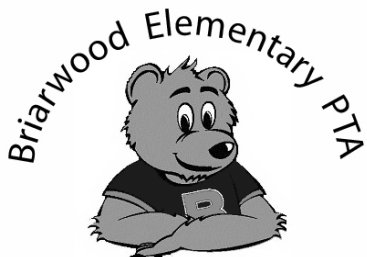


Briarwood Bear Facts



Making a difference...one member at a time!

Issaquah School District
Briarwood.Issaquah.Wednet.edu
BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org

PTA BOARD

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The *Briarwood Bear Facts* newsletter is published monthly September-June. An e-version is available at www.BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org.

Newsletter Editors
Sarah Dutton
Karen Nelson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Beth Donahoe

Welcome back from break! I hope it was restful and rejuvenating and not too wet. If this week's showers were any indication, May better bring LOTS and LOTS of flowers. And while I can't make any promises about that, I can promise that you will be hearing a lot more about ES! Issaquah, the district's new science initiative to get state of the art science curriculum in all elementary schools next fall.

Due to unforeseen and unprecedented cuts by the state, the district cannot proceed as planned and they are coming to us for help. Briarwood has already started the ball rolling with the iPad raffle (see the Science Fair article for more info), but there is more work to be done. Watch this space and others in the near future for what you can do to help this important endeavor!

GOLDEN ACCORN AWARDS

Briarwood PTA is very proud to announce the winners of this year's Golden Acorn, Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Advocate awards. On behalf of the Briarwood PTA, we would like to congratulate these three well deserved people. Your dedication and commitment is admirable!

Brian Alfertig – Outstanding Educator

- “Mr. Alfertig is extremely fair to all students so that no child feels left out or behind.”
- “Mr. Alfertig is very good with 4th graders and I have learned more than ever this year. He lets us have fun and learn at the same time.”
- “Mr. Alfertig's commitment to his craft is second to none. I see and feel his influence in my child everyday.”

Leslie Kahler – Golden Accorn (volunteer)

- “Leslie works tirelessly on behalf of our students and teachers volunteering, managing our website, and nearly single-handedly chairing our Missoula Children's Theatre program every year.”
- “Organized, easy going, sweet and helpful.”

Barbara Potts – Outstanding Advocate

- “Mrs. Potts is someone who always has the answer and always has a smile on her face.”
- “She is always kind to the kids and even helps tutor some in our ASAP program.”
- “Mrs. Potts' commitment to the students and staff at Briarwood are like none other I've known.”

COOKIE DOUGH PICK UP – THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Cookie Dough orders will be available for pickup between 3:00-6:00 pm on Thursday, April 21. As this is a frozen and perishable product, if you cannot pick up at this time, please make arrangements to have someone else pick up your order. We do not have the ability to store products overnight. Orders not picked up that day will be donated to a local food bank.

Students who only ordered 1 or 2 containers will be given their orders to take home on the bus. AM Kindergarten families will need to come back to school to pick up their orders as the truck will arrive after dismissal for the day. Please contact Diane Burke at (425)793-5896 or dianeburke8@q.com with any questions.



April 18

PTA general membership meeting & officer elections, 6:30p
Briarwood library

April 21

cookie dough pickup
Variety Show auditions

April 28

Issaquah Schools Foundation *Nourish Every Mind* luncheon

May 3

Parent Education workshop, 6:00p
Briarwood Library

May 16

PTA general membership meeting, 6:30p,
Briarwood library



Check Out Our Website!

BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org

- E-version of our newsletter
- Information on upcoming PTA events
- Legislative news
- Parent Education seminars
- Info on upcoming fundraisers
- News & information from the 4 Creeks Sheriff's Station

BRIARWOOD VARIETY SHOW – FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Calling all poets, singers, dancers, instrumentalists and performers! Save the date and bring your talents to the Briarwood Variety Show! Auditions will be held on Thursday, April 21 from 3-5 pm at Briarwood. Acts are expected to be two minutes or less, practiced and ready to perform at the audition. Students should provide any accompanying music on CD during their audition. We are also looking for MCs and Backstage Crew help. 4th and 5th grade students will be considered for crew positions. 5th grade students will be considered for the MC positions.

This is a volunteer intensive event and we would like every performer's family to help in some way. We have positions to fit everyone's time and talent! Permission slips were sent home before Spring Break. They must be signed and returned by Friday, April 15. Please contact Polly Niblock (jpnibs@msn.com) or Teresa Fitzpatrick (teresafitz@gmail.com) with questions.

IT'S ELECTION TIME - 2011-2012 PTA OFFICERS

It's Officer Time! Elections for 2011-12 PTA officers will be April 18. Open positions include: President, Vice President of Fundraising, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Volunteers and Vice President of Programs, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers meet once a month to discuss activities, grants and other items that affect our students.

This is a great way to get involved in school, get to know other parents and staff, and learn about key issues. An election with the final names will take place at the April 18 general PTA meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor that night. If you are interested, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Leslie Kahler (lesliekahler@comcast.net).

SCIENCE FAIR 2011 HUGE SUCCESS

Thanks to the efforts of A LOT of volunteers, and LOTS AND LOTS of mad-for-science kids, this year's Science Fair was bigger and better than ever. The number of participants was nearly triple that of last year and the projects were creative and very educational. While everyone was a winner at Briarwood's Science Fair, the ribbon takers included:

- 3rd grade: Randy H, Loagen S, and Marco M
- 4th grade: partners Cameron N & Reegan W, Colton W and Alya P
- 5th grade: Katy B, Ally D, and Max T.

And not just science was rewarded on the big night. Our iPad raffle brought in a whopping \$1,983.00 for Science curriculum, and our winner, Steve Tucker, went home a very happy dad! Thank you to everyone who helped make the night such a big success!

- Chairs Beth Donahoe & Michelle Whiteley
- Set up, check-in and break down volunteers Jill Johnson, Regan Wong, Audie Serna, Reanu Ranna, Karen Nelson, Laila Collins, Greg Kahler, and Jim Donahoe; and
- Judges Steve Tucker, Michelle Tachiyama, Michelle Whiteley, and
- District Science Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) Debbie Nye.
- And of course all the teachers, parents and KIDS who worked so hard to make it all happen.

PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP

There will be a free Parent Education Workshop hosted by Briarwood Elementary, Tuesday, May 3, 2011 from 6-8 pm in the library. Sabrina Sessa, cofounder of P.E.A.C.E of Mind, will be talking about keeping children safe from predators. She will outline ways to keep communication open with children, ways to help children establish boundaries for others, and how to empower kids to recognize and handle situations that trigger an "uh-oh" feeling.

This workshop is designed for parents, grandparents, caregivers, childcare professionals, teachers and any adults responsible for the well-being of children. Please visit the PTA bulletin board located in the office for information regarding this upcoming workshop. Also, click on Parent Education Seminars on the PTA website.

2012 BOND COMMITTEE

A community Bond Feasibility and Development Committee is meeting throughout April to determine essential facility needs and shape a potential bond measure to go before voters in February 2012. The committee is considering proposed content, total cost, and tax impact of a potential bond. If you have questions or comments about this proposed bond, please contact Briarwood's representative Paul Dutton (pwd3pe@gmail.com or 425.306.9294). For more information about the proposed bond measure: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond/default.aspx>.

WASHINGTON STATE PTA RECEIVES GRANT

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded a grant to Washington State PTA in the amount of \$191,424. Among other things, funds from the grant will be used to:

- enhance communications with and among our members;
- strengthen efforts to engage all parents, especially those from communities who have historically been underrepresented
- undertake a public information campaign about the importance of every student graduating ready for college or a career.

WSPTA is very appreciative of the generosity of the Foundation in supporting our efforts to achieve our vision that every child's potential becomes a reality. More information about specific initiatives being funded through the grant will be forthcoming in future issues of the Leadership News.

**NOURISH EVERY MIND UPDATE**

96 moms, dads, community and business leaders have committed to being Table Captains for the Foundation's 13th Annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon on Thursday, April 28. Check with our PTSA/ISF rep Andrea Baines (baines11@comcast.net) to find out who from Briarwood is attending. Then make plans to join the party!

Please join us in thanking our Nourish Every Mind sponsors. Their generous funding makes it possible for the Foundation to apply every guest donation to student-centered programming. Bravo especially to Swedish Medical Center and Microsoft who are again serving as joint Golden Apple Luncheon sponsors. For a complete list of Nourish Every Mind sponsors please visit <http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org/events/event-Luncheon.htm>