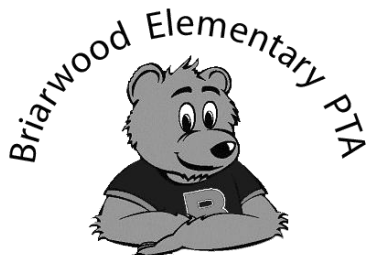


Briarwood Bear Facts



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 – Beth Donahoe

During this frigid Winter break, I received my first tiny glimpse of spring in my mailbox: my Seed Catalogue. It's a bound, full-color list of the best New Year's resolutions ever—better than my own lame one of doing more sit-ups or keeping my closets organized. It's a little booklet of hope that, if not promises, at least implies that this year might be my best garden ever.

And I'm full of enthusiasm and hope that the work I do in April will yield tremendous bounty in the months to come. Much like the seeds the PTA is planting now—putting together our Nominating Committee for elections this spring, tilling the soil for more raw talent and blossoms waiting to bloom.

Perhaps you're one of these seedlings, just waiting for someone to water and nurture you? Come to our next meeting **Monday, January 24** and find out. You may just be part of the best garden ever.

DRAMA CLASSES FOR ALL!

Because the 2010 Jog-A-Thon was such a huge success, the Briarwood PTA will be providing a 4-week drama class series for all students at Briarwood!! Every grade will receive a 1 hour weekly session led by a wonderful instructor with over 30 years of teaching experience. Thanks to the wonderful Briarwood families, students and staff for your financial support. We could not provide this experience without you! For more information, contact Leslie Kahler at lesliekahler@comcast.net.

LUNCHTIME BOOK SWAP – Thursday, January 13

Are your kiddos looking for a new home for books they've already read? Are they looking for some new books to read? Then the Briarwood Book Swap is just for them! Send in up to 10 books for your child to exchange during lunch recess on Thursday January 13th! Book donations accepted any time before the 13th. Look for a flyer coming home via Kid Mail soon!

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Jenna Thoresen at a.thoresen@comcast.net or (206)930-4993.

FAMILY ICE SKATING NIGHT – Saturday, January 22

Just for Briarwood friends and families! ! Castle Ice opens their doors to us on Saturday, January 22 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Bundle up, come skate & enjoy a great time with family and friends. Admission is \$7/person and includes skate rental.

Papa John's whole pizza pies will be pre-sold in advance and available at the rink the night of the event. Watch your student's Kid Mail for order forms and more information.

McTEACHER NIGHT – Friday, January 28

Did you ever think you would hear your favorite teacher ask you "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 25% of ALL the sales during our event! Invite your friends and neighbors and come join us!

WHAT: A fun night out for your family and friends that will also raise money for our school.

WHERE: Highland McDonald's - 4411 NE Sunset Blvd. (by Albertsons)

WHEN: Friday, January 28 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm



- **January 13**
Lunchtime book swap
- **January 22**
Family Ice Skating Night,
Castle Ice
- **January 24**
PTA general meeting,
Briarwood Library
- **January 28**
McTeacher Night ,
Renton Highlands
McDonald's
- **February 7-11**
Missoula Children's
Theatre



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

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE - February 7-11

Missoula Children's Theatre will audition interested K-5 students Monday, February 7 for *Treasure Island*. Rehearsals will run all week, with a final performance on Friday, February 11 at Liberty High School. There are parts for kids of all ages and is a wonderful melding of magic, drama and self-confidence building. Participating students must clear their schedule of all normal activities to practice, and will be charged a small program fee to offset the costs (student financial support is available).

Volunteers are needed for the week and host families to offer private rooms to each director. If you are interested, 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.

GIVING TREE: THANK YOU BRIARWOOD

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree and Food Drive. The Briarwood community showed how big our hearts are. We were able to provide a full Christmas for 6 Issaquah Families - a total of 27 people!

Our gift giving increased 47% over last year. Each person was gifted 4 items off their wish list. Additionally, we were able to give each child 3 books. We also increased our food donations 44% over last year. Each family was provided with a box of food. Another **764 pounds** of food was donated to the Issaquah Food Bank. GREAT JOB!!!

Giving Tree chair Diane Burke would like to thank: Mary Fry and Student Council for helping in the Food Drive, Regan Wong for the bag of toys and books, Mr. Terry, Mrs. Potts, Mrs. Cleary, and Mrs. Smith for your support and Mr. Coyne and Ms. Hall for helping load the food.

PTA EVENT HELPERS NEEDED

- January 13: Lunchtime Book Swap, contact Jenna Thoresen (a.thoresen@comcast.net)
- January 29: Bellevue Art Museum volunteer training, contact Karen Nelson (karenandgeoff@comcast.net)
- Every Other Month: staff appreciation lunch helpers, contact Joan Siegfried (joan96siegfried@comcast.net)
- Variety Show Sound Chair, contact Polly Niblock (jpnibs@msn.com) or Teresa Fitzpatrick (teresafitz@gmail.com)
- February 6-13: Host Families for Missoula Children's Theatre, contact Leslie Kahler (lesliekahler@comcast.net)
- Poster Committee Helpers AND Procurement Chair, contact Tonya Kezele (kezeleboss@yahoo.com) or Leslie Kahler (lesliekahler@comcast.net)



Make a difference during National Mentoring Month

Did you know that you can help a child succeed in one hour a week? Become a mentor to an Issaquah School District student in need of personal or academic support. Celebrate National Mentoring Month by choosing to become a VOICE Mentor. The program has an immediate need for 25 additional mentors—especially those with bilingual capabilities.

If you have one hour a week to change a life, please contact VOICE Director, Susie Gierke at VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu or 425.837.6801.

Save the Date!

Nourish Every Mind 2011, the Foundation's annual benefit luncheon is set for Thursday, April 28 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Issaquah Community Center. Please plan to join us. Call the Foundation office, 425.391.8557 to add your name to the invitation list.