



The Howler



Laura Huggins, Principal

September 2010

Lisa deBonoPaula, PTA President

A Note from the Principal. . .

Dear Coyote Parents,

It has already been a howlin' great year! As a new member of the Canyon Ridge Family, I have been very impressed with many aspects of the school. We have had a great start to the school year. Our Meet the Teacher/Parent Orientation Nights were a big success because so many of you were able to attend. This allowed for the first few days of school to run very smoothly. Our students were able to find their way to their classrooms and were excited to meet their new teachers and see familiar faces from years past. Traffic flow for both arrival and dismissal has also gone very well. Thank you for following our safety procedures and helping both the 5th grade patrols and staff members during these busy traffic times.

We appreciate the number of hours our PTA and parent volunteers have donated during the past two weeks. Parent volunteers have been all over the school--delivering school supplies or PTA packets, spending lunchtime in our cafeteria helping to open juice and milk containers, handing out napkins, silverware and condiments and most importantly bringing a calm caring presence to our students.

We completed two Fire Drills during the first two weeks. These are required by the state. Mrs. Garza, Assistant Principal, happily recorded the drill times because they were new records set by our students and staff. We also had our First Friday Assembly. What a way to end the second week of school and begin the Labor Day Weekend! The Spurs Coyote arrived and led our students in several fun activities. Before leaving he encouraged our coyotes to pledge to do their very best this school year. I know everyone will be anxiously awaiting our future First Friday assemblies.

Another special guest that joined us this same day was author Susan Crummel. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders learned about her books through interactive presentations. Many of our Coyotes left her presentations feeling inspired to become writers. Our Kinder through 2nd graders will also participate in an author visit in November.

As you can see the school year is well under way. September will go by quickly. Please keep in mind the activities that are just around the corner. We hope to see you at our first PTA meeting on October 5, 2010 at 6:30 PM during which our 3rd graders will be performing.

Thank you for supporting our staff and your children. Canyon Ridge is a wonderful school and I look forward to working with you and your children.

Sincerely,

Laura Huggins

Principal, Canyon Ridge Elementary

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire PTA, I would like to welcome back our returning families and greet our families who are new to Canyon Ridge. Summer certainly goes by fast! Although it is hard to say good bye to summer, it is nice to begin a new school year.

The role of the PTA has always been to provide our children with a voice. We are here to support the school in making our children's educational experience the best it can be. As a parent, becoming a member of the PTA will not only connect you with a network of information, but will also give you a voice in making decisions for your child, our school and its numerous activities. The PTA provides many avenues for your child to excel. The first program of the year is the Reflections program which offers students the opportunity to compete in the arts (visual, writing and music composition) on a national level.

Within the classrooms, the PTA has supported purchases such as document cameras, books and gym equipment. We also support wonderful cultural arts assemblies known as First Fridays as well as bus transportation and field trip costs throughout the year. We support a spring carnival, family fun nights, grounds beautification and many more enjoyable activities that bring the community together.

We have over 1000 students at Canyon Ridge. Our membership goal is to have more members than students. If you haven't joined our PTA yet this year, please do! The cost is only \$6 per adult and you can even ask grandparents to become members!

Our PTA's goal is to communicate via email and our web page. Not only will this help decrease volunteer hours, save paper, and lower our costs, but it will also keep Canyon Ridge on the leading edge of technology and communication.

Lastly, we cannot do this without your help. We invite you to volunteer when able and make it a special memory for both you and your child. I see many smiling faces when children see their parent(s) attend Canyon Ridge functions. Given the number of programs we support, the need for volunteers is great. As a volunteer you will assist us in creating a close community of families making Canyon Ridge a wonderful place to learn. You will meet parents and form friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our children and their education is one of our top priorities. We look forward to working with you to make their experiences even more meaningful.

Warmly,

Lisa deBonoPaula
PTA President, Canyon Ridge Elementary



First Fridays



To start the year, we held our annual pep rally on September 3. The event was held in the cafetorium due to heavy morning rains, but our spirits weren't dampened. Our guest of honor was the one and only San Antonio Spurs Mascot, the Coyote. The Coyote entertained the students and staff with cheers, tricks, and dance moves. It was wonderful to begin the new school year by showing our fantastic school spirit!

October 1 is the date of our next First Friday event. The talented Fort Worth touring company, *Artes de la Rosa* will perform the bilingual Mexican folktale, "El Conejito Verde/The Green Rabbit." It is the tale of a mischievous prince who learns the true meaning of love and loyalty after being transformed into a rabbit. With the use of colorful masks and original music, this tale is sure to entertain the students.

We have great things planned for the 2010-11 First Friday events. It is a pleasure to research, plan, and bring such talented Texas artists and performers to Canyon Ridge. We are exploring an opera performance, an Asian dance group and an interactive earth exposition. We not only hope to entertain our students, but to enrich their appreciation for the arts and sciences.

Gloria Hamilton & Alissa Hill

First Friday Co-Chairs

Box Tops for Education



It's time to clip and save those *Box Tops*! **Box Tops for Education** is a great way to support Canyon Ridge. Each Box Top coupon is worth 10¢ for Canyon Ridge, so every *Box Top* counts! *Box Tops for Education* is a great way to involve family, friends and neighbors in supporting our school! All you have to do is clip *Box Tops* coupons from family product brands like Cheerios, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Ziploc, Yoplait, Juicy Juice and more! You can find a complete list of participating products, coupons and recipes, at www.boxtops4education.com.

If you filled your summer collection baggies with *Box Tops*, return them by Friday, September 17, for a chance to win the Coyote Box Tops **Summer Super Star** or **Class Champion!** During September and October, EVERY student submitting *Box Tops* 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.****

PTA Website:

Check out our website at
www.canyonridgepta.com

Hello Canyon Ridge Parents,

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. For those of you who are already signed up, 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. Please sign up as soon as possible, there are many events coming soon!

How to sign up:

- Go to ptomanager.com
- Click on the Register tab and follow the steps for registration.

How to update:

- Go to 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 Thank you,

Shell Alvarez

3rd VP Canyon Ridge PTA / Volunteer Coordinator



LIBRARY NEWS

Scholastic Book Fair--Monday, September 27 through Friday, October 1

All Canyon Ridge students and their parents are invited to attend the Scholastic Book Fair held in the Canyon Ridge Library. The Book Fair comes early this fall during the week of Early Dismissal. Students will attend the Book Fair with their class, and parents are invited to join

their children or come to the Book Fair on any of the following days/times:

Monday, Sept 27 - Thursday, Sept. 30th: 8am - 4pm
Friday, October 1: 8am - 2pm

There will be an exciting collection of soft and hard cover books, including child and adult fiction and non-fiction, reference books, cookbooks, and electronic games/CDs. Proceeds from the Scholastic Book Fair fund our library and many of the programs and resources available to students, such as World Books Online, Jr Library Guild, Reading Incentive Programs, and Book Marks.

Library Volunteers: A big **THANK YOU** to all of our great Library Volunteers. Your assistance and enthusiasm help make the library a wonderful environment for our children!

Author Visit: Winner of the 2010 Texas Bluebonnet Award, author Susan Steven Crummel visited our third, fourth, and fifth graders on Friday, September 3. Find out more about this fun loving, creative author by visiting her web site: <http://www.susanstevenscrummel.com/abouttheauthor.htm>

Clothing & Gift Card Drive for Our Sister School

Ridgeview Elementary

Calling all Coyotes! Clean out your drawers and closets because we are collecting gently used or new **khaki and navy pants or shorts** for our sister school **October 25-29, 2010**.

They can also use **Target or Walmart gift cards** to purchase clothes for their students. Any amount is helpful!! A donation box will be located by front office or you can drop items off to a volunteer at the car line every morning during the week of the drive. If you have questions or would like to help contact Valerie Resendez at vresendez@gmail.com or 210-862-8711.

Be the winner of a gold spirit stick for your donations!



Special Parents of Special Kids



We will have our first meeting on **Thursday, September 16th** from 6-7:30pm in the library. This group was created to give support to any parent or family member who has a child with special needs. At the meetings you will learn more about opportunities in our community for special needs children. It is also a great way to meet others and gain insights from those who might be having the same issues as you.

If you have any questions please contact

Trudy Scott (PTA Special Ed) at 957-4205, info@royalteaprincessparties.com or

Sara at 481-7214, sara.barnaik@gmail.com.



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). 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 or Kim Swider at kbswider@sbcglobal.net.

Hoot -N- Howl Breakfast



Canyon ridge PTA sponsored the sixth annual hoot-n-howl breakfast on the first morning of school. All the Kinder parents were invited to attend. In the past, it has also been known as the Boo Hoo breakfast. We are happy to report that this year, there were not a whole lot of tears!

We had about 75 parents attend--mostly new faces excited to start the new school year. It was a great way for parents to get to know each other and have their questions answered. We enjoyed delicious Gueros tacos, Starbucks coffee, and Krispy Creme doughnuts. Lisa deBonoPaula spoke about the role of the PTA as well as programs available to the parents and their children. Next year, if you or one of your friends will be Kinder parents, please plan on attending --It's a Canyon Ridge tradition!

Red Ribbon Week

October 25-29, 2010

Coyotes... It's time to celebrate making the right, healthy choices!
We will have a fun-filled week with special guests & daily activities in which to participate!

Look for the Red Ribbon Week Flyer in October!

(If you have any questions, please contact Diana Lopez at 210-621-3965 or diana_lopez25@att.net)

We need volunteers for the lunchroom from 10:30-12:30. It is a small commitment with flexible hours and great benefits. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Allison Brown at allibrown@sbcglobal.net.



HELP WANTED

IN THE MARKET

for something to do? Local PTA has great opportunities! contact Shell at 412-4771 for more information.

PTA IN SEARCH OF superhero willing to assist the front office with answering phones, laminating and greeting visitors. Good manners essential. Contact Anisa at 625-1362.

YOU MAY QUALIFY

to be a copy room volunteer. Willing to pay for services with compliments. Contact Masoomah at 832-528-7399.

LUNCHROOM I.S.O. adults to help open milk bottles, and hand out ketchup packets and forgotten straws. Guard-duty experience a plus, but will train all candidates. Contact Allison at 496-6524.

H-E-B BOX TOP BONUS!!

Get 70 Bonus Box Tops instantly at the checkout when you buy ANY 10 participating General Mills Box Tops Products at H-E-B. That's a \$7 value for our school! Purchases must be made in one shopping visit between 9/1/2010 and 9/30/2010. Box Tops Certificate will print at the register.



FAQ about Spirit at Canyon Ridge

? Why wear a spirit shirt on Fridays?

Answer: Every Friday your child's teacher counts the number of students wearing a Canyon Ridge T-shirt. The class with the highest number in each grade level wins!

? Do lanyards count in the total?

Answer: No. However, the teacher does count the number of Canyon Ridge lanyards being worn and that number is used as the tie-breaker in the event of a tie. Our Canyon Ridge lanyards are really cool though – they even have a special ring to hold the spirit sticks student's earn throughout the year!

? How can I purchase a spirit shirt?

Answer: A limited number of shirts are still available for sale. You may order online at our PTA's website store (www.canyonridgepta.com) using PayPal, or by filling out an order form and sending it to school with a check or cash. (Order forms are available at the front office) Shirts will be delivered to your child's teacher.

? When is the school store open?

Answer: On the first Friday of each month the school store is open from 7am – 7:30am in the hallway outside the music rooms. We sell spirit patches (\$1.50 each), lanyards (\$5 each), paw necklaces (\$1 each) and Canyon Ridge tattoos (\$.25 each). Students love shopping at our spirit store!

Mark Your Calendar. . .

- Sept. 16:** Meeting for Special Parents of Special Kids
- Sept. 27 - Oct 1:** Book Fair
- Oct. 1:** First Friday Assembly
- Oct. 25 - 29:** Red Ribbon Week
Clothing/Gift Card Drive for our sister school

