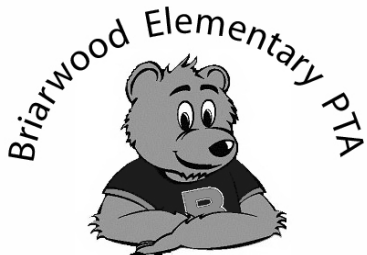


Briarwood Bear Facts



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

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

PTA BOARD

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VP Volunteers
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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

It's February, month of Love, Presidents' Day Sales, and crazy-long mid-month breaks that mess with everyone's schedules. But while we're trapped inside with our kids all week, our state legislators are trapped in the capitol building trying to balance our state budget. They've already taken \$1 million from our district alone (no lie, \$1 million, just from the Issaquah District, right in the middle of the school year).

Fortunately our district money handlers are extremely conservative and we actually have that money in reserve, so no programs will be cut this year. However, there are more and even bigger cuts coming our way, possibly resulting in pay freezes, larger class sizes, and who knows what else.

This means that PTA, ISF, and parent volunteers will be more important than ever if we are to ensure that our children are not adversely affected by this budget shortfall. To find out how you can help, go to www.BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org. For details on the budget process, go to www.issaquah.wednet.edu.

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE – February 7-11

Missoula Children's Theatre hits town February 7-11 to help our kids put on *Treasure Island*. Students who are selected to participate will practice all week and perform the production at the conclusion of the week.

AUDITIONS: Monday, February 7. Students should report to the gym immediately after school. Parents should come to the gym promptly at 5:15 pm to fill out paperwork and pay program fees.

EVENING PERFORMANCE: Friday, February 11, 6:30 pm, Liberty High School auditorium. This is for families & friends.

There are parts for kids of all ages and it is a wonderful melding of music, magic, drama and self-confidence building. There are also a few student director positions for kids 10+. To offset costs, students who take part will be charged a participation fee (Student support is available. Please see your child's teacher). If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Leslie Kahler at 425-226-1314 or lesliekahler@comcast.net.

This program has been made possible through the support of Briarwood Elementary and funding from the Briarwood PTA, a generous grant from The Issaquah Youth Theatre Foundation (who is supported by the City of Issaquah, and the Issaquah Arts Commission), along with associated student program fees and ticket sales.

HUGE TURNOUT FOR McTEACHER NIGHT

Briarwood families helped turn Big Macs - into big bucks for our school last Friday night. They crowded the McDonald's on Sunset Ave. - all for a chance to see teachers taking orders, working the drive-thru and bagging up burgers and fries. The Briarwood PTA received 25% of the food profits - plus all the generous tips left for teachers and staff. In just three hours - we made \$1635.47 for our school!

Thanks to McDonald's, all the families who came for dinner - and especially the teachers and staff who helped make this event such a huge success (though we really would like you to please - keep your day jobs!)



February 7-11
Missoula Children's
Theatre

February 7th
PTA Board Meeting
CANCELLED

**February 28-
March 14**
Cookie Dough sales

March 14-18
Bellevue Arts Museum
residency @ Briarwood

March 21
PTA General
Membership meeting,
6:30 pm



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

SPIRIT SALES – New Spring Tie Dyed Designs

The newest Spirit Sales flier is on its way with bright, tie dyed short-sleeved t-shirts for youth and adults. There are two color choices: navy and bright pink, each with a silver Briarwood logo on the front. Shirts are on display in the office.

Shirts cost \$13 each. Checks only please; made out to Cloud 9 Sports. Order deadline is February 16th with an anticipated delivery date in early March.

For any questions, please contact Leslie Kahler, Briarwood PTA Spirit Sales Chair at lesliekahler@comcast.net or 425-226-1314. Order forms will come home through kidmail, be available in the office and on the PTA web site at www.briarwoodelementarypta.org.

PTA IN ACTION: Mrs. Thoresen – grade 2

Thanks to the Briarwood PTA, 2nd graders in Mrs. Thoresen's class are learning how to become amazing authors! In November, the PTA approved a grant that allowed me to purchase the Lucy Calkins writing curriculum. So far, we have focused on Narrative writing (zooming in on personal moments with lots of detail and description).

Mrs. Paine, Mr. Terry and Mrs. Emerson (parent volunteer) were all part of a writing celebration where the kids chose one of the many writing pieces they had created during our 4 week writing unit, 'fancied it up' and presented it to their small groups.

These 2nd graders are working hard and really enjoying the benefits of this writing curriculum. It gives them the freedom to choose what they want to write about but also requires them to use their creativity and focus on skills and strategies to pull their readers in. Currently, we are studying authors Ezra Jack Keats and Kevin Henkes and how we can use their strategies in our own writing.

Mrs. Thoresen and the 2nd graders of Room 108 can't thank the PTA enough for supporting this program! Be sure to visit www.BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org to see pictures of your financial support in action.

IT'S ELECTION TIME - 2011-2012 PTA OFFICERS

It's Officer Time! Elections for 2011-12 PTA officers will be April 18th. But to be ready in time, we need to collect interested parties now!

Open positions include: President, Vice President of Fundraising, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Volunteers and Vice President of Programs, Secretary and Treasurer. Please contact the Nominating Committee for additional information on the responsibilities of each office.

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. Most offices may be held jointly. PTA dues for this year must be paid before running for office. The initial slate of candidates is due to the board in mid-March. An election with the final names will take place at the April 18th General PTA meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor that night. If you are interested, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Leslie Kahler at lesliekahler@comcast.net.



Nourish Every Mind Luncheon is Coming

Mark your calendar and save the date ...April 28, 2011 is the Issaquah Schools Foundation's 13th Annual ***Nourish Every Mind*** Luncheon. The event features inspirational testimonials from ISF grant recipients, teacher displays, a silent auction and the chance to socialize with 900 civic leaders and friends. The doors open at 11:00, lunch begins at noon, and the program ends at 1:00 pm. Call or email us at 425.391.8557 or mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org to add your name to invitation list.

100 Table Captains Needed –Table Captains are essential to the success of the Luncheon. The job is easy, low pressure and fun. Contact Michelle Weldon at ISF, mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org, 425.391.8557 for more information.