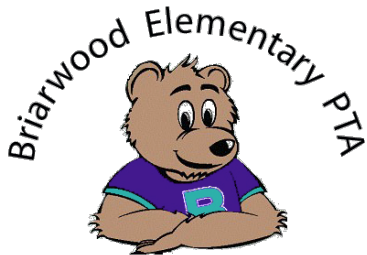


Briarwood Bear Facts



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

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

PTA BOARD

President

Laila Collins

Secretary

Teresa Fitzpatrick

Treasurer

Roneida Griffith

VP Communications

Karen Nelson

VP Programs

Tonya Kezele
Darla Vaughan

VP Volunteers

Katie Breuel
Reanu Ranna

VP Fundraising

Diane Burke

Other Board Members

Jenna Thoresen
Adriana Serna
Leslie Kahler
Renee Emerson

The *Briarwood Bear Facts*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – LAILA COLLINS

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break and had the opportunity to spend time with your families. If your household is anything like mine, the craziness of December has already set in. Between kids' holiday concerts, shopping, and parties - I'm ready for Winter Break already!

As we move into this season, I am reminded how generous and giving our Briarwood community is. Our Holiday Food Drive and Giving Tree are underway and many of our gift tags are already gone. Please remember to stop by the office and pick up a tag - or drop off a food donation. I took some time this past weekend to shop with my girls for the gifts we selected from the tree. They wanted to use their own money to buy the gifts and were so proud to deliver them to school. What a wonderful tradition to be able to share with them.

We are holding our Scholastic Book Fair December 6-9 in the library. This is a wonderful opportunity to shop for holiday gifts and also benefit our school. All proceeds from the Book Fair are donated to the library to help Mrs. Soel purchase new books and materials for our students.

Under the direction of our Art Docent Vicki Hoffman we have started the art classes the students earned meeting the Jog A Thon goal. All projects are clay-related and specially chosen for each grade level. We began with the 4th and 5th grade classrooms and will move on to the younger grades after the holidays. The kids are really enjoying the opportunity to work with clay and make a project they can take home.

I would also like to brag about the new "VIP" volunteer recognition program we kicked off at our November PTA meeting. Thanks to Katie Breuel and Reanu Ranna, our Co-VPs of Volunteers, who came up with the idea. We recognized 11 volunteers at the meeting and chose 5 names to receive a prize of their choice. We love all of our volunteers and it's so exciting to be able to recognize them!

On behalf of our PTA Board, I would like to wish our Briarwood families a joyous and blessed holiday season. We have a lot to look forward to in 2012!

GIVING TREE 2011

It's that time of year again!! Briarwood, in conjunction with the Issaquah Food Bank, has "adopted" 6 families for the Holiday Season. We will have the Giving Tree in the office until December 9. If you would like provide these families with a gift simply select a star tag from the tree. Log the number along with your information in the Log-Out notebook in the office. Return the gift back to school UNWRAPPED with the TAG SECURLEY ATTACHED. If you are unable to come to school - you may also send a signed note that gives your child permission to select a tag. We will also need wrapping paper and scotch tape.

The annual Food Drive is also on now. Donations of non-perishable items can be sent to school. There are collections boxes in each of the classrooms.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Book Fair is coming to Briarwood! There will be an amazing selection of books for all ages and interests. Cash, check and credit cards accepted. All proceeds from the sale will be used to buy great new titles for the Briarwood library.

Tuesday 12/6, Thursday 12/8, Friday 12/9 ... 11a-12:15p, after school until 4p

Wednesday 12/7 ... 11a-12:15p, after school until 2p

Can't make it to the book fair? Check out an additional selection of great books at

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/briarwood>.



- **December 6-9**
Scholastic Book Fair
Briarwood library
- **December 9**
Giving Tree gifts due
- **January 23**
PTA General meeting,
6:30p Briarwood library
- **January 26**
Briarwood Book Swap

Check Out Our Website!

BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org



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

APRIL 2012 BOND BY THE NUMBERS

The latest Issaquah School District maintenance and construction bond is up for a vote next spring. Here are some numbers to consider – provided by Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS):

- About 40%—Given the history of elections in the Issaquah School District, this is the percent of registered voters that are likely to vote in this special election on April 17, 2012. Broken down, that number includes only 5,374 parents.
- 60%+1—the percentage of YES votes needed to pass this bond. Per state law, this is a supermajority.
- About 13, 434—the actual number of YES votes needed to actually pass the bond, based on past voter turnout. This is out of a total of 55,000 registered voters.
- About \$100,000—how much it costs the school district to run an issue on the ballot. The school district must pay King County for this special election, and if the bond does not pass on April 17, 2012 the ISD must spend another \$100,000 to have the issue put on another ballot. These dollars come from the same fund that supports classroom operations.

For more information about the bond package visit www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond.
To register to vote go to: www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration



ALL IN FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN WRAP-UP

Thank you PTSA parents! You gave the Issaquah Schools Foundation and our students the best possible holiday gift—a successful All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign. You clicked, mailed and answered our calls to the tune of \$325,000. Because of your generosity, our students will continue to benefit from investments that elevate the BASIC education funded by the state to the COMPREHENSIVE, 21st century education they deserve and the global marketplace demands. You have secured support for programs that reach students of all ages and abilities including, VOICE Mentoring, Academic Enrichment Grants, Free After-School Homework Labs, PSAT Testing, National Board Certification scholarships, Financial Literacy and so much more. All in for Kids donations will also help fund the District's upcoming Elementary Literacy Curriculum adoption—a \$1 million plus purchase that can only be completed with community assistance.

The All in for Kids Annual Fund was directed by two remarkable parents—Co-Chairs Camille Vaska (I.H.S., I.M.S) and Karen Stevens (Briarwood Elementary). They dedicated countless hours to this marathon campaign. Assisting them was an equally extraordinary group; Lida Buckner (Grand Ridge & PCMS), Beth Donahoe, (Briarwood, Maywood), Karen Donovan (Apollo, Liberty), Gretchen Dowling (PCMS, I.H.S) Bob Harrison (Apollo, Maywood), Vicki Hoffman (I.H.S, Briarwood), Ingrid Jarvis (Sunny Hills, Pine Lake), Neva Luke (Retired ISD teacher) , Alison Meryweather (IMS, I.H.S.), Lisa Phillips (Liberty), and Leigh Stokes (Skyline). Kudos to all!

IMPORTANT REMINDER—Pledges and matching gifts are included in the All in for Kids campaign total. If you pledged and/or indicated an employer match, please follow through. Respond to you pledge remit letter and fill out any required matching gift forms to ensure every one of the \$307,227 anticipated dollars can benefit our students.

AMAZON.COM + HOLIDAY SHOPPING = MORE \$\$ FOR KIDS

Planning to stop by Amazon.com for your holiday shopping? Please remember to use the ISF website to get there. From now through December, Amazon.com will donate up to 15% of your total purchase price to the Foundation. Here's how to do it. Visit isfdn.org then click on the Amazon.com box on the top left of the page. You'll be directed to the Amazon site. Once there shop as usual. Amazon will automatically apply the donation to the Foundation. Better yet, add this link Shop Amazon for ISF to your bookmarks so you'll remember us all year long. Happy Shopping!

Searching for more great deals? Check out the Foundation's other business partners for your local shopping. There are great deals on yoga, copy and mail services, massage, storage, real estate and auto purchases. [Click Here for More Info](#)