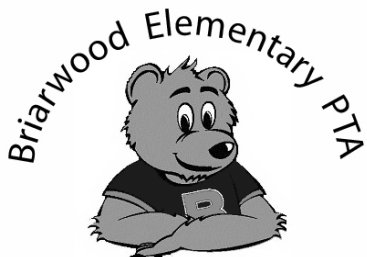


Briarwood Bear Facts



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

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

PTA BOARD

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Karen Nelson

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Laila Collins

VP Programs

Amanda White
Teresa Fitzpatrick

VP Volunteers

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Tonya Kezele

VP Fundraising

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Other Board Members

Jenna Thoresen
Adriana Serna
Diane Burke
Jill Johnson

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

The most important message I can deliver to you this month is: READ THIS NEWSLETTER FROM START TO FINISH.! Our new PTA Board is listed, volunteer opportunities abound, and extremely important news regarding *Got Science?*, the elementary science curriculum initiative. It is CRITICAL that you 1) read the ISF article and 2) FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS found there. You will be hearing more on this in the weeks to come, but put yourself at the front of the pack and ACT NOW!

CONGRATULATIONS! NEW 2011-2012 PTA OFFICERS

- President: Laila Collins
- VP Fundraising: Diane Burke
- Tri-VP Programs:
Tonya Kezele/Jill Johnson /Darla Vaughn
- VP Communications: Karen Nelson
- Treasurer: Roneida Griffith
- Secretary: Teresa Fitzpatrick
- Co-VP Volunteers:
Katie Breuel/ Reanu Ranna

BRIARWOOD PTA CHAIRS NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR

If you have ever wanted to get involved with a Briarwood PTA committee – now is your chance. We are actively seeking people interested in coming on board in many programs and fundraisers for next year.

All positions are open for more help. Positions that do not currently have chairs include: Fundraisers: Spirit Cups, Big “G” Box Tops, and Campbell Soup Labels. Programs include: ISF Rep, Legislative Rep, Parent Education Rep, Procurement, Popcorn Sales, Pumpkin Carving, Staff Appreciation, Student Directory, Variety Show, and Variety Show Sound Tech.

Several areas need a co-chair: McTeacher Night, eScrip, Carnival, Lunchtime Book Swap, Pizza Bingo Night, and Science Fair. There are too many programs to list them all here. If you are interested in helping, please contact Leslie Kahler (lesliekahler@comcast.net) or Tonya Kezele at (kezeleboss@yahoo.com).

JUNE 1-3: CAMP COLMAN FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

The excitement is building for the 5th grade trip to Camp Colman on June 1-3! This is a Briarwood tradition and is a wonderful outdoor education experience for our students. Packets were sent out to all fifth grade students and a parent info night was held on April 26 with a spokesperson from Camp Colman.

Thank you to all the parents that volunteered to be chaperones. The lucky 29 (25 chaperones and 4 alternates) have been chosen! If your name was picked, mark your calendar for a mandatory meeting: Monday, May 23, 6pm, Briarwood, Room 205. Volunteer opportunities are still available. We need parents to help label and organize luggage Tuesday evening, May 31 and Wednesday morning, June 1. If you are available to help or have any questions, please contact Polly Niblock at 425-277-0069 or jpnibs@msn.com

Many thanks to the PTA for their generous donation toward the Camp Colman trip, this is a tremendous learning opportunity for our students and would not happen without PTA funding.

BRIARWOOD VARIETY SHOW A GREAT SUCCESS

Who's got talent? Briarwood's Got Talent!!! Briarwood's Variety Show 2011 was a HUGE success! We had 37 students participate in the show and they all did a wonderful job! We would like to thank our performers, MCs, backstage crew and parent volunteers for all their hard work! And a huge shout out to Tom and Cyndee Settle for operating our sound system!



SPIRIT SALES LIQUIDATION BLOW OUT

We still have a few of the older Briarwood shirts available for sale. All shirts are \$10 each, brand new, and have been stored in a clean and dry location. Stock remaining includes: YOUTH gray hoodies with white stripe on sleeve in size Small and XL; YOUTH baseball t-shirts in size Large; and ADULT baseball t-shirts in size Large. There is one YOUTH size Small purple t-shirt with an older logo (\$5 for this one). Numbers of sizes available vary – please contact Leslie Kahler at 425-226-1314 or lesliekahler@comcast.net for more information. Pictures of these shirts are available at www.briarwoodelementarypta.org.

MAYWOOD PTSA WELCOMES INCOMING 6TH GRADE FAMILIES

Maywood PTSA welcomes you! In just a few months your son or daughter will begin 6th grade at Maywood Middle School but you need to know now what is going on with the Maywood PTSA. Take a look around www.maywoodptsa.org and become familiar with what our PTSA does for our school. Then join our mailing list by sending your email address to subscribe@maywoodptsa.org. Subscribe now and get to know the Maywood PTSA.



GOT SCIENCE? – CAMPAIGN FOR K-5 SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Periodically, the Issaquah School District revisits all of their curriculum adoptions to make sure they are meeting the most current standards. This year, the science curriculums are up for review. Issaquah School District elementary students are deserving of a unified and dynamic new curriculum. Due to recent State budget cuts, all elementary PTSAs, the District and the Issaquah Schools Foundation are collaborating in an unprecedented effort to raise \$500,000 to pay for a new K-5 elementary science curriculum.

The Elementary Science Initiative Campaign will serve as a match to the District's \$700,000 commitment and enable a roll-out of the entire three-domain curriculum to every K-5 student in the fall of 2011. Full adoption of the Elementary Science Initiative will mark the first time that all elementary students in the District will benefit from a comprehensive, unified science curriculum.

To date, science instruction has been driven by science kits as well as PTSA-funded science docents and enrichment activities, resulting in inconsistency and inequity across schools. This, coupled with new state science standards and assessments, has left our students at a disadvantage. As of last year, only half of our 5th graders met standards on state assessments.

The importance of the adoption to our students' future cannot be overstated. Says Dr. Rasmussen, "The global demand for high-tech, cutting edge professionals is not diminishing just because funding for public education is – it's exploding. In fact, we need to give our students every opportunity to thrive and be competitive now because the world is not going to wait for our curriculum to catch up."

A suggested donation of \$50 per child, per elementary family will ensure that the campaign goal is met. To make your contribution and learn the 'how's and why's' of the campaign, please visit www.IssaquahScience.org. The Elementary Science Initiative can only succeed with your help!

NOURISH EVERY MIND – THANKS FOR A GREAT EVENT

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Our PTSA community helped us to produce the most successful *Nourish Every Mind* luncheon to date. Because of your abundant attendance, the Issaquah Community Center was jam packed on Thursday, April 28. When lunch was finished and speeches given, over \$593,000 had been raised to support Issaquah Schools Foundation programs and initiatives.

Please join ISF in congratulating Co-Chairs Kristin Behn and Susan Griffin (Sunset), our incomparable Table Captain Chair, Cathia Geller (Cascade Ridge) and their fabulous committee. Also thank you to Andrea Baines for heading up the Briarwood table!

May 16

PTA general membership meeting, 6:30p, Briarwood library

May 18-20

Scholastic spring BOGO book fair, Briarwood library

June 10

Portfolio Night & Carnival
* Parent volunteers needed!

June 13

Field Day
* Parent volunteers needed!



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