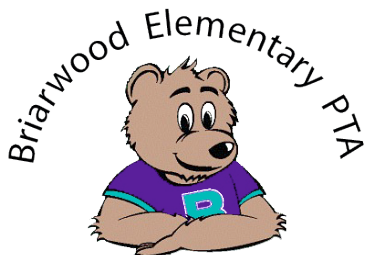


Briarwood Bear Facts



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

The school year is off to a great start and PTA has been busy! The Meet the Teacher BBQ was a big hit and very well attended. Thanks to Leslie Kahler and all of the volunteers who made this event a great success!

Our first general meeting was held on September 19th with record attendance. Thanks to all of you who joined us for the meeting. We took care of many housekeeping items for the year including approving our 2011-2012 budget and making some necessary changes to our standing rules. These documents as well as the meeting minutes and treasurer's report are available on our website if you weren't able to join us for the meeting.

Our annual Jog-A-Thon was held last Friday and was a lot of fun! Thanks to Beth Donahoe and all of volunteers who helped make this event possible (and thanks to the rain for holding off this year)!

Hopefully you're all enjoying the new website. We currently have about 225 users and are actively trying to get more families signed on. We hope you found our new online "First Day Packet" process to be an easy one and an improvement to the mounds of paperwork we used to send home. As we anticipated, the transition to online sign up has left us with fewer PTA members than usual. Our goal is 100% Membership which means each child is represented by an adult PTA member. Right now, we are only at about 50% - so we have a long way to go! Joining the PTA doesn't obligate you to anything. It just demonstrates your support for the mission and goals of the PTA and entitles you to "voice and vote".

Your membership helps to support all of the wonderful PTA programs and events (most of them free!) - including Pizza Bingo, Family Art Night, Carnival, and Field Day. Your membership also helps to subsidize the cost of Camp Colman, our annual 5th grade outdoor camp. Without the support of PTA, the cost to our families would be significantly more.

As always, October is a very fun month at Briarwood. Our annual Pizza Bingo night is coming up on October 14th. This is one of the most fun events of the year. Please bring the family, enjoy some pizza, and cheer on the Huskies to an "Apple Cup" bingo win (Cougars fans are welcome too!) We will also be hosting Pumpkin Carving night on October 28th. This is another family event that is always a hit at Briarwood. We hope to see all of you there

30 ON THE 30th: JOG-A-THON 2011

THANK YOU to all the fabulous Jog-a-Thon Volunteers, Teachers, and especially the KIDS who participated in this year's Jog-A-Thon on September 30! We had a huge turnout and perfect running weather, helping make it a FANTASTIC DAY! We are tallying the results for *Most Laps Run* as well as *Most Money Earned* and will get the much anticipated prize assembly scheduled soon. If we make our \$30,000 goal, EVERY classroom will get an extra special art class, and Mr. Terry will dress up like a COUGAR (and I don't just mean WSU colors!).

At first glance, however, we are coming in under goal, so do what you can to "round up" and get your kids' donors to do the same. If every family raised just \$100, we would make goal easily. If every student raised \$100, we'd CRUSH it. We know money is tight, but if you can help make this \$100 a reality, please do so. Money is officially "due" by October 17, but of course we will accept it long after that date!



APPLE CUP PIZZA BINGO NIGHT

It's back! APPLE CUP Pizza Bingo Night at Briarwood!!! Sport your team colors (everything goes)! Join us Friday, October 14th in the multi-purpose room for dinner from 6:00 - 6:45pm. Every pizza and salad must be pre-paid and pre-ordered. Orders are due Monday, October 10. Please send payment to school no later than Tuesday, October 11th. Orders can be placed on the PTA website – briarwoodelementarypta.org. The Bingo game goes from 6:45-8:00pm in the gym. There are lots of great prizes again this year!!! The Bingo game is free to play. We encourage you to bring one item (or more) per person to donate to the Issaquah Food Bank. Please bring something YOU would want to eat.

READING AT HOME PROGRAM

The Reading at Home (RAH) program kicks off this month. You all should have received a welcome letter and the October calendar to fill in (both are also available on the PTA website under Programs, RAH). Students who reach the monthly goals and turn in a completed RAH calendar will earn fun incentives throughout the year. In addition, all year long students will earn entries for the year-end prize drawing for two new bikes, generously donated by the University Masonic Lodge.

This is a wonderful program to encourage new readers, and reward kids who already love to read. Contact information for the RAH Chairs (Dana Rollison, Sharon TsuTsu-Mendoza and Maria Bassett) are listed on the welcome letter. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need information or help getting started.

MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT

Mark your calendars! Our brand new Multicultural Night event is coming up Friday, November 18th from 6pm-8pm. If you are interested in celebrating your culture and country of origin with other Briarwood families, we urge you to participate! Each participating student will be asked to create a poster or display representing their heritage to show at the event.

Siblings/students are welcome to create a display together. Some ideas for your display include: historical and interesting sites to visit, language spoken, flag and its meaning, famous people from the country, climate, food/recipes, holidays and celebrations, current events, etc. Stay tuned for more information!



ARE YOU IN...

...to the All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign? We know that state funding alone can't provide the comprehensive education our kids deserve and the marketplace demands. All in for Kids is our opportunity, as parents, to make sure our children have access to the resources they need to succeed. Please give what you can at www.isfdn.org. Want to know what your donation will fund?

FREE MONEY

Our new Business Partners make it easy to direct dollars to our schools. The civic-minded local merchants below will donate a portion of their sales to the Foundation. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

WildFin American Grill □ Christine Kipp, Ewing and □ Clark Elements Therapeutic Massage
QuahPon □ SchoolHouseTravel.com □ Mail Clinic Gilman □ Lexus of Bellevue □ Amazon

ESI UPDATE

They're Here!! The District's Teaching and Learning department confirmed that materials from our brand spanking new Elementary Science arrived in classrooms at the end of September. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the GOT SCIENCE campaign last spring. You made it possible for our kids to benefit from all three domains (life, earth and physical) this fall.

INTERNSHIP TIME

Issaquah Schools Foundation and the Issaquah and Sammamish Chambers of Commerce are partnering promote and publicize local internships. A database of internship opportunities will be made available in the spring to ISD high school students and alumni. If you are a business that provides internships, please [CLICK HERE](#) to take our three minutes survey. A Foundation intern will follow up to answer specific questions and gather more information.

- **October 14**
Pizza Bingo Night, 6p
- **October 28**
Pumpkin Carving, 6p
- **November 16-18**
ISF All In For Kids call campaign
- **November 18**
Multicultural Night, 6p
- **November 21**
General Membership Meeting, 6:30p



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