



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BRIER ELEMENTARY PTA

# THE BRIER BUZZ

Brier Elementary PTA: Making every Brier Elementary student's potential a reality.

## 2008-2009 PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Cathy Fiorillo  
 Vice President of Fundraising - Cathy Jackson  
 Vice President of Programs - Penny Ebright  
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 Family Fun Events Co-chair - Karen Manley  
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 Teacher Rep Intermediate (Grades 4-6) - Amy VeCera

**Coming Attractions . . .**  
**Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 7:00 pm**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**See page 3 for more information**

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 1 Board of Directors
- 2 Making A Difference
- 2 Membership News
- 2 Program Spotlight
- 2 Legislative News
- 3 Financial Report
- 4 Family Fun Events News
- 4 December Calendar
- 4 Bobcat Artist Corner

## Happy New Year!

How can we help? PTAs across the country are stepping up efforts to help their schools during these financially hard times. A recent Wall Street Journal story echoed discussions I and other PTA members have had this school year regarding school funding. The story discusses the impact the weakened economy is having on school budgets.

"Parent groups and local nonprofit organizations have long raised money for activities like class trips, school dances and after-school clubs. But many parents say they now are shelling out for core curricular items that were once publicly funded -- from classroom supplies to teachers' salaries." Needy Schools Turn to Parents for Money, Wall Street Journal, 12/30/08.

We see evidence of this within our own school. One example is the longer school list of school supplies families are given each year. The article also points out what we already know. The weakened economy is affecting our ability to raise funds.

While we know long-term solutions are needed for the way our schools are funded, we also know our kids' education can't wait. Short-term solutions will be needed to help now.

Over the next few months, the PTA board will be working hard to come up with ways we can help the school and families. Some ideas we are discussing include ways to help reduce costs to families and staff at the beginning of the school year.

If you have ideas or want to get involved in this effort, please contact me. Together we can make a difference!

Best Wishes,

*Cathy Fiorillo*

Cathy Fiorillo  
 Brier Elementary PTA President

### Did You know?

College scholarships are available through Washington State PTA to graduates from Washington State public high schools beginning their freshman year of post-secondary education. Grants of \$2,000 will be given to recipients entering four-year post-secondary institutions and \$1,000 dollar grants will be awarded for community colleges, voc-tech schools or other accredited institutions. Application deadline is Feb. 10, 2009. Go to [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org) for more information.

## Making A Difference

### **\*\*Volunteer News\*\***

#### Thank you to the following volunteers:

Ann Nichols for chairing the annual Wreath sales.

Laura Arndt and Mandy Webb for helping us copy and distribute the Buzz and other important PTA information.

Kelly Powers, Melissa Barnes, Kim Sowers, Eden Riddell and everyone else who helped with the Make-A-Wish Foundation project.

A special thank you to all of the school and PTA volunteers who make a difference every day!

### **\*\*Program Spotlight\*\***



#### Reflections Art Program

Wow!

We're excited to announce that 59 Bobcat artists submitted more than 90 entries to the PTA Reflections Art Program. Thank you all for participating and creating wonderful art displayed in our library throughout the fall.

Congratulations to the 20 artists, listed below, that have moved on to the council level of the competition based on their artistic ability and creative interpretation of the theme, "WOW". Special recognition goes to the top five pieces of art at our school: 1st place - Arshia Kiani (5th grade), 2nd place - JackRyan O'Neil (5th grade), 3rd place - Jensen Beaumont (5th grade), 4th place Carl Hess (2nd grade), and 5th place - Kali Miller (3rd grade).

Congratulations Sarah Acheson, Jensen Beaumont, Ryan Coffman, Vail Custis, Kira Doan, Delaney Flynn, Carl Hess, Anna Hochstein, Arshia Kiana, Margaret Latta, Trevor Leen, Jenna Maxfield, Alison Miller, Josi Miller, Josie Morris, JackRyan O'Neil, Rebecca Schmeling, Hannah Schuster, Natalie Sollov and Jasmine Zenk.

Thank you to all the volunteers for helping to make our program a success this year including Reflections committee members Leslie Bontecou and Traci Thorpe; Reflections judge, local artist and instructor, Jill Rogers, and all the adult helpers at our workshop for joining committee members Gini Bouche and Dianna Bellacy.

A special thank you to all of our terrific teachers for supporting the Reflections Program in your classrooms and encouraging students to participate. And finally a huge thank you to Debbie Dunne, Reflections Chair for your passion and support of the arts at Brier Elementary!

### **\*\*Legislative News\*\***



Brier PTA is pleased to announce a major enhancement to the Brier PTA website. There are new pages that provide updates on what is happening out there that will impact, or is impacting Brier; information about whom and how to contact those who have the authority to change or improve the situation; and an Editorial page where there will be opinion and comment on the issues of the day, called Ken's Corner.

So go to the Brier website, open Legislation, and browse through the new pages: Introduction, Legislative News and Updates and Ken's Corner. I strongly encourage you to use this site not only to be better informed, but to also to see the choices on how to respond to the budget crisis facing Brier and education in general. The State PTA has gone to a lot of effort to make this as easy and simple for you as possible. For example, if you go to the State PTA site and click on Legislation, you will find an e-mail that has already been composed for you to send to your local legislator, urging them to not cut funding for public schools. The e-mail address of each of our three legislators is also included in our website.

### **A CALL TO ACTION**

We are aware that our economy is in a recession. The affect on our state budget is profound, resulting in proposed cuts to public education that would be the largest on record (possibly \$1 billion). As parents, what are we to do?

Go to the Brier PTA Legislative site, described above, choose your response, and start the process of communicating to our representatives that using our children to solve their financial deficits is not acceptable. In following articles, we will look at those groups who are our 'allies' and present potential plans to coordinate our actions to achieve the greatest impact. Be sure and mark your calendar for February 26, The PTA Rally in Olympia.

Please e-mail questions or comments to Ken Bogle, PTA Legislative Chair at [legislativechair@brierelementary.org](mailto:legislativechair@brierelementary.org).

Brier Elementary PTA 7.2.15 is governed by Washington State Uniform Bylaws.

The Brier Buzz is the official newsletter of the Brier Elementary PTA, Edmonds School District No. 15, and is published the last Tuesday of each month during the school year.

Please send information you would like included in the newsletter to the editor at the e-mail address below.

Executive Committee members were elected March 2008. All other Board positions are appointed by the Executive Committee. Standing Rules, Meeting minutes and other important information can be found on the PTA Website.

Newsletter Editor: Kim Maxfield E-mail: [Editor@brierelementarypta.org](mailto:Editor@brierelementarypta.org)

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Web Manager: Bob Cuplin E-mail: [webmaster@brierelementarypta.org](mailto:webmaster@brierelementarypta.org)

### PTA General Membership Meeting

Mark your calendar for January's meeting. Everyone is invited, so plan to attend the next General Membership meeting.

**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2008

**Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Location:** School Library



Guest Speaker Edmonds School District Superintendent Dr. Nick Brossoit. Come hear the latest district and school news, and take advantage of this opportunity to meet Dr. Brossoit and ask questions.

*Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare is provided. Fabulous door prizes!*

### Your Input is Important! Identify the future leadership of your PTA!

The Nominating Committee will be elected at the general membership meeting on January 29. Please consider serving on this important short-term committee.

The committee has the important task of nominating a slate of candidates for the 2008-2009 PTA Executive Committee which includes the elected positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Elections will be held at the General Membership meeting on March 26. Please contact Cathy Fiorillo for more information.

Nomination forms for 2009-2010 Brier Elementary PTA officers will be distributed soon!

## \*\*Mid-Year Financial Report\*\*

A copy of the most current financial report is located on the PTA website. The downturn in the economy affected this year's fundraisers. However, the good news is our fundraising company, Great American, guaranteed to match last year's net income. Therefore, we expect we will meet budget expectations for the catalogue/cookie dough fundraiser.

#### Fall Fundraiser Report

##### Catalogue/Cookie Dough

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$24,600.18	\$28,000
Expense	<u>14,614.82</u>	<u>14,000</u>
Net Income	\$ 9,985.36	\$14,000

##### Entertainment Books

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$4,165.00	\$5,000
Expenses	<u>2,562.60</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Net Income	\$1,602.40	\$2,000

##### Wreath Sales

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$1,693.00	\$1,500
Expenses	<u>1,013.98</u>	<u>750</u>
Net Income	\$ 679.02	\$ 750

##### Total three main fundraisers

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$30,458.18	\$34,500
Expenses	<u>18,191.40</u>	<u>17,750</u>
Net Income	\$12,266.78	\$16,750

The Board can approve grants less than \$500. Funds over \$500 must be approved by general membership.

The PTA Board approved the following grant and funding requests from September - December, 2008.

Alternative Recess supplies	\$300.00
Headset for Brier Elementary Office Manager	350.00
Two heavy duty electric staplers for work rooms	300.00
Rack for school/community/PTA flyers	270.00
Sixth grade camp scholarships	500.00
PTA Legislative Assembly	400.00
Teacher Professional Development	398.00
Student Appreciation	275.00
Field trip Intensive Support grades 1/2/3	120.00
Artist-in-Residence	500.00

*Grant details available upon request*

#### Grants pending membership approval at 1/29/09 General membership meeting

Teacher Resource Library	\$715.00
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2008/2009 Budget	\$54,315.00
Checkbook balance as of 12/31/09	27,424.98
Mid-year audit will be conducted next month.	



## PTA Calendar of Events January 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6	7	8	9
Coffee e-mail	January PTA Newsletter Distributed			
12	13	14	15	16
Coffee e-mail Edmonds PTA Council meeting 7:00 pm				
19	20	21	22	23
Coffee e-mail  Martin Luther King Day observed  No School	Presidential Inauguration Day		Early release 12:20 pm	Teacher Professional Day  No School
26	27	28	29	30
Coffee e-mail Chinese New Year	February PTA Newsletter Distributed		PTA General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm Brier Elementary Library	Coffee Chat 9:15 Starbucks 44th ave/228th
31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4
Coffee e-mail				



### **Bobcat Artist Corner**



**Anna Hochstein, 2nd grade**  
**Mrs. Lafferty**

### **Update your calendars!**

**Snow Make-Up Days:**  
**Last Day of School is currently Friday, June 19, 2009.**

Additional days if needed Friday, May 22, 2009 is the fourth snow make-up day. That day is currently a no school for students and a Teacher Professional Development Day. It will become a full day of school, if needed.

Monday, June 22, 2009 is the fifth snow make-up day, if needed.

### **\*\*Family Fun Events News\*\***

Thank you to Brier Elementary staff and families for participating in the PTA Giraffe project in December. Our students wrote 300 letters which raised \$300 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. On December 28, 2008 Macy's delivered \$1 million check to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Staff and families also generously donated canned food for local families.

No Family Fun event in January. Next Family Fun Event: Family Skate night, Thursday, February 12, at Lynnwood Bowl and Skate.

### **Clothes for Kids!**

Do you have gently used clothes your children have outgrown? Clothes for Kids needs your help!

Clothes for Kids has seen a rise in families this fall who are in need of warm clothes. Their shelves are almost empty. Please consider donating your children's gently used clothes, shoes and coats. Drop items off at 16725 52nd Ave W, Suite B in Lynnwood. For more information visit [www.clothesforkids.org](http://www.clothesforkids.org).