....Picture Retakes

25 .....Coffee with Christy 9:30am-10:30am in the Commons

27 .....Deadline to turn in Reflections projects