



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BRIER ELEMENTARY PTA

# THE BRIER BUZZ

Brier Elementary PTA: Making every Brier Elementary students' 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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 Communication Chair - Kim Maxfield  
 Family Fun Events Co-chair - Kami Otis  
 Family Fun Events Co-chair - Karen Manley  
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 Volunteer Chair - Kim Sowers  
 Principal - Tori Thomas  
 Teacher Rep Primary (Grades K-3) - Karolyn Julius  
 Teacher Rep Intermediate (Grades 4-6) - Amy Vecera

### Coming Attractions . . .

Fall Fundraiser Kick off  
 Thursday, September 25

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## Let's Make a Difference Together!

What do you want to be when you grow up? What do your Brier students say when asked?

Perhaps they want to be fire fighters or doctors. How about writers or scientists? Do they want to work for Boeing like their Dad or Microsoft like their Mom? Maybe they want to be like their aunt and be a lawyer or their uncle and manage a grocery store? The possibilities are endless if they get a good education.

Brier Elementary is a great school with wonderful staff. But our school, like other schools across the state, lacks the funding for many essentials. Together, we can make a difference.

Helping each child turn their potential into reality is the vision of the PTA. We do this in many ways. We raise money through various fundraisers and grants to help put new books in the library. We purchase PE equipment and music instruments. We provide teachers with money for their classrooms and fieldtrips. We fund programs for science and the arts. We grant scholarships to the school for families in need of extra help. We give our children a voice to encourage state leaders to adequately fund education.

These are just some of the ways we are making a difference. I ask each of you to join the Brier Elementary PTA today and help our kids get the best education possible. Just maybe when asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?", your Brier students will say they want to be just like you and help kids too!

Best wishes,

*Cathy Fiorillo*

Cathy Fiorillo  
 Brier Elementary PTA President

### Did You Know?

Washington State PTA

- has a 103-year history of supporting public education in Washington
- includes 150,000 parents, teachers and students in 920 local PTA units
- is a powerful voice for children
- is a relevant resource for families
- is a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child

## Making A Difference

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

**Help make a difference at our school!** There are many opportunities at our school to share your skills, talents, and passions. Please return the volunteer form by Friday, September 19. If you would like to sign up for something but are unsure what is involved, please contact our volunteer coordinator Kim Sowers. Even thirty minutes can "Make a Difference"!

#### SeaScare Parade Volunteers:

Thank you to the many Brier Bobcats that joined Board members Cathy Jackson, Kim Maxfield, and Jenny McDowell and helped at the Brier Seascare Parade on August 13! A very special thanks to Ken, Julia and Ben Bogle for putting together a great "float" for Brier Elementary PTA! Other volunteers who helped were: Kristine Birnbaum, Jill, Jacob, Julia and Kobe Brocksmith; Laura, Ryan and Josh Decker; Debbie, Ethan, Elizabeth, and Ryan Dunne; Mike and Nicole Gallagher; Brady and Max Jackson; Hailey King, Lauren Sowers, Shannon and Trevor Tipple-Leen; and Alex, Mandy and Olivia Webb

Kindergarten Jumpstart - On August 11 the PTA provided coffee, donuts, and a warm welcome to the kindergarten families who attended the Jumpstart program.

School Grounds Cleanup - Thank you to all those who joined Board members Cathy Jackson, Penny Ebright, Kim Sowers, and Cathy Fiorillo on August 23, and helped with mowing, weeding and pruning. Thank you Susan Adkins; Bill, Julie, Wyatt and Catherine Allemann; Nick and Jack Fiorillo; Brady and Max Jackson; Craig, Chris, Helen and Lesa Keith; and Kathy Saneto. A special thank you to Cub Scout Pack 76 for helping with this community service project including Rick and Conor Ebright; Shannon and Nolan Sowers; and Grant and Joseph Campos.

Staff Luncheon - The PTA welcomed the staff back to school with a lunch on August 28. Thank you to Staff Appreciation co-chairs, Christine Ong and Diane Tiff-Hairell for organizing a wonderful buffet for the teachers. Our thanks to all who contributed: Julie Allemann, Margo Allen, Kristine Birnbaum, Gini Bouche, Jill Brocksmith, Bob Cuplin, Debbie Dunne, Cathy Fiorillo, Ingela Hense, Meredith Hunt, Cathy Jackson, Lesa Keith, Karen Kisler, Karen Manley, Kim Maxfield, Kami Otis, Heather Owens Kelly Powers, Kathy Saneto, Laura Sigurdson, Marie Tschirgi, and Kim Sowers.

Back-to-School Coffee - As the students began their first day of school, the parents were welcomed in the library by the PTA. Thank you Hospitality chair Eden Riddell for coordinating this wonderful event.

Cutting Project for Principal Tori Thomas - Thank you Amber Dodge, Darci Brooks, Cathy Jackson, Kathy Saneto, Kim Sowers and Mandy Webb for helping Principal Thomas.

## Membership News!

**Join PTA Today!**

**Last Year 100% of Brier Elementary Teachers were members!**



Support PTA-sponsored student academic programs, financial grants for classrooms, specialists and learning support staff, and school-wide family events.

**All students benefit from a strong PTA!** If you haven't had a chance to turn in your membership envelope, please turn it in as soon as possible. Scholarship memberships are available!

**Turn in your envelope and win a prize!** Fridays from Sept 12-Oct 24 two names will be drawn from PTA members who have joined as of that date for the 2008-2009 school year. Children of the winners will select an item from the PTA membership prize basket.

**Important Reminder:  
School Phone Directory/  
Monday Morning Coffee E-mail form  
Due September 19!**

## PTA General Membership Meeting

Please join us at the first PTA General Membership meeting of the year.

**Date:** Thursday, October 2, 2008

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

**Location:** Brier Elementary School Library

**Featured Speaker:** School Principal Tori Thomas

Everyone is welcome! Adult-supervised childcare is provided!

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 first Tuesday of each month during the school year from September - June.

Please send any 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.

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**\*\*Fundraiser News \*\***

**Fall Fundraiser Begins September 25!**

Our fall fundraiser is coming! Watch for the Great American Fundraising Gift Catalog packets to come home on September 25. Great American offers fantastic gift wrap and gift items for anyone on your list! We will also be selling delicious Tasty Batters Cookie Dough.

PTA receives **50%** of the sales proceeds from the gift catalog orders, **40%** of the cookie dough sales, and **100%** of donations. This fundraiser produces almost half of the PTA's operating budget for the year, and it provides a great way for family and friends to support our school.

There is a great prize package, and students who participate are eligible to earn some fun prizes! Check out

the prize brochure that comes home on Sept 25! Sell 10 items, and win an instant prize – a 6 foot long pencil. AND if you can sell ten items, your family also gets to choose one item from the catalog for free!

Classes with at least 60% participation will be entered into a drawing to win a class party. And finally, watch for one of the ten hidden Wacky Tickets in the packets that come home. If you get one, bring it to the office to collect your prize!

Orders are due on October 13. Thanks very much for your support.

**Entertainment Books:**



Entertainment Books are on sale this year for \$20 each. Order forms and a sample book will be coming home later this fall! However, books are available for purchase right now! Stop by the office to fill out your name on the order sheet, or call Cathy Jackson at 425-776-2655 to arrange for delivery. Coupons in the books are good immediately, so buy yours early and start saving now!

**Survival Kits:**

Remember, each Brier Elementary student must have a survival kit. Order yours from PTA, and it will be delivered right to your child's classroom. Order forms went home on the first day of school and are in this week's packet. Orders are due by October 1, so don't delay – order yours today!

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

The Back to School BBQ, the first social event of the year, was a hit with families and staff on Meet-the-Teacher day. Brier families and staff enjoyed hot dogs, chips and drinks served by Family Fun Events co-chairs Kami Otis and Karen Manley. Thank you to all who made this a huge success including Jerome, Nate, and Isaac Otis; and Shannon Latta.

We look forward to seeing you in October at our next family fun event, the popular Monster Mash Dance!



**Get your New Brier Bobcat Clothing!**

New look! New Prices! Our Bobcat Gear this year comes in royal blue with white lettering. T-shirts, crewneck and hooded sweatshirts are available in child and adult sizes.

Order forms are being sent home in this week's packet. Please return your order to your child's teacher by Friday, September 12. Purchased items will be sent home with your child the week of September 22.

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

**Brier Fitness Club**

The percentage of overweight children in the United States is growing at an alarming rate - 1 out of 3 kids are now considered overweight or obese. Many kids are spending less time exercising and more time in front of the TV, computer, or video-game console. And today's busy families have fewer free moments to prepare nutritious, home-cooked meals, day in and day out.

The Brier Fitness Club wants to reverse this trend for the students of Brier Elementary by providing opportunities for fitness before school, after school, or at lunchtime recess,

but we need your input and help.

Please fill out the survey in this week's packet and return it to school no later than Friday, Sept 19. Additional surveys can be found on the [www.brierelementarypta.org](http://www.brierelementarypta.org).



**Student Art Coming Soon!**



## PTA Calendar of Events September 2008 (including October sneak peek)



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
	First Day of School Coffee 9:30 am School Library			
8	9	10	11	12
	Join PTA Today!	PTA Board of Directors Meeting 5:45 –7:00 pm School Library		Form Due: Bobcat Clothing  Membership Drawing
15	16	17	18	19
				Membership Drawing  Forms Due: School Directory Fitness Club Survey Volunteer
22	23	24	25	26
First Monday Morning Coffee E-mail Distributed  Edmonds PTA Council Meeting 7pm @ESC			Fall Fundraiser Kick Off Assembly	Membership Drawing
29	30	October 1	October 2	October 3
Monday Morning Coffee E-mail		Form Due: Survival Kits	PTA General Membership meeting @ Brier Elementary Library 7:00 pm	Membership Drawing  Coffee Chat 9:30 am @ Starbucks 44th & 228th  PTA Legislative Assembly

### Support PTA through these EASY fundraisers!

#### eScrip



eScrip links participating stores or merchants to your registered Safeway card, debit cards, and credit cards. Each time a purchase is made at a participating merchant with a registered card, a donation is made to the Brier PTA. Log on to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and go to "sign up". Designate Brier PTA to receive contributions (group ID# 8560992) and register your Safeway card, debit cards, ATM cards, and credit cards.

#### Albertson's



Albertson's will contribute up to 4% of your purchase to our PTA. Go to [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com), enter zip code 98036, click on "In the Community" at the bottom of the page, click on "Community Partners" on the right side of the page, then log in with your Albertson's club card # and phone number, click on "find a partner", link your card with Brier PTA ID # 49000123743. Once that is done, when you use your preferred card at any Albertson's, it will automatically be linked to Brier PTA.

#### Box Tops for Education



Our PTA receives 10 cents per Box Top and/or the face value of each Bonus Box Top submitted. Box Tops are found on common products such as Pillsbury, General Mills cereals, Ziplocs, Gold Medal, Betty Crocker, Yoplait and many more. Send your box tops to school in a baggie with your child's name and teacher during the specified weeks.

#### Wamoola



If you are already a Washington Mutual Bank customer, enroll at [www.wamoolaforschools.com](http://www.wamoolaforschools.com) which will earn a point for our school every time you use your ATM card. These points will be converted into a donation that can be used by the school.