



# 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
- Secretary - Julia Bogle
- Treasurer - Jenny McDowell
- Communication Chair - Kim Maxfield
- Family Fun Events Co-chair - Kami Otis
- Family Fun Events Co-chair - Karen Manley
- Legislative Chair - Ken Bogle
- 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 . . .

**Thursday, March 12 is Family Movie Night**  
See page 4 for more information

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## Thank You for Making A Difference

Last week PTA marked 112 years of service to America's children. On February 17, 1897 more than 2000 people answered the call of Alice McClellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst to attend the inaugural meeting of the National Congress of Mothers, the original name of what came to be known as the PTA.

In honor of this special anniversary, I'd like to thank all of you for answering the call and helping us make a difference at our children's school. Our kids are getting a better education because of what you do.

If you have any doubt of the importance of the contributions our PTA makes to our school, just look at the list below and consider what our school would be without a strong PTA. This is just a sample of some of the items, programs and events PTA has funded and/or sponsored this year:

- Classroom supplies
- Field trips
- Assemblies
- Library books
- Equipment for the PE Department
- Music and instruments for the Music Department
- General Scholarship fund
- 6th Grade camp scholarship
- Family Fun Events and Popcorn Fridays
- Lost and found coat rack and shelves
- Office supplies
- Teacher Resource Center
- Science Center Van
- Art Cart and Kiln Supplies
- Artist-in-Residence
- Spring Music Concert props and Cantare field trip to VA Hospital

Best wishes,

Brier Elementary PTA President

### Did You know?

**\$1000** - the value of the benefit to schools, per student, when parents get involved in their children's education at school or home.

Source: University of New Hampshire, "Parental Effort, School Resources, and Student Achievement"

## Making A Difference

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

A great big THANK YOU to Ann Herbig and Lisa Dam for performing the mid-year audit of the PTA's books.

Thank you Eden Riddell for your help this year serving on the Board as the Hospitality Chair. Due to conflicting schedule, Eden has to step down from the position. Eden will be a great asset to future PTA boards. Thank you Eden - you will be missed!

### **GOLDEN ACORN AWARD**

This year your PTA is giving the Golden Acorn Award to a PTA member who has given exemplary volunteer service to children and youth in our school community. The Golden Acorn Award is given for continued and dedicated service that is "over and beyond" in areas of PTA, school, and community-wide service. This is an excellent way to honor a PTA Member for their contribution to this association and to also donate to the education of our youth.

The Golden Acorn Award recipient is given a gold pin in the shape of an acorn and a special certificate. A contribution of \$65.00 will also be given, in the recipient's name, to the Washington State PTA Financial Grant Program. This program provides grants each year totaling approximately \$66,000 to Washington State high school graduates entering their freshman year at a college, university or vocational school of their choice.

Nominations will be made to a award committee headed up by PTA volunteer coordinator, Kim Sowers. Committee members review all the nominations received and select the award winner. Please consider serving on this important committee. While it will take very little effort or time, it will be an awesome opportunity to be involved in a wonderful act. Look for the award committee form coming home soon! Committee members and PTA Board members are not eligible to receive the award. Golden Acorn nomination forms will be sent out as soon as the committee is formed.

Please feel free to contact Kim Sowers, Volunteer Coordinator at [slanksowers@comcast.net](mailto:slanksowers@comcast.net) or 425-771 5528 with any questions.

### **\*\*Membership News\*\***

#### **Let's Win a Laptop for Our School!**

Thank you to everyone who joined PTA at Skate night. If you are not currently a PTA member there is still time to sign up.

We are still working towards winning a laptop from the National PTA for being one of 12 PTA's who gain the highest percentage of new members between January 1 and March 31, 2009! Help us be one of the 12 schools and win a laptop for the Brier Elementary workroom!



### **\*\*Programs\*\***

#### **Yea! Popcorn Fridays Are Back!**

Spring is almost here and that means the return of Popcorn Fridays. Below is a list of dates to remember, mark your calendars for these very important days weather permitting.

March 6 – Welcome back **Free** popcorn day. Everyone will receive one **free** bag of popcorn.

Additional dates are: March 20, April 10, April 24, May 1, May 15 and June 5. Popcorn is 25¢ cents a bag.

Volunteers Needed: At least 3 additional adult volunteers are needed to help pre-pop popcorn or sell popcorn during lunch recess, please contact Penny Ebright at [pje001@yahoo.com](mailto:pje001@yahoo.com), or Jill Brocksmith at [jdjkbrock@verizon.net](mailto:jdjkbrock@verizon.net) if you can help on a date that works best for you. Don't be shy! Come watch your kids play on the playground and help sell popcorn. Time commitment is about one and half hours.

### **PTA Supports the Arts**

Everyone is excited for the all-school musical concert which will be held March 16, 17 and 18! On display will be student art projects made during this year's Artist-in-Residency Art program. A special thank you to our fabulous Music Teacher Mary McBride for your hard work on the Concert and to members of the Brier Art Committee including Art Chair Debbie Dunne and Kiln Chair Jill Brocksmith for your hard work with the Artist-in-Residency program. PTA provided funds for both the Art program and the Concert props.

### **Lost and Found Garment Rack**

Is your child missing a coat, sweater, or lunch box? Check out the new Lost and Found Garment Rack, purchased by the PTA located, in the Gym vestibule. PTA volunteers sort and hang items on the rack.

Helpful hint: Write your child's name on coats, hats and lunch boxes to help in recovering lost items. Unclaimed items will be donated to a charity in June.

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 e-mail: [Editor@brierelementarypta.org](mailto:Editor@brierelementarypta.org)

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

### **Seeking Fundraising Chairs for Next Year!**

This is the time of year when plans are being made for next year's fundraisers. Having served for two years, current fundraiser chair, Cathy Jackson is stepping down. We need your help! Please consider helping your school by signing up to be a chair or co-chair for next year's major fundraisers.

#### **Fall Fundraiser Chair/Co-Chair**

This involves looking through the many catalogs and choosing a company to contract with (which happens this spring, and is a very fun process!), advertising the sale in the fall, scheduling a kick-off assembly, collecting and tallying of orders, money counting, and coordinating distribution day volunteers and location. In the spring, fundraising companies (i.e.. Sally Foster, Nicholson, Great American, Elliott Bay, etc.) host amazing free lunches (at places like Anthony's, Arnies, Emory's, Palisade, etc.) for school reps, so that they can look at sample products and meet the sales reps.


These lunches are fun (you will walk away with lots of freebies!), and are a great way to compare the companies and products. We would love to have a couple of people attend these lunches on behalf of Brier PTA, so ask your friends if

they are interested in co-chairing this with you next year!

#### **Entertainment Books Chair/Co-Chair**

This involves some advertising in the fall, getting the packets ready to send home with the kids, and collecting the orders and unsold books.

#### **Spring Cookie Dough Co/Co-Chair**

There has been discussion about eliminating the cookie dough sales in the fall, and having a stand-alone cookie dough sale in the Spring, when fundraising isn't as heavy. These chairs would be responsible for choosing a company (ie. Otis Spunkmeyer), advertising the sale in the spring, collecting and tallying of orders, money counting, and coordinating distribution day volunteers and location. 

Please contact Cathy Jackson if you have any questions at all, or are interested in any of these positions for next year. We really do need your help! She can be reached at 425-776-2655, or [cathyLjackson@comcast.net](mailto:cathyLjackson@comcast.net).

**Volunteer and make your resume stronger!**

### **Upcoming Fundraisers**

The annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming up in May, and we are looking for another person to co-chair with Christi Osburn. This is such a fun event to be a part of, and two chairs means twice the fun and half the work! If you are able to assist with advertising, calling volunteers (this is easy, as they have already signed up to help!), set-up, cashiering, etc. please contact the Fundraising Chair Cathy Jackson, at 425-776-2655 or [cathyLjackson@comcast.net](mailto:cathyLjackson@comcast.net).

In an effort to cut back on the fundraising this spring, the Book Plate Drive will be postponed until next year. The library receives proceeds from both the Book Plate Drive and the Scholastic Book Fair. We hope you will get excited about the Scholastic Book Fair and support the library this May!

### **Box Tops**

Thank you for bringing in your Box Tops for the Winter/Spring contest last week. Volunteers are busy counting and clipping them, and we will report the final count in next month's Buzz. Please continue to save your Box Tops all spring and summer long, for collection next fall.



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

#### **Thursday, February 26, 2009 is Focus Day at the Legislative Building, Olympia, WA**

Even if you can't attend the entire day, please join the rally on the capitol steps from noon - 1:00 pm.

Join PTA members from across the state. Special guest speakers include Governor Christine Gregoire; Senator Rosemary McAuliffe; Representative Ross Hunter; Representative Skip Priest; Robert Harkin, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mary Jean Ryan, State Board of Education; Judy Owens, Public School Employees

#### **We Need Your Voice!**

Please hurry and turn in those 2009-2010 PTA Board Nomination forms! Elections will be held Thursday, April 9, 2009 at the next PTA General Membership meeting (note date change.)

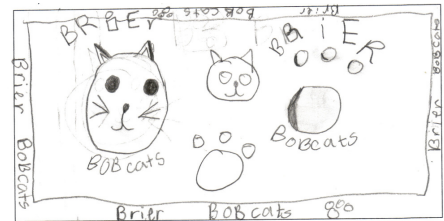
# PTA Calendar of Events March 2009



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Feb 23	24	25	26	27
Coffee e-mail Kindergarten tour for new families @ 11:00 am	March PTA Newsletter Distributed		Focus Day Olympia	School Yearbook Forms Due
March 2	3	4	5	6
Coffee e-mail				FREE Popcorn
9	10	11	12	13
Coffee e-mail		PTA Board Meeting 5:45 - 7:00 pm	Family Movie Night	NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Development
16	17	18	19	20
Coffee e-mail			12:20 Early Release for Conferences	Popcorn Friday
23	24	25	26	27
Coffee e-mail	April PTA Newsletter Distributed		Science Fair & Egg Drop	
30	31	Apr 1	2	3
NO SCHOOL Spring Break	NO SCHOOL Spring Break	NO SCHOOL Spring Break	NO SCHOOL Spring Break	NO SCHOOL Spring Break



## Bobcat Artist Corner



**Emily Webb, Mrs. Lafferty,  
3rd grade**

### MEETING DATE CHANGE

Due to scheduling conflict with the Science Fair, the next PTA General membership meeting has moved to Thursday, April 9, 2009 @ 6:45.

Please don't forget to turn in those nominating forms!!



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

**Bring the family for Family Movie Night featuring: "Madagascar Escape 2 Africa"**



Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm in the gym.

- ☺ The movie will begin at 6:30 pm.
- ☺ Free admission and free popcorn!
- ☺ Bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating
- ☺ Beverages and candy will be available for purchase.

For the safety and comfort of all, students must be accompanied by an adult and the adult must remain for the movie. Students arriving without an adult will not be let in the movie. Enjoy the Show!