



# The Howler



Laura Huggins, Principal

October 2010

Lisa deBonoPaula, PTA President

Greetings Canyon Ridge Parents!

To date, generous Greenback donations have resulted in \$11,500 to be applied toward student activities! Unfortunately, this leaves us \$1,500 from our goal. Our goal of \$13,000 represents the amount our PTA donates to the school so that every child can participate in two field trips. Without these funds, the school would be faced with trying to pay for them since parents cannot be asked to pay for field trips. Transportation costs are often the biggest expense involved, and many parents are surprised to learn that we must pay to use the school buses.

With over 1000 students at our school, and a budget of \$13,000 for two field trips for each child, we were hopeful to get a donation of at least \$13 per child to meet this expense. Many families contributed \$100 or more and we are extremely thankful for those generous donations.

Despite the shortfall, our PTA has agreed to fund the field trips as planned. We feel strongly that the children benefit from these extra learning adventures, so we have donated \$13,000 to the school to pay for them. Unfortunately, we are now looking at ways to cut some of the other funding for programs that enhance the learning experiences and foster a fun and well-rounded curriculum. So far, the possible cuts in our budget could include:

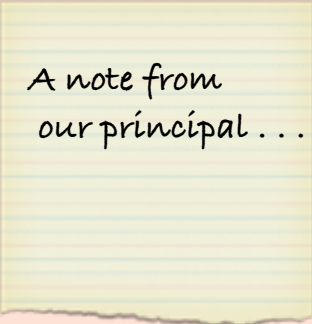
- Bike Rodeo ribbons
- New books for the library
- Classroom garden supplies
- Author visits
- Virtue Star patches
- Presidential Service Award pins
- New balls for the playground
- Popsicles for Field Day
- Drum Cafe for a First Friday event in April

We stand behind our promise to refrain from asking your children to participate in direct-selling fundraisers. We limit our efforts to raise funds to the Greenback donation program in the fall and our Howl n' Prowl event in the Spring. Although the Greenback campaign is closed, if you missed the chance to donate and are interested in contributing, your tax-deductable Greenback donation will still be accepted and will be greatly appreciated.

Warmly,

*Lisa deBonoPaula*

PTA President, Canyon Ridge Elementary



A note from  
our principal . . .

Dear Coyote Parents,

Happy October! We have many things to celebrate as we end the first nine weeks of school. Thank you for participating in the Parent/Teacher conferences. These face to face conferences are important to help us get to know your children better and for your child's teacher to also share with you how your child is progressing in school.

Another useful tool is the parent portal, located on the parent section of the NEISD homepage. It will provide you with ongoing information about your child's grades, attendance and cafeteria accounts. It is a great way for you to stay current with your child's information between conferences and progress reports.

Our CR Choir performed at the opening night of the Rampage hockey game. They started the night as they led the audience with the National Anthem. Mrs. Garza and I also participated as we rode the Zambonie during the first period. The Rampage won the game 6-3 and a fun time was had by all.

During the first week of school, our teachers spent one day learning about *The Leader in Me*, A book written by Sean Covey about applying the Seven Habits in an elementary setting. This has become a national movement and several North East Schools are currently implementing the ideas within their schools. During our October Staff Development Day, our teachers and a few PTA parents learned about the first three habits of Sean Covey's, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. This training is the foundation for the *Leader in Me*. It's focus is presented in a framework for personal effectiveness and leadership. You can find out more by going to the following website [www.theleaderinme.org/schools.html](http://www.theleaderinme.org/schools.html).

A big THANK YOU to our PTA and parent volunteers as they provided a very special lunch for our teachers during the Staff Development Day. We appreciate your hard work in making this day extra special with a nice lunch treat! We continue to say thanks for your support in the cafeteria and all the other areas of school to include our First Friday Events. Students loved the humor of the play *The Green Rabbit*.

Ticket to Read is up and running. This is a motivational interactive online reading program that can improve your child's reading fluency, comprehension and vocabulary development. You should have received a newsletter from your child's teacher with your child's user name and password. Please contact your child's teacher or Carol Pierce if you need more information about this program.

As you can see this newsletter is full of information about all the awesome things happening at Canyon Ridge. As always, thank you for all you do to support the Canyon Ridge staff and for sharing your children with us.

Sincerely,

Laura Huggins

# Red Ribbon Week

## "I Make Healthy Choices!"

October 25-29, 2010

**Monday, Oct. 25th:** "I Make Healthy Choices" (Coyotes Wear Red)  
Kick-Off Rally with Reagan Rattlers!

**Tuesday, Oct. 26th:** Howlin Healthy Coyotes "Hats Off" To Our Sister School"(Coyotes Wear a Silly/Crazy Hat)  
Johnson Jaguars Visit!

Get a "Healthy" Spirit Stick by Bringing a package of healthy snacks, a Gift Card to Wal-Mart or Target and/or \$5 Donation! (For Example: fresh bag of apples or oranges, granola bars, boxes of raisins, trail mix, fruit snacks, applesauce, Goldfish crackers, case of small bottled waters, etc.) The snacks will be delivered to our Sister school that day.

**Wednesday, Oct. 27th:** "Giddy Up to Good Health for our Sister School"  
(Coyotes it's Western Day)  
Johnson Jaguars Visit!

Get a "Giddy Up" Spirit Stick by Bringing a jar of peanut butter and/or \$5 Donation

**Thursday, Oct. 28th:** Be Coyote Cool, Smile Bright and Give to Our Sister Schools! (Coyotes Wear Sunglasses)  
Reagan Rattlers Visit!

Get a "Toothbrush" Spirit Stick by Bringing a new, sealed Child's/Youth toothbrush

**Friday, Oct. 29th:** Team Up For Our Sister Schools!  
(Coyotes Wear Your Favorite Team Shirt)

Get a "Coyote" Spirit Stick by Bringing a Gently Used and/or New Jacket, Sweater, Windbreaker, Coat for boy/girl



**\*\*\*Earn "Exclusive" Spirit Sticks by Donating to our Sister Schools\*\*\***

*Diana Lopez, Red Ribbon Week Chair*

## First Fridays

*Gloria Hamilton & Alissa Hill, First Friday Co-chairs*



*Actors from the Artes de la Rosa in costume*

The October 1st, First Friday event was a bilingual play titled "El Conejito Verde/The Green Rabbit." The theatre group, Artes de la Rosa, traveled all the way from Ft. Worth to entertain our Coyotes. We originally scheduled two morning shows in our cafetorium, but we soon realized we would not be able to use the cafeteria due to early lunch schedules. With teamwork from the Administrative staff, Music department & Custodians, we were able to move the performance to the outdoor amphitheater. It was a beautiful, clear day, and a wonderful way to utilize our schools' great outdoor facility.

With the use of colorful masks, props, costumes, and immersion of the Spanish language, the troop told the story of a prince who was cursed and turned into a rabbit by his father. His true love, Marisol had to accomplish several impossible tasks such as crying buckets of tears and wearing out metal shoes. The students cheered and laughed once the tasks were completed and Marisol gave the frog a kiss! The show concluded with the frog transforming back into a handsome prince, and the king forgiving his son. After the show, the students were given the chance to meet and greet the actors in the school lobby.

We are planning many other First Friday events. Upcoming events include the January 14 performance of the Fort Worth Opera "Three Billy Goat's Gruff".



## LIBRARY NEWS

### Book Fair

Thanks to all Canyon Ridge students and their parents who attended the Scholastic Book Fair. The Fall Book Fair was held in the Canyon Ridge Library during the week of early dismissal. Holding the Book Fair during the week of parent-teacher conferences was a first for our librarian, Bev Golden. It definitely brought in more foot traffic as parents were on campus for their teacher meetings. Many students were rewarded for their good work with a chance to shop at the book fair.

Proceeds from the Scholastic Book Fair fund our library and many of the programs and resources available to students, such as World Book Online, Jr. Library Guild, Reading Incentive Programs and Book Marks. Special Thanks to all of our great volunteers for making the book fair a success for the students and staff at Canyon Ridge.

### Author Visit

Our next author visit is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. Texas 2x2 author, Keith Baker will speak to Kindergarten, First and Second grades. His collection of stories about Mr. & Mrs. Green are a favorite with kids. Whatever these two lovable alligators are up to, it's sure to be an adventure!

Find out more about Keith Baker at [keithbakerbooks.com](http://keithbakerbooks.com).

*Yvette Carmona, Library Chair*

## Bike Rodeo

Monica Renner & Robin Evers, Bike Rodeo/Safety Co-chairs

Attention all Coyotes! Bike Rodeo is coming soon. So mark your calendar for

**Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.**

We want all Canyon Ridge Coyotes to participate. Bike Rodeo is fun for all ages and skill levels!! A San Antonio police officer will be present to help teach the children about bike safety. Start practicing so you can show off some of your very own bike skills. All children who participate will receive a patch! The children can also compete to win medals. The top 3 boys and girls for each grade will receive a medal. Sorry, but children riding with training wheels will not be eligible for medals. We look forward to seeing you Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>!!

We will also be giving the children the opportunity to win a bike. For a chance to win, students must write an essay on the theme "Why I want a bike". The bikes are generously being donated by

**A-Tex**

**Plumbing and Utilities**

## Box Tops for Education



### I WAY TO GO COYOTES!

You collected **4,646** Box Tops, Campbell's and Tyson labels over the summer!

**Congratulations** to summer contest winners:

**Summer Super Star – Darren Lopez (2<sup>nd</sup>) with 266 labels**

**Class Champion – Mrs. Roy's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with 399 labels**

Keep clipping and submitting labels found on many family product brands like Cheerios, Pepperidge Farm, Pillsbury, Ziploc, Yoplait, Juicy Juice, Campbell's, Tyson and more! **EVERY** student submitting Box Tops, Campbell's or Tyson labels during the month of October will receive a prize!



We also collect **Campbell's Labels for Education**, found on products such as Campbell's soups, Pepperidge Farm Goldfish, Swanson broth, Pop Secret popcorn and BIC pens, and **Tyson Project A+** labels, found on Tyson chicken nuggets, chicken strips, Any'tizers, and more.

**\*\*Be sure to include your child's name, grade and teacher when submitting Box Tops, Labels for Education, or Tyson Project A+ labels.\*\***

## Grandparents' Day

Canyon Ridge's Grandparent's Day celebration was a huge success. Nearly 200 grandparents were able to come spend time with their grandchildren at this special event. The families enjoyed crafts, snacks, and then a tour of the school. The students were so excited to have their grandparent at school and the grandparents were just as excited to be there. We look forward to next year's celebration being just as wonderful!

--Adrian Hicks, Hospitality Chair

--Christina King, Box-Tops Chair



# Special Parents of Special Kids

*Trudy Scott, PTA Special Education Chair*

Special Parents of Special Kids support group met last month and we had a fantastic turnout with 22 people attending! It was great having Tuscany Heights members there as well. We discussed the specifics for meetings and topic ideas for meetings throughout the year. We also introduced ourselves to the group and got to know one another.

This month we are trying something new with a meeting earlier in the day:

## **Thursday, October 21st at 9:30am The Egg & I Restaurant off Sonterra**

The meeting is open to any parent, family member or friend that knows someone who has special needs. Manny Garcia from the Brighton Center will be our guest speaker. He will discuss their Parent Alliance for Learning and Support program.

If you intend to come please RSVP to Trudy Scott, PTA Special Education chair, at [info@royalteaprincessparties.com](mailto:info@royalteaprincessparties.com) or 210-957-4205 (we need to get a head count).

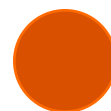
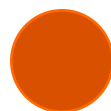
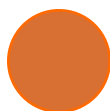
We hope to see you there!!!

## got spirit?

Have you piled the Spirit onto your backpacks yet? The Spirit Store is open the first Friday of the month from 7-7:30 am outside the cafeteria. Bring your spare change and check out our limited edition Canyon Ridge Patches. Each set of patches is retired once it has sold out. Buy your favorites before they're gone! We also have coyote paw necklaces, rub-on tattoos, lanyards and shirts!

You can also sport your Canyon Ridge Spirit with our awesome red Coyote shirt. All sizes except 3X are still available...but some are running low. Catch the Coyote today before he slips away! We love it when school Volunteers show their spirit too! What a great way to show our children the importance of being involved and teamwork!

*--Gail Willis, PTA Spirit Chair*





## REFLECTIONS



Calling all Creative Students!

*Submit your entry by Wednesday, November 3 – EARN a Golden Coyote patch!*

The Reflections program is a National PTA art program that gives students the opportunity to experiment in the fields of photography, literature, music, film production, dance choreography and the visual arts. The 2010-2011 Texas PTA Reflections Program is about to begin . . . The theme is:



Reflect on the theme! Create an original work! Be recognized!

The mediums are many!

- Dance Choreography . . . Up to 3 dancers can move to your tune!
- Film Production . . . Write a play, produce a movie!
- Literature . . . Create a story!
- Musical composition . . . Compose a song!
- Photography . . . Create a photo collage or capture a photograph.
- Visual Arts . . . Draw a picture!

Submission forms will be available outside the front office and on the Canyon Ridge PTA website:

([www.canyonridgepta.com](http://www.canyonridgepta.com)). Please submit your work to your classroom teacher by

**Wednesday, November 3.**

Every student providing a submission will receive a SPECIAL Golden Coyote patch. The school with the most entries will be recognized. Let's help our school be recognized! Texas PTA judging will take place in mid-January. Winners will be recognized at a Student Awards Ceremony.

Questions? Contact Helen Toms at [helen.donaghadee@hotmail.com](mailto:helen.donaghadee@hotmail.com) or Kim Swider at [kbswider@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kbswider@sbcglobal.net).

## Have you updated your information on the PTO Manager site?

Once again, it is time to sign up or update your information on the PTO Manager website. For those of you who are new, the PTO Manager is a website that you can use to stay connected to all the events going on at Canyon Ridge! On the website, you will be able to sign up for volunteer opportunities. Even if you signed up last year, you will need to log in and update your student's grade and teacher. You can make changes to the events you would like to volunteer for at this time. The directions to sign up or update your information are listed below.

### **How to sign up:**

- Go to [ptomanager.com](http://ptomanager.com)
- Click on the Register tab and follow the steps for registration.

### **How to update:**

- Go to [canyonridge.ptomanager.com](http://canyonridge.ptomanager.com)
- Sign in, click on Volunteer tab at top left corner.
- Click on Find Volunteers, type your name and hit enter.
- Click on Edit and follow the steps to change your child's grade and teacher's name.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [mymeshell@satx.rr.com](mailto:mymeshell@satx.rr.com)

Thank you,

Shell Alvarez

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Canyon Ridge PTA / Volunteer Coordinator



# Howlin' and Prowlin'

Howlin' and Prowlin' is scheduled for March 25, 2011. Mark your calendars for an evening of excitement, games and most importantly a great family fun night!

If you are interested in volunteering, sponsoring or would like to make a donation for the silent auction please contact Sandi LeDoux at

[sledoux3@att.net](mailto:sledoux3@att.net)

or call 210-441-0940.



## Mark Your Calendar. . .

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Oct. 21:</b>      | Special Parents of Special Kids Mtg. |
| <b>Oct. 25 - 29:</b> | Red Ribbon Week                      |
| <b>Nov. 3:</b>       | Reflections Entries due              |
| <b>Nov. 5:</b>       | First Friday: Bike Rodeo             |
| <b>Nov. 16:</b>      | Author visit by Keith Baker          |

