

PTSA March Meeting Mins.

1. Call to order at 9:40
2. Golden Acorn Awards presented by Ewelina Hickey:
 - a. PTSA will be purchasing books for the Cougar Ridge library that will be donated in their honor. The books will have a PTSA label with their names.
 - b. The recipients will be added to the Golden Acorn and Outstanding Advocate award plaques that are displayed in our school lobby.
 - c. Recipients are also invited to attend the Issaquah PTSA District Awards reception later this year, where they will be recognized for their service to Cougar Ridge.
 - d. Recipients Golden Acorn:
 - i. Kamala Plaisted
 1. Excerpts from Karissa's speech: Kamala didn't come to CR when JB entered kindergarten!! I bet a lot of people would be surprised to hear that. However, she wasted NO time jumping right in as soon as JB switched to our school in 1st grade and has pretty much seemed like a permanent fixture ever since! I remember hanging with her at the bus stop that first year and she was always will to step up or in for jobs big or small. I can't think of an area that Kamala hasn't volunteered or been involved in. She genuinely cares for our teachers, staff, students. She is part of the ISF VOICE mentor program and they are lucky to have her. Kamala is not afraid of work. She does not put things off until tomorrow, she does not except "good enough". She brings people into the PTSA with her lighthearted spirit and her ability to make things fun.
 - ii. Meredith Pokorny
 1. Excerpts from Catharine's speech: Meredith is the best definition of unassuming yet impactful leadership. You will never see Meredith in any type of limelight – she loves making you think that she is in the background, but boy her contributions are anything but that. She is laser focused on one thing – doing the right thing for Cougar Ridge and our staff and students. Period. And trust me, she went above and beyond in calendar year 2017 in making that happen via her work both with the PTSA but also in the school in general. For one, this school year Meredith serves as a Room Parent for her oldest son's class, Art Docent for her middle child's class, is a Library Volunteer, and finally is an on-going volunteer in her daughter's Kindergarten class. Last school year she was also an Art Docent, Library Volunteer and overall rock star class volunteer across the board. However, if that isn't enough, Meredith agreed to step in and be the Treasurer of the PTSA in mid-2017, and she has gone above and beyond in that role from the day she stepped into it. Meredith has led the effort to get all of the PTSA's financials and documentation online, get us on track both procedurally and legally with PTSA rules around financial tracking and money handling, created a process to make sure we got requested checks or reimbursement requests out within a business week of receiving a request, has gone

back and organized treasurer files from prior years – this is all on top of the day-to-day job of PTSA treasurer, which is a huge job. She is best friends with every person who works at Union Bank, because she has been in here so much getting our accounts updated and cleaned up. I also love that Meredith learned how to do new things outside of her comfort zone and you would never have known it. For example, without an accounting background, she did our taxes instead of having an outside CPA do it, which saved the PTSA a chunk of money (although she would tell you she would never do that again – but we appreciated it Meredith!) She also became uber knowledgeable on PTSA and non-profit laws that benefits our upcoming Auction as well as the PTSA in general (her legal background maybe helped peak her interest there as well). Finally, as a PTSA we have needed to look at our spending patterns and start the process of evaluating what is best for our staff and students as it relates to our PTSA budget. Meredith asks the right questions that get all of us thinking about not what we have done in the past, but more what is right for now and in the future. On top of all of this, Meredith finds time to truly prioritize what is important in her life on a bigger picture scale. I look up to Meredith as a mom, wife and friend. She helps coach softball, is active in her faith, and knows what matters most in life to her, which is her family. She is one of the most capable people that I know.

iii. Marcie Lewis

1. Excerpts from Jill and Catharine's Speech: This is just a short list of things that Marcie worked on just last year: finishing up co-chairing Caring for Sharing, Room Parent of her 2nd graders class, VP of Outreach for PTSA, Staff Appreciation Co-Chair, major volunteer and helper for our end-of-year Carnival, Executive VP of the PTSA, Room Parent again for her 3rd grade classroom, Committee chair for Teacher Experiences for our upcoming Auction, agreeing to be Chair of the Nominating Committee for the PTSA, and finally, taking on the fairly big task of putting together our PTSA's Standard of Excellence packet. I know, without a doubt, I'm missing something – but you get the gist here. I'm tired just thinking about it. Again, that was just in 2017. If I had to list out everything Marcie has done in all of her years at Cougar Ridge, we would be here all day. Marcie did this on top of her work outside of the classroom – which was helping with Girl Scouts, being active at her Temple and with her faith-based volunteering, and planning her daughter's Bat Mitzvah – all on her own. Here are a few words that her good friend and PTSA partner in crime, Jill McClellan, had to say about Marcie: "I had the good fortune to meet Marcie in my son's kindergarten class. Since then we have shared a few classrooms together, were Room Parents together and have had a few Cougar Ridge event adventures together. Through this journey, I have learned

that she is a woman of her word. She does what she has committed to do. She's always the first one to lend a hand in any area of a project whether it's hers or another's. She led the way on Staff Appreciation last year and I couldn't think of anyone being a better leader for us than her. She knocked it out of the park! She gives back to the community and more importantly is teaching her children to give back. She is steadfast in her kindness, loyalty, caring and giving. She wants the best for those around her and is willing to give unconditionally of person to enrich the lives of the people around her. I am not so sure she knows how much she brightens every door she walks through...but I am here to share with you, that she does and I am very, very lucky to call her my friend! She makes me want to be a better person." On a personal note, I don't think I've attended a PTSA meeting in my 6 years at Cougar Ridge where Marcie was not there. Marcie is reliable, dependable, always willing to lend a helping hand, extremely organized, never afraid to tell it like it is and add some sanity to any conversation, and most importantly, gives her time selflessly to the school, staff and students. It is my honor to present this award to Marcie Lewis.

e. Recipients Outstanding Advocate Award:

i. Karissa Mobilia

1. Excerpts from Kamala's speech: Our first recipient has been a room parent in all three of her kids classes each year, Art Docent helper in her kid's classes as well as both LRC classes, library helper and honestly one of everyone's "go-to" for help as we all know she will most likely say "I'm here" She can make standing outside on the corner of Lakemont Blvd. in 30 degree weather for over an hour, not feeling your fingers and toes, honking and waving to get the word out for our School Levy seem like a party. Not only does she work tirelessly for our school she also is heavily involved at IMS, Backstage Dance and in her boys sports programs. She is a former CR PTSA President. I feel like I'm at school a lot, but just about every time I'm here her car is here. She genuinely cares about our school and every child and staff member in it. We are lucky to have her as part of our PTSA and school community and we are extremely grateful for the many hours she gives year after year. Karissa Mobilia, we are beyond blessed to have you.

ii. Catharine Holtan

1. Excerpts from Kamala's speech: Our final recipient is someone that I admired from the first few emails I ever read from her. I have said more than once "when I grow up I want to be her". This person's first year at CR, while her eldest was a kindergartner and she had two younger children at home, she decided to jump in and CHAIR the school auction. We all know what a huge job that is and she was incredible at it. The fact that she had energy to do more for the school after just shows what a heart she has for the kids at CR. She has been our PTSA webmaster

and Bobcat Blast coordinator-which means trying to keep us on task week after week for years-testing the limits of her self-proclaimed OCD. She also is a library helper, room parent every year, a Girl Scout leader as well as a volunteer for the ISF and a VOICE mentor. To my personal delight she agreed to be a PTSA co-president for a year. She continues to use her many talents to help guide us forward. She is a highly results orientated individual whose purpose and passion show up day after day. Catharine Holtan thank you for all that you have done for us and all you continue to do. You are appreciated more than you could possibly know.

3. February Meeting Mins Approved
4. President's Report
 - a. Received thank you note from Issaquah School District for Summer School Scholarship donation
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Ton of people are buying yearbooks
 - b. Expenses: check our treasures report for full information
 - i. Science Fair
 - ii. Auction
 - iii. Art Docent
6. All-School Grants:
 - a. Purchase flags to represent student population
 - i. \$849.58 to purchase 193 flags
 - ii. Principal Terry's dry cleaners has volunteered to press all the flags for us
 - iii. Will be hung in public spaces, library, gym, lunch room, etc.
 - iv. Move to vote-Karissa
 - v. Second-Nina
 - vi. All in favor-motion passed
 - b. Purchase \$1,000 for Readers Tubs
 - i. CR is funding \$2,100
 - ii. 2 tubs for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade
 - iii. Move to vote-Shannon
 - iv. Second-Marcie
 - v. All in favor-motion passed
 - c. Requesting \$370 for popcorn machine and supplies
 - i. Move to vote- Amy F
 - ii. Second-Karissa
 - iii. All in favor-motion passed
7. Principal's Report
 - a. Levy's passed
 - b. Staffing needs for next year
 - i. 3rd secretary
 - ii. Full time counselor
 - iii. 5th grade teacher

- iv. 4th grade teacher
 - v. 1st grade teacher
 - vi. 3rd grade teacher
 - c. No kindergartener's from the Newcastle Commons have registered for next year (yet)
 - d. Moved into new office spaces
 - e. Side entrance/exit now locked
 - f. PTSA should continue to use the same copy machine
 - g. Portable assignments: will decide which teachers in May
 - i. Two 3rd grade classes
 - ii. Two 4th grade classes
 - iii. Two 5th grade classes
 - h. Next Wednesday the 21st is the incoming kindergarten screenings. 80+ incoming students
- 8. Committee Reports
 - a. Outreach
 - i. Carnival Update
 - 1. Looking to have it held at Lewis Creek with Kona Ice's available for purchase. Going to be held on the last day of school with easy luau games
 - b. Communications
 - i. Yearbook: Email went out and information in the Bobcat Blast. If there are questions, sent them to Stephanie or Catharine
 - ii. Question asked regarding the possibility of a IMS/IHS walkout. The answer from principal Terry "nothing". NO organized walk out/discussion planned.
 - c. Programs
 - i. Science Fair Recap
 - 1. 120+ entries
 - 2. Kids loved the hands on experiences more than the Pacific Science Center show.
 - 3. Kristen is willing to do next year
 - 4. Suggestion made to have Pacific Science Center do their hands on presentation next time
 - 5. FYI, vendors asked for snacks
 - 6. \$1,000 budget seems ok
 - 7. Ms. Goldfinch wants to talk to Mary about upcoming STEM program
 - d. Fundraising/Membership
 - i. Auction Update
 - 1. Corp sponsorship - \$21,200 raised so far.
 - 2. Are selling after party tickets-
 - a. will include: DJ, dance floor, food truck
 - 3. 284 tix sold want to be at 300
 - 4. Want another room parent email to go out
 - 5. Tickets stop being sold on the 6th of April
 - 6. Wendy is sending an email out on April 2nd.

7. AV costs @ 10,000 working on bringing that number down.
 8. Procurement is done -WAY TO GO!
 9. Found someone to do the catalog.
- e. Service and Recognition
 - i. Staff Appreciation Week
 1. Meeting this week
9. Adjourn @ 11:08