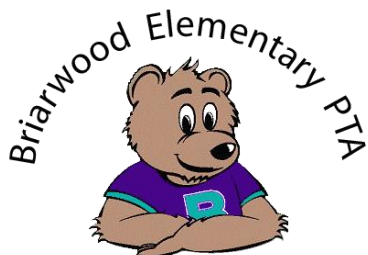


Briarwood Bear Facts



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

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

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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 – LAILA COLLINS

Happy February! I don't know about you, but I'm certainly glad to see sunshine instead of snow! Although I enjoyed some quality bonding time with my girls, I was very happy to send them back to school. I would like to thank everyone who took the time attend our January PTA meeting. Our guest speakers were Jake Kuper, Chief Finance Officer for the district, and Betsy Cohen, Volunteers in Issaquah Schools (VIS). They talked about the upcoming Issaquah School District Bond and our PTA voted unanimously to endorse it. Please read the article later on in the newsletter about why it is important for the district to pass this bond.

We have a very light February as far as PTA activities go. Our main event this month is McTeacher Night on Friday, February 10. This is one of my girls' favorite events of the year. They can't wait to see their teachers working the drive thru and asking "would you like fries with that". Last year we brought in over \$1,400 in three hours so please come out and show your support!

In January, we were thrilled to receive a check for \$1,063 from Box Tops for Education! This shows - by working together - we can make a difference. Cutting out Box Tops can sometimes be a pain – but they really do add up! Thanks to Tracy Kennedy for chairing the program this year. We also held a very successful Lunchtime Book Swap. Under the direction of Jenna Thoresen, 226 kids "swapped" books with other Briarwood students and got to take home some "new" books for free. This is always a fun event that also helps support our schools' literacy goals.

I would like to close by please reminding you to join PTA if you haven't already done so. I know I mention this every month but we are lagging far behind all other elementary schools in the district (many of which are at 100% membership). We are currently at about 50%. It's only \$18.00 for a family membership so please visit [the membership section](#) of our website to join (and perhaps suggest it to other parents.)

APRIL 17: CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE BOND

How often can a community vote to approve monies to improve their school facilities and then see a property tax drop? Not very often! This is the rare case with the upcoming April 17 Construction and Maintenance bond. Since bonds from years past are set drop off the books this year, supporting the new bond will have less impact on property taxes than previous bonds did. With this vote, timing is everything!!

As parents and teachers of Briarwood students you may be wondering - why should I support another bond? We have our new school. Simply, this bond will build our future. Nearly one quarter of this \$219 million package will directly impact our students as they pass on through Maywood Middle and Liberty High. Other projects, such as the remodel at neighboring Apollo, will save the District operating expenses which saves precious State funding for our classrooms.

Be informed! The full explanation along with a list of FAQs can be found on the District's Bond [information site](#). For questions, email Bond2012@issaquah.wednet.edu or Briarwood's Bond Committee Community Representative, Paul Dutton at pwd3pe@gmail.com or phone/text 425-306-9294.



- **Friday, February 10**
McTeacher Night
5-8p, Highlands McDonalds
- **Friday, March 2**
Ice Skating Night
Castle Ice
- **Monday, March 19**
PTA general meeting
6p, Briarwood library
- **Thursday, March 29**
Science Fair
Briarwood gym, 7-8p



- You must complete your registration by Monday, March 19 to be eligible to vote on the upcoming bond initiative.
- Find more information on how to register at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.aspx>.

Check Out Our Website!

BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org

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

2012 McTEACHER NIGHT

Did you ever think you would hear your favorite teacher ask, "Would you like fries with that?" For one night only, Briarwood teachers will tie on McDonald's aprons and go to "work" at our local restaurant, greeting guests, taking orders and serving food. The best part is Briarwood gets 20% of ALL the sales during our event! Invite your friends and neighbors and come join us!

Friday, February 10 from 5:00-8:00 pm
Highland McDonald's - 4411 NE Sunset BLVD (by Albertsons)

BRIARWOOD GREAT SKATE NIGHT 2012

Join us for Briarwood night at Castle Ice on Friday, March 2 from 6:30 - 8:15 (you may skate longer but Teen Night begins at 8:30). Tickets for skating and rental skates are \$7 per person. New to ice skating? There are many "ice walkers" for assistance! We will also have a party room designated for Briarwood for eating and storage.

Pre-orders for Little Caesars pizza, drinks, and advanced entry ticket sales will be taken on this PTA website. Pre-orders need to be placed by February Thursday, February 23, and payment by check to Briarwood PTA needs to be sent to school by Monday, February 27. You may also buy tickets the day of the event. For questions or to volunteer, please email [Susanna Stratford](mailto:Susanna.Stratford). Remember to dress warmly! This is not a drop off event. Students should have adult supervision. Let's pack the rink!!

2012 SCIENCE FAIR

Mark your calendars and tidy up those test tubes. The Briarwood Science Fair is coming at us at the speed of light. Students will enjoy a kick-off assembly on February 16 put on by the Pacific Science Center to get them excited about conducting their own experiments and making their own discoveries. We look forward to seeing their hard work and celebrating their achievements on March 29 from 6-7pm in our gym.

Participation is not required (except for those students in Science Tech), but is strongly encouraged. Info will be coming home with the kids on the on how to register for the Fair. We will also be holding a participation button design contest, so be sure to check you student's backpack. If you would like to help, please visit the PTA website Volunteer section, or contact event chair [Beth Donahoe](mailto:Beth.Donahoe).

VOLUNTEERS...WE NEED YOU!

Calling all volunteers! New volunteer opportunities have been added to [the volunteer section](#) of our website. Take a look at our current needs and sign up to help. You can make a difference with as little as one hour to share - Briarwood would love to have YOU there!

Also, remember the new *Volunteers Inspire Praise* (VIP) recognition program. Please let us know about anyone who should be recognized for their volunteer efforts. At each PTA meeting all names of recognized volunteers will be entered for a chance to win a prize from our 'Bin of Wonders'! To submit a VIP name simply email [Katie Breuel](mailto:Katie.Breuel) or [Reanu Ranna](mailto:Reanu.Ranna). Please be sure to include why you are recognizing the volunteer and if you would like your nomination to remain anonymous

LUNCHTIME BOOK SWAP: THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

Even after our unexpected snowy break, we had 226 kids participate in the Lunchtime Book Swap on Tuesday, January 23. We had an amazing assortment of books so thank you to all those that participated and donated books. The classes with the highest participation percentage were Ms. Smith's PM Kindergarten and Ms. Mayo's 3rd grade class.

Congratulations to the following students who won Scholastic book order gift cards! Lilian O, Cameron C, Ethan V, Rennik S, Dylan L, Brayden V, Cassidy A, Eleanor R, Evan R, Micah E, Lauren C and Christiana B.

LUNCHTIME BOOK SWAP: THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING (con't)

We would also like to thank the following volunteers for their hard work: Laila Collins, Karen Nelson, Lupe Infante, Karin Manning, Leslie Kahler and Sharon Mendoza. Your efforts made for a great event!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

If you made a gift to the Foundation during the 2011 calendar year, you should have received an Annual Report and year-end tax statement. If not, please contact Tina Weber, tweber@issaquahschoolsfoundatio.org.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The next entry in the ISF/IEA/PTSA /ISD sponsored Community Conversations film series—'Race to Nowhere'—will be shown on Thursday, March 1, at 7 pm at the Issaquah High School Performing Arts Center. This critically acclaimed documentary is a must see for parents and students. Filmmaker and mother Vicki Abeles turns her lens on the culture of hollow achievement and pressure to perform that has invaded America's schools and explores the price our kids pay for this 'race to nowhere.' Attendees will have the opportunity to share their reactions to the film during a post-screening panel discussion featuring District parents, students and personnel.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door and can be purchased at <http://rtnissaquahhs.eventbrite.com/>. Space is limited!!

THINK SPRING

Celebrate spring at the Nourish Every Mind Luncheon! This year's event will be held on Thursday, May 10 from 11 am – 1 pm at the Issaquah Community Center. If you've attended before you know the Luncheon is the place to be to network, catch up with friends and hear first-hand how donor funded ISF programs are changing the lives of Issaquah School District students. If you haven't attended in the past, add it to your 'to-do' list. Save-the-Date cards will be mailed soon. In the meantime, you may call or email Michelle Weldon, mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundtiaon.org to add your name to the invitation list.

ANTICIPATION BUILDS

30 applications ... nearly \$130,000 in requests ... and \$75,000 to distribute. Who will be among this year's Academic Enrichment Grant winners? Results will be announced in March.

ALUMNI OUTREACH

We're looking for ISD grads who are passionate about education for our newly formed Alumni Committee. Headed by Issaquah High School grad Jay Kipp (2001), our Alumni Committee seeks to create connections between past and current grads, become a resource for Alumni Reunion planners, and investigate how alumni can best support our current students—be it as a mentor, speaker, sage, or ...? Your input will help determine the path the committee takes. Curious? Contact Jay Kipp, jay@jaykipp.com, for more information.