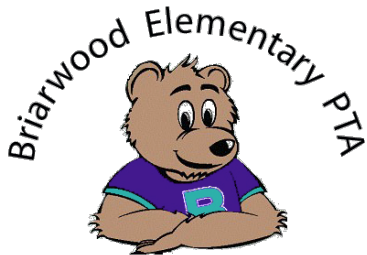


Briarwood Bear Facts



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 New Year and welcome back to all our students and families!! I hope your Winter Break was filled with family time and lots of sleep. I always try to get plenty of rest during the break in order to prepare myself for the crazy few months ahead of me. As a CPA, January through April is my busy season and I have little time for anything but work. My daughters like to joke that "they'll see me again after spring break".

I would like to start off by thanking all of our families that helped make our Holiday Giving Tree and Food Drive a huge success! You opened your hearts and added to your shopping lists to make the season brighter for many families in our community. Thank you to Diane Burke and Karin Manning for chairing this event and helping make it a great success.

We also held our annual Fall Book Fair in December. Thanks to Tonya Kezele, Darla Vaughan, and all of the volunteers for making it very successful! Through your generous purchases, we made over \$1,100 for Mrs. Soel to use in the library. She uses the book fair proceeds to buy "fun books" that kids like to read.

We distributed the PTA Directory in December and all PTA members should have received their copy via Kidmail before Winter Break. We are also in the process of distributing the car magnets. If you are a PTA member and haven't received a directory and/or magnet, please email us at ptabriarwood@gmail.com and let us know and we will get one out to you. We can really use your support as our membership numbers are down significantly this year! If you haven't yet joined PTA this year, it's never too late. Just visit our website at www.briarwoodelementarypta.org.

We are excited to kick off 2012 with a number of fun events including the Lunchtime Book Swap, McTeacher Night, Ice Skating Party, Variety Show, and Science Fair just to name a few. Later in the spring we will have Family Art Night, Carnival, and Field Day. None of these events are possible without our volunteers. We need LOTS of help to make these events possible. If you've never volunteered before, this is your chance! We will gladly take any amount of time that you are able to give. Volunteer opportunities are listed on the website – just go to <http://briarwoodelementarypta.org/Package/Volunteer> to support our school!

JANUARY PTA MEETING & APRIL BOND INITIATIVE

Our next PTA General Meeting is Monday, January 23rd at 6:30pm in the Library. We will have a guest speaker from Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS) to discuss the upcoming bond campaign. After their presentation, we will vote on whether to endorse the bond as a PTA - so we would love for you to attend!

The vote on the Issaquah School District Bond is April 17, 2012.

For more information on the bond, visit <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/bond/default.aspx>. You can also contact Briarwood's bond committee representative Paul Dutton by email pwd3pe@gmail.com or phone/text 425-306-9294.

Need to register to vote? <http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.aspx>



Monday January 23

PTA General meeting
6:30p, Briarwood library

Tuesday, January 24

Lunchtime Book Swap

Friday, March 2

Ice Skating Night
Castle Ice



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

READING AT HOME

Thanks to everyone who participated in the *One for Books* program during the December Book Fair! We plan to use the proceeds of the program to help fund an additional monthly book giveaway. Congratulations to all 2nd graders - all 3 classes are hovering at nearly 100% participation for the first two months of the program. Other classes at over 50% participation include Ms. Smith and Ms. Mayo. Great job reading!!

A couple of reminders: December 2011 calendars are due on Tuesday January 10. Also with the January 2012 calendar, the time goals increase to 250 minutes for grades K-2 and 450 minutes for grades 3-5.

LUNCHTIME BOOK SWAP

Are your kiddos looking for some new books to read. How about a new home for books they've already 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 Tuesday, January 24! Book donations accepted any time before the event. 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.

2011 GIVING TREE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thank you so much to all who participated in the 2011 Giving Tree and Food Drive. Once again the Briarwood community showed how big their hearts are.

We were able to provide a wonderful Christmas for 6 Issaquah families - a total of 24 people! We provided each person with 4 items from their wish list. Also, we delivered **900 POUNDS** of food to the Issaquah Food Bank. GREAT JOB!!!

A Note From our partners at the Issaquah Food Bank

Thank you for your support and kindness this holiday season. Together we supported 265 Issaquah School District families a wonderful holiday season and special Christmas. We saw many smiley faces and received lots of hugs and appreciation from the families we served. Thanks for being our partner.

The Giving Tree committee would like to thank Ms. Fry and Student Council for helping with the food drive. Also, for all your hard work, a big thank you to: Diane Burke, Karin Manning, Diana Roming, Sharon Mendza, Lillian Donahoe, Beth Donahoe, Alexis Serna and Tracy Kennedy. An additional huge thank you to Mr. Terry, Mrs. Potts, Mrs. Cleary and Mrs. Smith for all of your support!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Issaquah Schools Foundation donors made 2011 a year to celebrate. They helped us surpass the million dollar mark and invest more than ever before in our students and schools. This fall we had the pleasure of seeing the impact of many of these investments. We tagged along on a Financial Literacy Program trip and saw the wonder (and often dismay) on students' faces as they learned how quickly money disappears when bills, taxes and family responsibilities enter the picture; ventured into classrooms to see the new Elementary Science Curriculum in action and visited After-School Homework Labs to find staff working with students to better their academic performance and boost their confidence. Each of these program investments elevates and enhances our students' education. None would be possible without the support of our parent community. Thank you and best wishes for a terrific 2012.

FINDING KIND

The Foundation is pleased to partner with middle and high school PTSAs to present Finding Kind, a documentary created to bring awareness and healing to the effects of meanness within "girl world." The critically acclaimed, 77 minute film will be shown twice— on January 31 at Skyline High School and February 1 at Issaquah High School. Both screenings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by post-film discussions with filmmakers Lauren Parsekian and Molly Thompson. Finding Kind presentations are FREE and open to the public. Please help spread the word. Learn more about Finding Kind and the Kind Campaign at <http://findingkind.indieflix.com/home/>.

NEED HELP WITH COLLEGE APPLICATIONS? TRY COLLEGE CORPS

Now in the pilot stage at Liberty High School, College Corps is an extension of the VOICE Mentoring Program. Amy Howard, a professional editor, visits Liberty every Thursday during lunch to work with students on college applications. We've heard that she's terrific and that the program has already saved parents and students from headaches, heartaches and heated discussions. Once college application season ends, Amy will concentrate on scholarship essays. Liberty parents and students may contact the counseling office or the VOICE Mentoring Program (VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu) for further information.

ALL IN FOR KIDS PLEDGE REMINDER

If you made a pledge and/or indicated an employer match during the All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign, please follow through. Respond to your 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.

GRANTS ALERT

Applications for Academic Enrichment Grants are due by 8:00 pm on Thursday, January 12. Grants are awarded in amounts from \$100 - \$10,000 for projects that advance academic achievement, support struggling students, promote professional development, display innovation and excellence in teaching and/or fund basic classroom needs.

District staff may begin an online application at <http://grants2011.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org/>