

The Snow Leopard's Spot

Cascade Elementary's Monthly Newsletter - December 2023

From the Desk of Mrs. Winders



I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends! We are all very proud of our students and the progress they have been making so far this school year!

We are looking forward to the next few weeks of school before winter break is upon us. Our students will be out of school December 22nd through January 1st. Students return to school Tuesday, January 2nd.

Please join our Cascade family at the Fort Ritchie Tree Lighting Ceremony this **Saturday, December 2nd at 5:30 pm**. Our students will be singing Christmas Carols before the tree lighting, and we can't think of a better way to kick-off this holiday season. Don't forget that our students will also be performing in their Winter Concert on December 6th as well, more details are below.

The winter weather is settling in on our mountain, please make sure students have coats, hats, and gloves at school daily. We will be having outdoor recess if the wind chill is 32 degrees or above.

In the event of inclement weather, district officials will make a decision regarding dismissals, delays or closings. Be sure you have downloaded the WCPS App and selected Cascade Elementary as your location for notifications. Please see the Cascade Mountain Zone information below and don't forget that WCPS may decide to close our area based on conditions in our location. Please do not call the school for inclement weather information, as we may not be staffed during a delay or closing. In the event of an early dismissal for inclement weather, students will follow their regular dismissal home. Dismissal changes over the phone will not be accepted. Thank you for your understanding!

If you haven't already, I encourage you to please join our Cascade PTO. Students are being treated to a wonderful holiday party on **Saturday, December 9th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**. This extraordinary event, held in conjunction with the Cascade American Legion, could not have been

possible without our PTO and their volunteers. Please give them the support they need to continue to do great things for our school.

I'd like to wish you peace and joy this holiday season and may your holidays be merry and bright! As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Winders

December Dates to Remember



Dec. 6th: Winter Concert!

Students in grades 1 and 5 will perform at 6:00 pm. Please join us!



Dec. 9th: PTO Holiday Party!

Join the PTO and Cascade American Legion during this festive event at 11:00 am!



Dec. 22nd-Jan 1st: NO SCHOOL!

Enjoy your winter break! We will see students when we return on January 2nd!

December Lunch Menu



DECEMBER 2023 LUNCH MENU

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
HAPPY HOLIDAYS				1 LASAGNA ROLL NACHO GRANDE SNACK PACK
4 ROTINI W/ MEAT SAUCE CHICKEN NUGGETS PIZZA MUNCHABLE	5 SOFT BEEF TACOS CHICKEN NUGGETS PIZZA MUNCHABLE	6 CHEESE PIZZA CHICKEN NUGGETS PIZZA MUNCHABLE	7 OVEN FRIED CHICKEN CHICKEN NUGGETS PIZZA MUNCHABLE	8 CHEESE CALZONE CHICKEN NUGGETS PIZZA MUNCHABLE
11 CHEESE BURGER NACHO GRANDE SNACK PACK	12 TURKEY SUB NACHO GRANDE SNACK PACK	13 CHEESE PIZZA NACHO GRANDE SNACK PACK	14 PANCAKES & SAUSAGE NACHO GRANDE SNACK PACK	15 MOZZARELLA CHEESE STICKS NACHO GRANDE SNACK PACK
18 GENERAL TSO CHICKEN CHICKEN PATTY PIZZA MUNCHABLE	19 WALKING TACO CHICKEN PATTY PIZZA MUNCHABLE	20 CHEESE PIZZA CHICKEN PATTY PIZZA MUNCHABLE	21 MASHED POTATO BOWL CHICKEN PATTY PIZZA MUNCHABLE	22 NO SCHOOL
25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL

MEALS INCLUDE ENTRÉE, 2 FRUIT, 2 VEG & MILK.
THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.



Collect and Scan Box Tops!

Don't forget that Box Tops is a fast and easy way for you to support Cascade Elementary School!

Here's how you can help us reach our goal:

- Buy Box Tops products, scan your receipt with the Box Tops app within 14 days of purchase and earn for Cascade Elementary School with every Box Tops product you buy.
- Refer your friends, family and other parents in the school to download the app. You'll even get Bonus Box Tops for our school with each referral that successfully scans their first receipt!
- Turn on notifications in your Box Tops app to get scan reminders and stay updated on special offers, new products and opportunities to earn for our school. Go to your Communications Settings by tapping on the person icon in the upper-right corner of the app.



Let's give our teachers the support they need and give more kids the opportunity to dream. Little by little, we can help make a big difference!



From the Cascade PTO



Welcome! We are so excited to have the ability to serve our wonderful school, staff, and families! Our meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of every month via Google Meet or in person at our school. We are always searching for new members and volunteers to help us out with all of our events, so if you haven't already, PLEASE JOIN US! The membership fee is \$5.00, and with that membership you are provided voting rights for all topics discussed at our meetings.

Our next meeting is being held **Wednesday, January 17th** in person or via Google Meet at 5:00 pm: <https://meet.google.com/qkm-khna-asj>. Please note that December's meeting has been cancelled.

Our PTO has been busy this month! So far we have had a fundraiser at Vince's Pizza, and the Country Meats Beef Sticks sales as well as the spirit wear sales have been a hit! We are also selling custom **Cascade Holiday Ornaments until Dec 4th!** Please click on the link to order: <https://www.apvinyldesigns.com/collections/cascade-elementary-spirit-wear>

Our next PTO fundraiser is HOLIDAY HELLOS! Students, staff, and parents are welcome to purchase a Holiday Hello to send to a student or staff member for \$1.00/each! Sales begin in the cafeteria during lunch on **Dec 4th-Dec 8th**, and will be on sale for parents at the Winter Concert on **December 6th**, and the Holiday Party on **December 9th**. Send as many as you want to spread the holiday cheer!

Our next PTO Event is the Holiday Party sponsored by the Cascade American Legion, which is being held on **Saturday, December 9th at 11:00 am**. We are hoping to have parents willing to volunteer to support this wonderful event. Please [click](#) to sign-up to bring treats to this wonderful event!

You may contact us anytime at cascadepto1@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Click here to sign up for treats for the Holiday Party Dec. 9th!

Send a holiday hello for \$1!

Brighten your
child's day!

Send a note to a
friend or teacher!

**For purchase:
during lunch 12/4 - 12/8
at the Holiday Concert 12/6
at the Holiday Party 12/9**



*presented by &
fundraiser for:*

Cascade Elementary
PTO
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION



[Click here to join the Cascade PTO!](#)

You may contact the new PTO at: cascadepto1@gmail.com



Staff Member of the Month

CASCADE ELEMENTARY'S STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER



Allison Grove

Art Teacher

Congratulations to Mrs Grove for being our Staff Member of the Month for November! Mrs. Grove is always supporting students and staff! She goes out of her way for students, and is always stepping up to help out in any way she can. We are so lucky to have her here at Cascade! Congratulations Mrs. Grove! #cascadestaffrocks





Mrs. Breakall's Counselor Corner

New Attendance Incentives

This year, we have started a new attendance initiative! For each day your student comes to school, they will receive 1 punch on their card. When all 10 punches are filled, the card gets entered for a chance to win 4 snow tubing tickets for your family! Your child also receives \$10 to spend at our school store! We want to give a huge thanks to our PTO for supplying our attendance prizes this year!

PBIS = Cascade P.R.I.D.E

Our November PBIS activity was creating a Thanksgiving Tree! Students and staff wrote what they were thankful for on leaves and the tree is proudly displayed near our cafeteria.

Our school pledge is: Cascade Takes P.R.I.D.E.: We are... Prepared and positive every day! Respectful to myself and others! Important and valued! Determined and display self-control! Excellent and empathetic! Look for these pledges posted throughout our school, and for student incentives to be based on their positive behavior!

Cascade School Store

Our school store is ready for students to use their Leopard Loot to redeem prizes such as: school supplies, water bottles, bracelets, stuffed animals and more! Staff and students will nominate 1-2 students from each class to be chosen as our Student(s) of the Month. These students will get a special lunch with staff in addition to a certificate, necklace, pencil and prize! We will post these



December Spirit Week

We are so excited to have a holiday spirit week the last week of school before break. Please see the theme below.

Cascade Food Pantry

The Cascade Food Pantry is open every other Wednesday all school year. For the month of December there is only one date the pantry will be open: December 13th from 3:00 - 5:00 pm!

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Breakall

Cascade Holiday Spirit Week

December 18th-21st



Cascade School Hours and Dismissal Procedures

School doors open at 7:35 a.m. The tardy bell rings at 7:55 a.m., tardy students must be signed in by a parent/guardian. Student dismissal is at 2:25 p.m.

Upon arrival either by bus or private transportation, all students will enter through the cafeteria doors when they open at 7:35 am. Students arriving by car before 7:35 am, must park in the parking lot as the bus loop will be unavailable to cars until 7:45 am.

After the tardy bell rings at 7:55 am, all students and visitors must enter the building through the main entrance. Students arriving late must be signed in by a parent/guardian.

Student dismissal is at 2:25 pm. Please do not pull into the bus loop until all four buses have pulled through first. Students will be brought out to cars and released to parents after the buses leave.

The school office hours are Monday-Friday, 7:00 am - 3:00 pm.

WCPS Early Dismissal Procedures

WCPS has recently amended the policy that will **only** allow a release of student during their instructional day with a parent note. The parent or guardian must provide written notice to the school if a student is to be released during the school day. No blanket notes will be accepted. The note must identify the **name of the person** who will be picking the student up. The person picking up the child **MUST** have their **photo ID** when coming to the school. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school to make arrangements. As always, you may email Mrs. Kandi with your early dismissal note as well at woostkan@wcps.k12.md.us . Thank you for helping us keep your child safe!

Cascade Mountain Weather Zone



Washington County Public Schools has a policy which allows the Cascade Elementary School attendance area to either be delayed, closed, or to dismiss early, in the event of inclement weather. This zone was determined by the conditions in the higher elevations surrounding Cascade Elementary School affecting elementary, middle and high school students. With the increased attendance area, it is important to clarify who is affected by a decision to implement a schedule change due to inclement weather in the

area identified as the Cascade Mountain Weather Zone (CMWZ).

Please be sure to download the WCPS mobile app is available at the iTunes Store or Google Play by searching for "Washington County PS." The app is a free download and can be customized so that parents can see information from the schools their children attend.

Cascade Mountain Weather Zone

Covid Guidelines for Parents



Covid Guidelines for Parents

As we head into cold and flu season, WCPS has updated their Covid protocols so we are in accordance with guidance provided by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health. At this time schools will not be testing for, or contact tracing for Covid-19. Parents who suspect that their child or family members are positive are encouraged to contact their primary care physician and follow their guidance for return to school dates. You may read more [here](#).

WCPS Calendar for 2023-2024

Cascade Elementary School Website



Contact Cascade Elementary

Email: woostkan@wcps.k12.md.us

Website: <https://cascadeelementary.weebly.com/>

Location: [14519 Pennersville Road, Highfield-Cascade, MD, USA](#)

Phone: [301-766-8066](tel:301-766-8066)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cascadeschool>



Kandi Wooster

Kandi is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters