



THE BRIER BULLETIN

June 3, 2008

Greetings Brier Families,

It's June, and I can hardly even believe it! What an amazing school year it has been! As we begin to bring closure to our school year, it is so rewarding to think about all of the fun, all of the learning, and all of the amazing events that have taken place. We still have so much to look forward to! In the coming days, we will celebrate Sixth Grade Graduation, Field Day, Student Appreciation and of course our PTA carnival! Speaking of our carnival, I hope that you will be able to come join in the fun! Mark your calendars to join all of us for our carnival event during the evening of June 6th. A lot of hard work, hours of planning, and tons of energy have gone into preparing for our event! The kids are super excited, and I know I can't wait! In addition to the PTA carnival, a silent auction will also be taking place during the evening in Room 5. The Silent Auction is a fundraiser created to benefit our very own Brier Elementary Students by helping to lower the costs of attending 6th grade Outdoor Education Camp in the fall of 2008! There are so many great donations that everyone will have an opportunity for bidding on. Did you know that my chair is up for bid in this auction? Come on, how many of you would have loved the chance to sit in the principal's chair for a day in your very own classroom? It is going to be a great event and I want to thank in advance all of our amazing volunteers, parents, and carnival enthusiasts who have worked so hard to make this event a ton of fun for everyone! Auctions, Carnivals, Family, and Fun... I am looking forward to all of the excitement the end of the year will bring with it!

This school year has brought about a lot of work regarding mathematics. I have continued to keep all of you up to date on the progress of our math adoption, and we have made huge progress in this area recently. Throughout the year, the Mathematics Leading and Learning team spent many hours studying the materials, examining research from the companies, engaging in deep conversation, listening to teachers in the district; and collecting information from many sources. As a part of this committee, we tried to examine the factors involved in achieving a high quality balanced mathematics program.

The subcommittee of the Math Learning and Leading Team met for two intense afternoons of discussion and an evening of study with the School Board. The commitment of the subcommittee members was serious and the discussion deep and thoughtful. Throughout the work, input from teachers and parents across the district was reviewed. We considered the many complex issues facing us regardless of our choice: diversity of student needs, range of teacher experience, "splits" and multi-age classes, primary and intermediate grade differences,

demands on teachers' time for preparation, etc. We looked at these issues and the materials from a variety of perspectives, each of which shares the common goal of improving the quality of mathematical learning for each child.

At this time, Math Expressions by Houghton Mifflin is being recommended to the Edmonds School District Board of Directors as the core mathematical program.

Based on careful analysis of the materials, it is the belief that Math Expressions will support the important goals below.

1. Students will follow a clear path of arithmetic development between and within grades; a path which is rich in conceptual understanding, procedural skill development, and the use of arithmetic in problem solving.
2. Students in 5th grade will have the computation skills, fraction understandings, and reasoning abilities they need to be fully ready for CMP2 in grade 6.
3. Teachers will have a clear and organized core instructional tool which meets or exceeds the Washington State Standards in mathematics.
4. Teachers will have a tool with options for students of diverse needs: English Language Learners, learning support students, and students who exceed state math standards and need an additional challenge.
5. Parents will have materials which support their work with their children by providing clarity of purpose and examples.

The math adoption process has been an incredibly thorough process. With input from all stakeholders, a final decision of Math Expressions will be recommended to our School Board and based on that decision we will continue to move forward! We here at Brier are excited about this adoption and are looking forward to a year of new learning in mathematics! I want to thank all of you for your support in our rigorous work and let you know that next year will be a very exciting time as the Edmonds School District moves forward to adopt a mathematical curriculum district wide!

Brier Families, have a wonderful week! The carnival is this Friday and I hope to see you all there. I cannot believe the end of the school year is so close! What an incredible year it has been!

Spring Smiles,

Tori Thomas, Principal

The on-line Brier Bulletin has changed!!! It is now available on our school maintained website, both past and present issues! Paste this link into your favorites:

<http://staff.edmonds.wednet.edu/brier/default.html> and you are ready to go!

Please notify the school office if you no longer need a paper copy. *Thank you for saving us time and cost by opting out of receiving a paper copy.*

Calendar of Events

6/5 Student Council Mtg. 8:00am Library

6/5 Brier Student Appreciation Celebration at Brier Park (10:00-3:30pm)

6/6 Brier PTA Carnival 5:30-8:30pm

6/6 Silent Auction Fundraiser during the Brier PTA Carnival, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Room 5

6/9 FT - Walsh/Julius Brier Park @ 11:30-3:00pm

6/10 PTA Board Meeting 5:15-7:00pm

6/11 Site Council Mtg. @ 8:00-8:50am Library

6/11 5th grade Bite of USA 9:20am

6/11 5th grade Parade of States 3:15pm

6/11 5th grade Parade of State Presentation @ 7:00pm Gym

6/12 FT - Gray, Hemphill, VeCera Brier Park 10:00am-2:00pm

6/13 FIELD DAY

6/16 FT - Parker, Kubinski, Lafferty Brier Park 11:00-2:30pm

6/16 6th grade Graduation 7:00pm Gym

6/17 6th grade @ Brier Park 10:00-2:00pm

6/17 Last day for Mrs. Murphy's PM Kindergarten class

6/18 Celebration Assembly 9:20am

6/18 No school only for Mrs. Murphy's PM Kindergarten class

6/18 Early Dismissal at 12:10pm

6/18 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Information for Families

Carnival - Friday, June 6th @ 5:30pm-8:30pm. The Carnival is coming up fast and there are still Volunteers needed. The Carnival sign up book is now located in the office.

Carnival Ticket Pre-Sale - Buy your tickets early! Thursday, June 5th 8:30-9:30am, 3:00-4:00pm and 6:00-7:00pm. Friday June 6th - Brier Carnival - 5:30-8:30pm.

The Edmonds School District Health Services Department is seeking part-time hourly vision screeners during the fall of 2008. Training is provided. Potential screeners are required to attend a training session on Monday, June 16 10:00-12:00 noon at the ESC Board Room A. You need to be available to work between the hours of 6:30 am and 4:00 pm, as needed. All offers of hire are contingent upon passing a nation-wide criminal history check. For more information, please contact Cheryl Robinson, RN at 425-431-1064. Thank you.

Brier Elementary School Site Advisory Council
May 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Bill Allemann, Ken Bogle, Stephanie Bollen, Amy Collins, Bob Cuplin, Cathy Fiorillo, Kathy Saneto, Tori Thomas. Members Absent: Michelle Hayes, Rita Lyon, Julie Wyman, Gail Yampol

Meeting started at 8:00 a.m.

1. Welcome by Tori Thomas
2. Date of June Meeting
The date of the June Site Council meeting has been changed to Friday, June 13, 2008.
3. CPC Update
There was no update to report.
4. School Discipline Policies
Tori Thomas and Ken Bogle briefly talked about the school's current discipline policies and some possible changes being proposed to the policies. Tori reported that the school's Supportive Learning Environment team is meeting to discuss this subject. Stephanie Bollen reported on the new Alternative Recess that has just been implemented as a way to address behavioral issues that occur during the school day for intermediate students. A letter of explanation about the Alternative Recess is being sent home to parents of all intermediate students. At next month's meeting, Tori and Stephanie will provide Council members with an update on the efforts of the Supportive Learning Environment team and the Alternative Recess program, respectively.

Tori also provided an update on the recent anti-bullying assembly that was held for the entire school yesterday.
5. Student Success Plan
Tori distributed for review the most recent and final version of the Student Success Plan. The handout outlines the general expectations for students, parents/guardians, teachers and the principal as it relates to the successful education of each student. The document was approved by Council members and the school plans to use this handout as part of the Fall 2008-09 parent-teacher conferences/ meetings.
6. Brier Bulletin
Tori distributed for review a draft of the proposed new format for the Brier Bulletin. Council members were in agreement that the new format should be effective and streamline the process of assembling the Bulletin. The school plans to start using the new format at the beginning of the new school year.
7. School Start Times Update
Tori reconfirmed for Council members that the proposed new start times for Brier Elementary will remain as previously notified. She also disseminated a copy of the Edmonds School District memorandum that explained their rationale for implementing the 2008-09 School Start Times.
8. Council Members for 2008-09
Tori asked current Council members for feedback regarding their interest in serving on Site Council for the 2008-09 school year.
9. Brier School Improvement Plan for 2008-09
This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by Kathy Saneto (Secretary)