



THE BRIER BUZZ

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

November Reflections

2008-2009 PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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November is one of my favorite months of the year. Even though it brings shorter, darker days, it also brings my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Our family has a Thanksgiving tradition I'd like to share with all of you.

We make a small tree out of twigs and each family member and guest writes down what they are thankful for on a paper leaf. We then share with each other our thanksgiving thoughts as we add the leaves to the tree.

Helping our children learn to recognize all they have to be thankful for, especially during tough times, is a gift they will carry through their lives. I encourage your family to share what you are thankful for with each other.

Just one of the things I am thankful for is being part of our school's community of parents, staff, extended families, and other community members working together to help each of our Brier students get the best education possible.

November is also the month PTA kicks off the National art program, Reflections. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition.

Your Reflections chair, Debbie Dunne, has been working hard to provide our Bobcat artists with everything they need to participate in this important PTA program. See page 2 of this issue for more information.

Coming Attractions . . .
Monday, Nov 3, Skate Night @
Lynnwood Bowl and Skate

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Best wishes and a very Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Brier Elementary PTA President

Did You know?

PTA was formed in 1897 by two moms with a dream. Their vision created the largest all-volunteer child advocacy organization with over one million members. What inspired those two moms to get involved? They wanted to see the following for the nation's kids:

- the creation of kindergarten classes
- child labor laws
- a public health service
- hot lunch programs
- a juvenile justice system
- mandatory immunization

Making A Difference

Volunteer News

Thank You, Volunteers!!!!!!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped process **fundraising orders** and count money. Mandy Webb, Debbie Dunne, Kathy Saneto, Laura Arndt, Kristine Birnbaum, Ann Nichols, Diane Hairell, Marie Tschirgi, Cathy Jackson and Cathy Fiorillo.

Survival kits have now been delivered to your child's classroom. Thank you to those who helped assemble the kits: Julie Wyman, Lesa Keith, Ann Nichols, Cathy Fiorillo, Cathy Jackson, Penny Ebright, and Wendy Wolff-Gee.

See page 4 for *Monster Mash* article.

Program Spotlight

Did your student "START the ART"?

Does she or he need some creative inspiration, guidance or art supplies?

Are you looking for a fun family activity?

Please join us at the

REFLECTIONS WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 6

6:00-8:00 pm

School Gym



Local artists will be available to share ideas and teach techniques with different mediums. The PTA will provide the supplies...you bring the budding artists and creative energy! It will be a fun night for the whole family and the artwork will surely make us say...

"WOW"!!!

Remember, entries for the PTA Reflections Program can be submitted to the school office November 3 – December 4.

Entry forms are in the office. Questions? Contact Debbie Dunne 425-774-9665 or brierfive@msn.com

Membership News

Join PTA Today!

Together -

We Can Make a Difference!



Thank You to the 219 members who have joined PTA. Your support of PTA and all the programs and financial assistance it provides our school is greatly appreciated! **Every student benefits from your support!**

For those who haven't joined we encourage you to use the membership form attached to the back of the Buzz and join today! **Together, We Can Make a Difference!**

Scholarship memberships are available and confidential. Volunteer hours are NOT a requirement of membership.

Fitness Club



We will start back up in November, and are still looking for volunteers to help at lunch recess on Wednesdays. Contact Penny Ebright at pje001@yahoo.com or 425-776-6554 if you are interested.

Popcorn Fridays are back!

Thank You Kathy Saneto, Milgian Garcia, Rashida Jibril, Kelly Powers and Shaney McClaren for helping Board member Penny Ebright with our second Popcorn Friday on Oct. 17. Weather permitting, there will be two more this fall: Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. Cost is 25¢ a bag.

Contact Penny Ebright pje001@yahoo.com or 425-776-6554 if you are interested in helping.

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

Copyeditor: Liane Thomas

Web Manager: Bob Cuplin

E-mail: webmaster@brierelementarypta.org

****Family Fun Events News ****

Skate Night

Join us for Brier Skate Night @ Lynnwood Bowl & Skate! Monday, November 3, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Admission is \$6 per person and an additional \$2.50 for in-line skates. Roll your way to a great time!!

****Fundraiser News ****

Thank you to all who participated in the Fall Catalog and Cookie Dough Fundraiser! The families and friends of Brier Elementary helped us raise **\$25,500**.

All orders must be picked up on the product delivery day: Thursday November 13! No exceptions. A flyer will come soon with the exact hours for pick-up.

Congratulations to the following classes, who reached their goal of 60% participation: **VanEtten** - 1st Grade, **O'Neil** - 1st/2nd Grade, **Hemphill** - 4th Grade, **Gray** - 4th/5th Grade, **Overleese** - 5th/6th Grade, **Wilkening-Joly** - Primary Intensive Support. These classes were entered into a drawing to win a class party, and the winner was.....Mr. Overleese's class. Congratulations!

Every child who participated in the fall fundraiser was entered into a drawing to win one of twelve fun raffle prizes. On Oct 20, names were drawn and prizes were delivered to winners: Amber Stradling, Karly Rismoen, Eric Gallagher, Hillary Henrichs, Stephen Cuplin, Keegan Manley, Britta Sinclair, Isaac Otis, Lilliana Flores, Devany Clark-Parker, Jesse James Martineau and Maddie Wolff-Gee.

The Box Tops for Education contest is now over for FALL . . . but NOT FOR THE YEAR!! Start collecting your Box Tops for the Winter/Spring Contest, February, 2009! You can continue to help contribute by signing up on the Box Tops for Education website, www.boxtop4education.com. They have a wonderful MARKETPLACE, with many favorite family stores. A percentage of qualifying purchases will automatically be credited to our school. Check it out! Thank you, and keep on clippin' those Box Tops!!

Entertainment Books: Help us reach our goal of 500 Books sold! Books are \$20 each, and if we can sell enough of them, the Brier PTA will keep half of the proceeds.



The Entertainment Book sale will begin soon. The youngest child in each family will bring a sample book home. If you choose not to participate, just return the book to school in the envelope provided. The Entertainment Book offers GREAT savings, so we hope you will take the time to look through the book and share it with your family and friends.

****Legislative News ****

State-wide PTA Advocacy Efforts

The Washington State PTA, (WSPTA) through its grassroots process, has adopted these Legislative Priorities as the goals we must achieve in the 2008 session of the WA State Legislature that convenes in January, 2009.

1) Full funding of K-12 education. Redefine the Constitutional term 'Basic Education' to include: lower class size in early grades; a 6-or 7-period day at secondary level; all-day kindergarten; Pre K programs for targeted students; full time librarians, counselors, nurses; Honors, IB and AP programs; Special Education; Transportation.

The Basic Education Task Force will soon issue its report that states that all of the above must be paid for, now, or our public school system will not survive the financial crisis facing it. Cost will be between \$1 to \$2 Billion, spread out over 5 or 6 years.

2) Reform of the WASL exam. Changed so that it is: time and cost efficient; comparable to other national tests; same students are followed/tested through the grades rather than testing a new class each year at a grade level; 'diagnostic', identify student learning needs; stop requiring that special education and non-English speaking students take the exam. Not be used as only criteria or test for graduation.

3) Strengthening Math/Science Education. Over half of students fail the math WASL; three fourths fail the science; half of college freshmen need to take math remedial classes due to low skill level; need a consecutive, coordinated math curriculum; more pay to attract quality math/science teachers.

4) Teacher pay. Many studies show that the most important, single factor that has the greatest impact on your child's academic success is the quality of the classroom teacher. Salaries and training must be dramatically enhanced, base pay on student performance and outcomes, not experience in years or degrees.

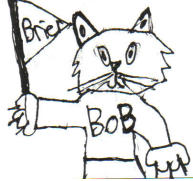
5) Increase the requirements for academic HS Diploma. Require these standards for HS graduation so students can go to college, succeed, and be competitive for the better technical and professional employment opportunities. Four years each of: Math, Science, English, History; two years foreign language, two years elective.

You too can be an 'Advocate' to dramatically improve the quality of our children's education. Learn more about the issues; read the full descriptions of the PTA Priorities on their website; find your representative's or candidate's response to these priorities to assist you in your decision of how to vote.

Don't forget to turn in your ballot on or before Tuesday, November 4!



PTA Calendar of Events November 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
3	4	5	6	7	<p style="text-align: center;">Bobcat Artist Corner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brier Bobcats!!!!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Mila Milosavljevic, 4th Grade, Ms. Hemphill</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 20px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Last chance for Bobcat clothing orders. Final orders due Monday, November 10!</p> <p>Show your school spirit by purchasing Brier Bobcat Gear apparel. Youth and adult sizes are available.</p> <p>Orders will be delivered the week of December 1.</p>
Monday Morning Coffee E-mail Reflections entries accepted Brier Skate Night @ Lynnwood Bowl & Skate 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Election Day Don't forget to vote!!		Reflections Workshop Brier Elementary Gym 6:00 - 8:00 pm school	No school Teacher Professional Day	
10	11	12	13	14	
Monday Morning Coffee E-mail Veteran's Day Assembly 11:15 am in the Gym Bobcat Clothing Forms Due	Veteran's Day (Yes Tuesday this year) No School	November PTA Board Meeting 5:45 - 7:00 pm		Popcorn Friday	
17	18	19	20	21	
Monday Morning Coffee E-mail					
24	25	26	27	28	
Monday Morning Coffee E-mail			Happy Thanksgiving No School	No School	

This year's Monster Mash was a huge success! We had a wonderful turnout and everyone had a great time.

A big, big **THANK YOU** and **KUDOS** to Dianna Bellacy for coordinating this event! The PTA would also like to thank Albertson's and all those who donated cookies/cupcakes. A very Special thanks goes to:

Dianna Bellacy, Cindy Gallagher, Vince Espinoza, Jill Brocksmith, Bobbi Cacatian, Jennica Harrison, Angie Claveria, Kelly Powers, Cathy Jackson, Astrid Rivera, Darci Brooks, Janel Arreola, Laura Sigurdson, Christi Osburn, Bill Hitchcock, Vivian Kirk, Laura Arndt, Kim Sowers, Ann Nichols, Gail Orsillo, Steve Martineau, Vince Espinoza, Erasmu Garcia, Kelly Powers, Kim Maxfield, Kami Otis and Karen Manley and Mike Gallagher.

Thank you for donating your time to help set-up, "man" the booths and clean-up. Without you, we wouldn't be able to do this for the kids and it certainly wouldn't be the Monster success it was!

