

The Brier Bulletin

Brier Elementary School—Home of the Bobcats

A Message from the Principal:

Greetings Brier Families,

The crisp, cold air is sure a sign of fall fading away and winter wandering in! Can you all believe it is December already? WOW! December is such a special month! A time of family and friends, a time of memories, and a time of giving and sharing in the spirit of the season! Enjoy the month ahead with those you love and care for.

Learning is in full force and what fun it is! Many goals were set at conferences and hard work on those goals is demonstrated day in and day out here at school. During conferences, many of you had an opportunity to talk with your student's classroom teacher regarding our new Brier Elementary Student Success Plan. This tool helps to create an often unspoken partnership between many of the important people in our student's lives as well as our students themselves. It is so important that as our students continue along their learning journey, that they know they have support all around them. Our Student Success Plan is a recommended tool from our Learning Assistance Program through the district. Thank you to each of you for your continued support of your son/daughter and our school to home partnerships. Working together for the success of our Brier students is the only way for us to work! An additional thank you to our Brier Site Council for their hard work and thinking behind the Student Success Plan and to our staff for the processing of this plan! From all of us here at Brier, thank you to our community for all you do!

There is so much going on here at school. One hot topic is always school safety. Our safety team has been meeting to create a well thought out and very thorough school safety plan in the event of any emergency situation. Throughout the year, we will hold many practice drills including six fire drills, a lock down, the shelter in place drill we recently held, as well as an earthquake drill and additional drills that the entire Edmonds School District will participate in together to ensure district wide safety. These drills continue to help all of us to refine our procedures and ensure that we are keeping everyone as safe as can be in emergency situations. Our Brier Elementary staff does a terrific job of talking through these emergency situations with our students and discussing the hows and whys of each of these situations as they arise.

I hope that you all enjoy this magical month with your family and friends! Winter vacation begins soon, and I hope that you find your extra time with your child (ren) to be tons of fun! We'll miss you all here at school, but we'll see you all in the new year...2009! Enjoy the holidays!

December Smiles,

Tori Thomas, Principal

Unity

I dreamed I stood
in a studio
And watched two
sculptors there,
The clay they used
was a young child's mind
And they fashioned
It with care.

One was a teacher,
the tools she used
were books and
music and art,
One was a parent
with a guiding hand
and a gentle loving heart.

And when at last
their work was done
They were proud of
what they had wrought
For the things they
had worked into the child
Could never be
sold or bought.

And each agreed she
would have failed
if she had worked alone
For behind the parent
stood the school
and behind the teacher
stood the home.

by Ray A. Lingenfelter,
Elementary Principal



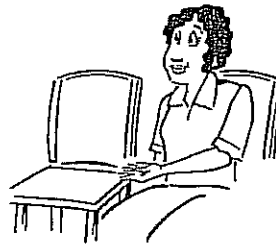
Firm, Fair & Consistent®

Guiding Students for School Success

Teach tolerance when communicating

Communication involves more than words. In fact, communication is often more nonverbal than verbal. Imagine all the ways people “speak” without words. They shake hands. They clap. They smile. To show this, role-play some situations with your child silently. Pretend to:

- *Ask someone* to sit next to you.
- *Tell a friend* to “Go for it!”
- *Be hurt* by someone’s words.
- *Feel sorry* about something you did.
- *Look for* an item you lost.
- *See someone* after a long time apart.
- *Be bored* during a telephone conversation.
- *Tell everyone* you’re okay after falling down.
- *Thank someone* for helping you.
- *Have no idea* how to answer a question.
- *Believe you’re right* and someone else is wrong.



Then discuss how nonverbal signals sometimes get misinterpreted, especially in a diverse culture with many customs. Someone from Indonesia, for example, might smile if embarrassed. In France, the American sign for “okay” has different meanings. It can represent “zero” or “nothing.”

If something is unclear, teach your child to say something like, “I’m confused about how you feel.” That’s better than jumping to a conclusion or starting an argument. Talk about times you have been misunderstood. What happened? What did you learn from it?

Source: “The ABCs of Conflict Resolution,” Teaching Tolerance, www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=869&pa=3.

Develop character through reading

When you read with your child, you build her reading skills—and you can also build her character. Choose books that reflect your values.

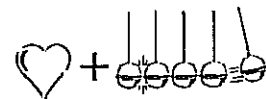


For example, one school reads Mary Hoffman’s *Amazing Grace* to teach about diversity and inclusion, and Dr. Seuss’ *Oh, The Things You Can Think!* to promote creativity.

Ask a librarian to help you find books that match your ideals.

Source: Patti Glezzi, “Teaching Kids About Character,” PTO Today, www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/454-teaching-kids-about-character.

React to misbehavior with love and logic



Discipline can be a great challenge to parents. One popular discipline method emphasizes two key factors—love and logic. Instead of yelling and nagging:

- *Empathize.* Understand what your child might be thinking and feeling. “You’re frustrated that you can’t go first.” Remember, your goal is to help your child.
- *Be consistent.* Enforce sensible consequences in a kind, calm manner. Let your child see the results of his choices. “You still haven’t picked up your toys. I’m afraid we won’t have time to go to the park now.”

Source: “How to Use Love and Logic Discipline,” eHow, www.ehow.com/how_2106256_use-love-logic-discipline.html.

Keep tabs on TV time

Research shows that 51% of kids live in homes where the TV is left on nearly all the time. But inappropriate shows can impact behavior. To monitor your child’s TV time:

- *Know exactly* what she’s watching.
- *Learn to set* your TV’s v-chip to block unsuitable programs.
- *Set rules* about what she can and can’t watch.



Source: “Watching Television with Your Children,” www.freemanpta.com/uploads/Watching_Television_with_your_Children.pdf.

Teach your child to mean it when he says, “I’m



sorry.” For his apology to be sincere, your child should:

- *Understand* what he did and take responsibility.
- *Realize* how his behavior affected someone else.
- *Offer* to fix anything he may have damaged.
- *Explain* how he plans to do better next time.

Source: “Apologizing,” Parenting.org, www.parenting.org/archive/light/life_lessons/2001-02/jun02_apologizing.asp.



News Flash

Kindergarten Registration for 2009/2010 is coming! The District Fair will be on January 10th at Lynnwood High School. Registration packets will be available to pick up. On January 12th at 9:30am registration will begin in our Office. If you have any questions, please contact our school office at (425) 431-7854 or Shelley Roehl at (425) 431-7176. Please see the enclosure for more information.

Food Service is looking for a parent who might be interested in giving input and guidance to the district about School Meal Programs. The council meets 3 times a year usually on Wednesday evenings from 6-8:00pm at the Educational Services Center. The first meeting is planned for December 10th. For more information please contact Barbara Lloyd at (425) 431-7073.

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!



MUSIC NOTES

Congratulations to all the students who performed at the Veteran's Day Assembly! Every grade level performed in honor of our veterans. Mr. Overleese, Ms. King and Ms. Gonçalves/Hansen's classes did a wonderful rendition of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Dancers and singers alike from Ms. Lafferty, Ms. Julius and Ms. Kubinski's class performed "How I Love My America". Our youngest patriots in Ms. Yampol, Mr. Parker, Ms. Van Eten, Ms. O'Neil and Ms. Murphy's class sang and marched to "Wee American March". The Intermediate grades sang a touching song, "Thank a Vet", as well as a medley of armed services songs entitled, "American Heroes". Along with preparing for this important assembly, music skills were learned and practiced: steady beat, melodic shape, rhythm and melody reading, tracking, reading a choral score, practicing dynamics, tempo, and of course, matching pitch and vocal quality. Great job and excellent perseverance to all students!

Cantare members will be performing at the annual **Brier Tree Lighting** (this is our 19th year!) on **Saturday, December 6th** at Brier Park next to the City Hall. Please meet in the City Hall building at 5:45 with warm clothes appropriate to the weather, and if you want, holiday accessories (Santa hat, bells, reindeer ears, etc). We will sing around 6:30, and be finished by 7:00. Everyone is always welcome to hang around and eat cookies, drink cider and hot chocolate and talk to Santa! Cantare will also perform at the Winter Assembly, Friday, Dec. 19th.

The date of our SE Vocal Quadrant Concert has been changed to Wednesday, May 6, at 7:00 at MTHS.

Thank you to all the Brier Community for your continued support of music at Brier.

In Harmony,
 Mrs. McBride

Don't miss the annual Moundlake Terrace High School Music Boosters' **Winterfest Breakfast Celebration** on Saturday, December 13 from 8 A.M.-Noon in the Moundlake Terrace High School Hub at 21801 44th Ave. W. This "fun for the whole family" event includes a pancake breakfast, entertainment by local school music groups, and an opportunity to obtain great holiday pictures (with or without the jolly man in the red suit). Breakfast is \$4 for students/seniors and \$6 for adults. Quality digital prints produced on-site are \$6 to \$8. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Contact Janet Lindsay at 425-775-7013 for more information.

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



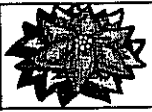
- December 5: No School
- December 6: Orchestra Concert (combined Brier & Hazelwood 6th grade students) 11:00am
- December 6: Brier Tree Lighting @ Brier Park 6:30pm
- December 22-Jan.2: No School-Winter Break
- January 10: District Information Fair @ Lynnwood High School 9:00-12:00.
- January 12: Kindergarten Registration 9:30am @ Brier Elementary School Office

The Public Education Foundation (PEF) for the Edmonds School District in cooperation with Barnes & Noble present a **Family Book Fair** Dec. 11, 12 13. Make your teacher's book wish come true. Your teacher's wish list for their classroom libraries will be available at the **Alderwood Barnes & Noble** Dec. 11-13, 2008. You can get the perfect present for your teacher and your student's classroom. Questions, call Debbie Duvall 425-431-7260 or email duvalld@edmonds.wednet.edu.



Lost and Found: Please check the lost and found in the gym for any coats, jackets or hats. We will be donating unclaimed items after December 19th to Clothes for Kids.





DECEMBER



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4 Student Council Mtg. 8:15am	5 No School Teacher Professional Day	6 6th grade Orchestra Concert @ Mountlake Terrace Ele. Holiday Bazaar 11:00am Brier Tree Lighting @ Brier Park @6:30pm
7	8	9	10 Report Cards Come Home (Grades 1-6)	11	12 Field Trip 1st Grade Nutcracker 9:30-12:30pm	13 MTHS Music Boosters Winterfest Celebration 8-12 @Mounlake Terrace High School
14	15	16	17	18	19 School Spirit - Pajama Day Winter Assembly @ 9:40am	20
21 First Day of Winter Hanukkah (Sunset 12/21-Sunset 12/29)	22 No School Winter Break Dec. 22-Jan. 2	23	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa (12/26-1/1)	27
28	29	30	31			

Remember school starts Jan. 5, 2009

