



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 . . .
See page 4 for more information
 Brier Elementary PTA Bowling Night,
 Monday May 11

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Creating Tomorrow Today

This past weekend was the Washington State PTA Convention. It didn't make the news, even though it was a very newsworthy event. The convention was attended by nearly 800 PTA members from across the state including moms, dads, grandparents, teachers, principals, state legislators all with one mission to help our kids reach their potential. This year's convention theme was "Creating Tomorrow Today" through volunteer, voice and vision.

Participants at this annual convention attended eight class sessions which began Friday morning and ended Sunday morning. We also heard dynamic speakers including State Superintendent Randy Dorn. We participated in the state election process and voted on important resolutions that some day may make their way to the legislation. I am pleased to announce our local unit was recognized at convention for going above and beyond by receiving the Bronze Honor Unit Award and our newsletter received a second place award. Woo Hoo! Thank you to all of you! I wish you could have heard the applause - it was meant for you too! Thank you for giving your voice by joining PTA!

There is a lot of work happening this time of year for the next academic year. Recently the PTA budget committee met to develop a balanced budget for consideration at the next General Membership meeting on May 28. While we recognized fundraising numbers may be lower next year, we were able to develop a budget that will continue to significantly help support our kids and school.

The Edmonds School District is also currently preparing for the next academic year. Unfortunately, once again this year the district is facing a severe budget crisis. I encourage all PTA members to visit the Edmonds School District website, www.edmonds.wednet.edu, and review the proposed budget cuts that will significantly impact our school. The school board is seeking input on the proposed budget cuts and is holding four community meeting which are posted on the calendar on page four. Your voice is important and can help create tomorrow today.

Best wishes,

Cathy Fiorillo

Brier Elementary PTA President

Making A Difference **Volunteer News**

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for the Golden Acorn Award. Look for results in the next Buzz.

Thank you to this year's budget committee. Thank you Laura Decker, Marie Tschirgi, and Debbie Dunne who joined Board members Penny Ebright, Cathy Fiorillo, Cathy Jackson and Jenny McDowell.

Thank you to volunteers for helping to make **Bingo Night** a huge success! Thank you to all who came and played!

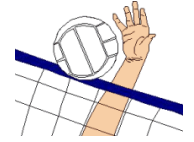
A BIG THANK YOU to Mr. Allen Turner, Vice Principal of Brier Terrace Middle School, for emceeding and calling out the Bingo numbers. Loretta Henderson-Martin and Jay Wang.

Thank you to our wonderful Principal Tori Thomas and fabulous custodian Loretta for all the help you gave!

The Bingo Committee would also like to thank the wonderful volunteers who helped with table set-up, card sales, popcorn and concessions including Jerome Otis, Penny Ebright, Cathy Jackson, Kim Sowers, Cathy Fiorillo, Jenny McDowell, Bobbi Cacatian, Kelly Powers.

Fitness Club:

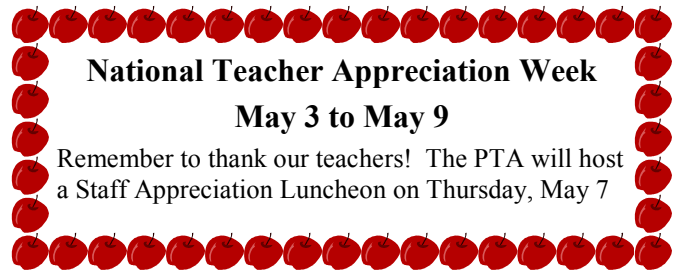
Volleyball, anyone?



The Brier PTA is looking for volunteers to supervise and/or participate in volleyball games at lunch recess in May and June (weather permitting).

Wednesdays or Fridays, 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Please contact Penny Ebright @ pje001@yahoo.com, 425-776-6554 or Christi Osburn @ rcrjosburn@earthlink.net if you can help.



National Teacher Appreciation Week

May 3 to May 9

Remember to thank our teachers! The PTA will host a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, May 7

May PTA General Membership Meeting

Are you feeling stressed out? Do you feel like the year is just rushing by? Need to hear some good news for a change? Has it been a while since you just sat, relaxed and shared a cup of your favorite hot beverage with a friend? Are you nodding yes?

Give yourself an hour of guilt-free, relaxed fun and attend this year's final general membership meeting on Thursday, May 28, 6:45 - 8:00 pm in the Brier Elementary Library.

The PTA offers free adult-supervised child by the wonderful Eileen Dalton. The kids will be safe and have fun too.

We will approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget and hear all the positive ways our PTA is helping our school. Come share your thoughts and ideas.

Maybe you will get lucky and even win a door prize!

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

Copyeditor: Liane Thomas

Web Manager: Bob Cuplin e-mail: webmaster@brierelementarypta.org



Programs

Popcorn Fridays !

Thank You to the following for helping with Popcorn Friday on April 10 and 24.

- ☺ Cathy Jackson
- ☺ Kathy Saneto
- ☺ John Sinclair
- ☺ Laura Decker
- ☺ Theresa Cook
- ☺ Bill Allemann
- ☺ Jill Brocksmith
- ☺ Wendy Wolf-Gee
- ☺ Mandy Webb
- ☺ Kim Bond

We are still looking for volunteers for the remainder of our Popcorn Fridays. Dates help is needed: May 1 & 15 and June 5. If anyone would like to help, contact Penny Ebright at pje001@yahoo.com .

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a coat?

The school's lost and found is bursting with coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, and many lunch boxes. Please come and check out lost and found and claim your child's lost items or encourage your child to look in the lost and found if they are missing items.



The Annual Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

Stock up on your summer reading and support our library. One hundred percent of the profits from the Book Fair will be used to purchase new for our school library.

Back by popular demand, gift certificates are available for purchase by May 15. Consider showing appreciation to a teacher with the purchase of a gift certificate, which allows teachers to add books to their classroom libraries and/or pick up a Book Fair book for themselves. Visit the PTA website to print a gift certificate order form.

Hours:

- Wednesday, May 20 – room 11, 1:15 pm – 4:30 pm
- Thursday, May 21 – room 11, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Thursday, May 21 – gym, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The School Open House and Arts Festival is open from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

Consider donating a book to the Kids Need to Read organization. Books collected will go to two Seattle Public Health Clinics. The clinics give books to children who come in for a well child visit.

Volunteers are still needed, especially for Thursday, May 21! Contact Book Fair co-chair Astrid @ astrid@comcast.net or 425-673-9053

Congratulations to Next Year's PTA Executive Officers

The general membership recently elected the Executive Committee for the 2009-2010 school year. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers. Officers are eligible to serve two consecutive years in an elected position.

Thank you to Cathy Fiorillo (president-elect), Penny Ebright (vice president-elect) and Jenny McDowell (treasurer-elect) for your continued leadership and commitment. A warm welcome and thanks to Kristine Birnbaum (secretary-elect) for your willingness to join the PTA board as a new member and share your talents with our organization.

Thank you to this year's nominating committee for their time and service to our PTA. Debbie Dunne, Michelle Lyon and Karen Manley spent hours soliciting and screening nominations.

If you are interested in serving on the Board in a non-elected position, please contact Cathy Fiorillo 425-640-3393 or president@brierelementarypta.org.



Legislative News

It's Basic! We did it! ESHB 2261 Passes!

The Washington State PTA teamed up with organizations such as the League of Education Voters, Stand for Children, Public School Employees and other education advocates and asked the Washington State Legislatures to reform our state's education system.

What resulted was ESHB 2261. Both the House and Senate have voted yes on this historical education reform and the Governor is expected to sign this bill into law. For the first time in 30 years, major additions have been added to the basic-education program it provides to Washington's public-school students. Washington State now has the framework to give our kids the education they deserve.

ESHB 2261 includes:

- Focusing basic education on college and work ready standards
- Raising high school graduation requirements to 24 credits

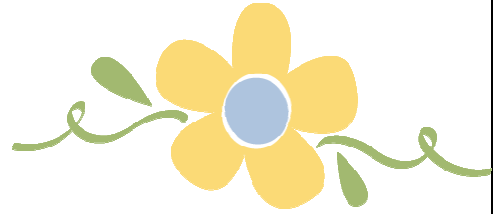
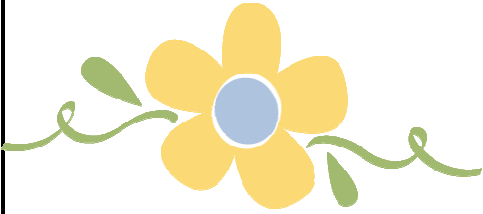
- All-day kindergarten, and early learning for at-risk children
- More resources focused on closing the achievement gap
- Fully staffed schools, including librarians, counselors and nurses

Admittedly much work will be needed on this bill and Washington State PTA will continue to work with on this bill. According to those close to the work on the bill, "the challenge now is to put together a funding source that adequately addresses the needs, which is estimated to be at approximately 2 billion more per year." As the state's economy recovers, ESHB 2261 is the blue print to providing a better education for the kids of Washington State.


Please take a moment and thank your state legislators for voting yes on this important bill for our kids!

Sources used for this article include material from the Washington State PTA, Washington State League of Voters, and the Seattle Times.

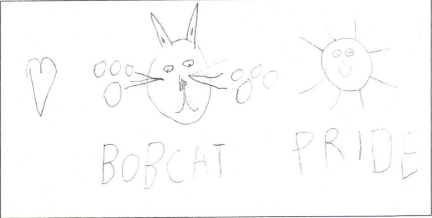
PTA Calendar of Events May 2009



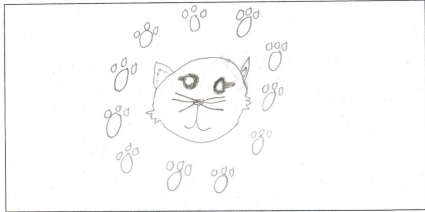
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
				PTA State Convention Popcorn Friday
4	5	6	7	8
Coffee e-mail Golden Acorn nomination due	Buzz distributed	District Budget meeting 7-8 pm @ Lynnwood High School Library	Staff Appreciation Luncheon	
11	12	13	14	15
Coffee e-mail Bowling Night 6:00-8:00 pm @ Lynnwood Skate and Bowl		PTA Board Meeting 5:45 - 7:00 pm	District Budget meeting 4-5 pm @ Meadowdale High School Library	Popcorn Friday
18	19	20	21	22
Coffee e-mail		District Budget meeting 7-8 pm @ Edmonds-Woodway High School Library	School Art Festival and Scholastic Book Fair	
25	26	27	28	29
Coffee e-mail		District Budget meeting 7-8 pm @ Mountlake Terrace High School Library	PTA General Membership Meeting 6:45 - 8:00 pm	



Bobcat Artist Corner




**Avery Coleman,
1st Grade Ms. Van Etten**




**Max Coleman
3rd Grade, Ms Julius**

****Community Events****



Come and play with
Terrace Brier Soccer Club
Registration for fall soccer
opens on May 1st
at Terrace-Brier.org



Community events are announced space permitting.

**Family Fun Events News **

Mark your calendars for Brier Elementary Bowling Night! Monday, May 11 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Lynnwood Bowl and Skate. Price is \$6.00 per person. Includes shoes and all the bowling you can do in two hours!