

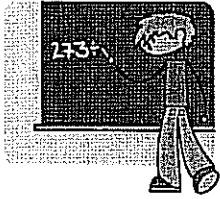
The Brier Bulletin

Brier Elementary School—Home of the Bobcats

A Message from the Principal:

Brier Elementary Mathematicians are Amazing!

Greetings Brier Families,



We are off and running with our new math program, Math Expressions, in grades kindergarten through fifth. In kindergarten and first grade, the program consists of completely integrated units. Grades 2-5 employ longer units that focus on and relate to word problems, computation, algebra, and data. Each unit in grades 2-5 is also followed by a mini unit that focuses on geometry or measurement. Math Expressions was developed to meet the national need for a balanced math program that combines a reform math program focus on understanding with a more traditional program focus on skill. Our new program allows students to experience connective teaching and math modeling on a daily basis.

Visiting classrooms and observing our students engaged in this program is a dynamic experience! Student leaders stand in front of the class leading their peers through mathematical fluency activities. Student peers walk around the class willing to help a friend connect understanding, ask probing questions, or work with another student to find a solution. Our kindergarteners are moving tiles together to form different numbers and then vocalizing that one number added to another number makes a certain number. The learning process from classroom to classroom is incredible! A key aspect of Math Expressions is that everyone is both a teacher and a learner, and this is essential to the creation of an effective learning environment. An additional aspect of our new program is that it integrates opportunities to increase self-regulatory actions of students so that they can become more organized (such as by doing work neatly and regularly completing homework) as well as set learning goals and carry out a plan to meet those goals. We are very excited about our new math program and appreciate all of your support. For more information about Math Expressions, please visit: www.eduplace.com

Please continue conversations with your son/daughter about what he/she is learning regarding math. The more communication around mathematical vocabulary and concept knowledge, the more confidence and support our students will develop.

On another note, we love welcoming into our school all of our Brier Families and our community. Please help us to maintain a safe learning environment by *always* remembering to check in at the office before going into the other buildings on campus. Even if all you want to do is walk your son or daughter to class, we would still ask that you let us know you are visiting campus by signing in. It only takes a second, and it makes a huge difference. We all appreciate your attention to this.

Our Brier Staff would like to share with you that Mrs. Hartle, one of our very dear kindergarten teachers will be taking a leave for the remainder of the school year. She will need time, care, and support as she uses every ounce of energy to battle cancer this year. I know that I can count on our incredible community to support her through this time and send her your well wishes and tender thoughts. She has an incredible spirit and triumph to face the challenges ahead. We love and adore Mrs. Hartle and are already looking forward to her return to Brier next school year.

November Smiles, Mrs. Thomas



Firm, Fair & Consistent[®]

Guiding Students for School Success

Brier Elementary

Tori Thomas, Principal

Teach kindness by experience —and example!

True kindness involves more than being nice. It requires *empathy*—understanding how others feel. It takes time for your child to build this skill—and you can help right from the start. Think back to when your child was a baby. When you smiled at her, sometimes she smiled back. She noticed your emotions. Now that your child is older:

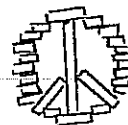


- **Keep setting an example.** Seeing your kindness raises *her* chances of being kind. Do family activities that involve compassion, such as volunteering.
- **Be understanding.** Research shows that parenting with empathy is good for kids' emotional development.
- **Listen well.** Ask questions about your child's day. "How did that make you feel?" Then show that you listened. "It sounds like you were really relieved."
- **Explain feelings.** Describe them in words your child will understand. For example, "When you told Joey he couldn't come over, he felt left out."
- **Reward empathy.** Say things like, "You read a book to your little sister to help her feel better. Thank you! Your kindness really helped."
- **Imagine together.** Read and talk about people's emotions. "How would that make you feel?" "What would you do in that situation?"
- **Learn from mistakes.** No one is perfect. Practicing empathy is a lifelong process. Promoting this trait makes a big difference.

Source: Linda Morgan, "Teaching kindness and empathy to children," Parent Map, www.parentmap.com/content/view/73.

Approach discipline in a stepfamily as a team

Discipline is just one of the tricky issues new stepfamilies may face. To handle discipline issues smoothly:



- **Let the biological parent** do the correcting when possible.
- **Explain the house rules** as a couple. Show your child that you're a team.
- **Don't expect peace right away.** Becoming a family is a process. It takes time to build love and respect between kids and their stepparents.

Source: Virginia Molgaard, "Parenting in Stepfamilies," Iowa State University Extension, www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1547C.pdf.

Get the facts on TV violence



Do you know how much violence your child sees on television? According to research:

- **Nearly two out of three** TV shows portray violence.
- **Two hours of daily cartoons** show roughly 10,000 violent acts in a year.
- **Kids' programs contain** twice as many violent acts as other programs.

What should you do? Set limits on TV time and know what your child is watching. Talk about the consequences of violence with your child.

Source: "Violence & Aggression," CommonSenseMedia.org, www.commonsensemedia.org/parent_tips/health_survivalguide/violenceaggression.php.

You know you should compliment your child.



But use your glowing words carefully. For example, if you tell your child he's "perfect" or "a genius" too often, he may expect impossible things of himself.

Instead, use words that match your expectations, like "hardworking" and "kind."

Source: Dr. Sylvia Rimm, *How to Parent So Children Will Learn: Strategies For Raising Happy, Achieving Children*, ISBN: 978-0-910707-86-2 (Great Potential Press, Inc., 1-877-954-4200, www.giftedbooks.com).

Hold your child accountable



Try not to think of discipline as punishment. Think of it as being about *accountability*. That is, focus on holding your child accountable for her actions when she misbehaves—not merely on punishing her. "I asked you not to put your dirty hands on the wall, but you did anyway. Now you need to clean it up. Would you prefer a sponge or paper towels?"

Source: "Solutions to Parents' Top Discipline Problems," FamilyEducation.com, <http://life.familyeducation.com/discipline/parenting/29452.html>.



News Flash



Edmonds School District
#15
Parent Math Night
For Parents of K-5 Students

Math Expressions

Come to a 1 hour session introducing you to the new math materials in grades K-5! Wednesday, November 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm at Lynndale Elementary 7200 191st Street SW Lynnwood, WA 98036

(425) 431-7365 - Building Phone

Agenda: A 30 minute presentation about the Math Expressions program by Dr. Jacqueline McDonald. Elementary Math Coordinator will be followed by a 30 minute question and answer session.

Child Care: Available for each session

Translators: Spanish translators will be available to help.

Brier Pride Pledge...

At Brier, we are Responsible,
Kind, Respectful and Safe.

I am ready to learn and
will encourage others
to be successful because
learning comes first!



Community Workshops on School District Finances

A three-part series of workshops will be offered to the community to learn about funding and use of financial resources in the Edmonds School District. These will be held Oct. 29, Nov. 19, and Dec. 3. All workshops are from 7-9 p.m. at the Edmonds School District Educational Services Center, 20420

68th Avenue West, in Lynnwood.

Topics include:

- Oct. 29: Funding of K-12 Public Education in Edmonds School District
- Nov. 19: How does Edmonds School District use financial resources?
- Dec. 3: What are the upcoming financial issues facing the District?

These workshops are open to community members, parents, staff, students, and anyone interested in learning more about the funding and use of resources in our local public schools. For more information, please visit www.edmonds.wednet.edu.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY:

It's been busy at the library this fall. Over 50 students have signed up to be library helpers during recesses. We also have many parents volunteering during their student's class time in the library. If you'd like to volunteer, contact our librarian,

Mr. Sonnen.

We opened the year with new books from last year's PTA Book Fund-Drive and wonderful donations from 2 Brier families. Students have enjoyed the new titles and are reading more than ever!

Science Fiction author, PJ Haarsma visited last week. He did a presentation at an assembly for intermediate students and autographed copies of his books. There's more excitement to come in the library this year. Thanks for your continued support.

Dave Sonnen
Teacher Librarian

Reminders:

Please remember to fill out an absence request form in advance if you know that your child will be absent for two or more days. Blank forms are available in the Office.

Important Dates



November 7: No School—Teacher Prof. Development Day

November 10: Veterans' Day
Assembly 11:15am

November 11: No School -Veterans' Day

November 27-28: Thanksgiving Break

December 10: Report cards go home!







January 10: District Information Fair @ Lynnwood High School 9:00-12:00.

Do you have gently used clothes your children have outgrown? Consider donating to Clothes for Kids

Clothes for Kids has seen a rise in families this fall who are in need of warm clothes. Their shelves are almost empty, and there will be more families in need of help as winter continues. Please consider donating your children's gently used clothes, shoes, and coats to Clothes for Kids, located at 16725 52nd Ave. W. Suite B, in Lynnwood. For more information, please visit www.clothesforkids.org

NOVEMBER



| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|  | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Standard Time Begins  | 3 | 4 General Election Day  | 5 FT-Gray, Hemphill, VeCera 11:30am Supt. Roundtable 12:00-1:00pm @ ESC District Office | 6 Student Council Mtg. 8:15am | 7 No School Teacher Professional Development Day | 8  |
| 9 National School Psychology Week Nov. 10-14 | 10 Veterans' Day Assembly @ 11:15am Gym School is in session today | 11 No School Veterans' Day | 12  Picture Retakes Parent Math Night @ 6:30-7:30pm Lynndale Elem. | 13 Site Advisory Council Mtg. @ 8:10am | 14 | 15 |
| 16 American Education Week 16-22 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 End of first Trimester – Report cards coming home December 10 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 No School Thanksgiving Day | 28 No School Thanksgiving Break | 29  |

