



The Brier Bulletin

Brier Elementary School—Home of the Bobcats

Greetings Brier Families,

April showers bring May flowers, and I can't wait to see all of the colors of spring in full bloom! Spring is such an inviting time to sit back, take in the fresh air, and enjoy the warmth of the season. I hope you all find time to enjoy the sounds and the spirit spring shares with all of us! Congratulations are in order for all of the hard work, stamina, and focus our students put forward during their April days of WASL testing. I am so proud of all of the students for the amazing learning they have accomplished this year and for the effort they demonstrated throughout their testing days! Way to go Bobcats!

This first week of May is going to be an exciting week! This week, May 3rd - May 8th, we will recognize our amazing classroom teachers who put their heart and soul into the work and learning they do with our students. I'd like to say a huge "thank you" to our student council students who have created a week full of surprises for our teachers and will recognize them in style throughout the coming days. Our teachers are incredible people with amazing passion, dedication, and commitment to making a difference in the lives of young students. This week we recognize their unbelievable support, enthusiasm, and care that they bring to school each and every day for each and every one of our students. Thank you to all of our Brier teachers for the way you each touch the lives of so many. You are appreciated and admired in so many ways.

Along with recognizing our amazing teachers, this month we are also looking forward to our Brier Open House/Arts Festival! Our Brier Open House/Arts Festival will be Thursday, May 21st from 5:45-7:45 pm! Doors will open at 5:35 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendars for this wonderful event! We are all very excited to have our families back at school and share with all of you the variety of art opportunities and incredible learning our students have experienced throughout the year. From 5:45-6:30 there will be an opportunity to "play with clay" in the library with our Artist in Residency, Jane Steele-Meagher. Our Brier event is an opportunity to invite our families to school to share in the love and enrichment of the arts as well as provide you a chance to see all of the learning taking place throughout our school and in your child(ren)'s classroom. Participating in the "play with clay" time will be a wonderful opportunity to learn clay techniques and have a great time as a family participating in the love of art! We look forward to seeing all of you during this event! All of our little artists have been busy, and we're ready to share all of their incredible work! Be sure to stop by our book fair sponsored by our amazing PTA that will also be taking place throughout the evening in the gym. We have a wide selection of books for the entire family and with summer fast approaching, a new book may be just what those long summer days has in order!

Brier Elementary has definitely been sticking our necks out this year. I am amazed at the number of service projects that students have taken on. We began a new character education/service learning curriculum this year titled the "Giraffe Project" and the outburst of kids wanting to do things for others has been exemplary. Mrs. VeCera's classroom and Mrs. Bollen's classrooms organized a teddy bear drive earlier in the year to collect teddy bears for Children's Hospital. Mrs. Gonsalves' and Mrs. Norenberg's class organized our Children's Hospital drive that collected 38 boxes of donated items that were shared with the hospital. Be sure to check out the article in the Enterprise for more information on this drive. Our student council sponsored our Food Drive for Mountlake Terrace Concern for Neighbors. Mrs. King's class is currently organizing a drive for the Puget Sound Kidney Center to provide supplies for those people spending time on dialysis machines. Mrs. Gray's class is providing service to our Brier gardens and our 6th grade class is shifting their thinking from a typical gift back to the school to a service project for the community to enjoy. The thinking and the work is impressive and certainly shows a dedication to service for the community and for people! Giving back is incredibly rewarding and Brier certainly knows how to give back! Thank you to all of our families for your support in our service projects throughout the school year.

Brier families, I wish you a wonderful month of May full of outside activities, family time, and sunshine! We'll keep the learning going strong here at school! See you all at our Open House/Arts Festival!

May Smiles,

Tori Thomas, Principal



Firm, Fair & Consistent

Brier Elementary

Guiding Students for School Success

Show how perseverance pays off

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." This phrase sums up perseverance—the ability to push forward without giving up, even when it's hard. Perseverance leads to success. Researchers also link it to confidence, responsibility and a willingness to take healthy risks.

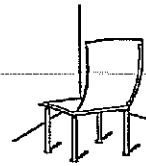
To build your child's perseverance:

- **Set reasonable expectations.** Help your child pick goals that are sensible, yet challenging. Expecting too much of someone can be harmful.
- **Allow room for mistakes.** It doesn't take perfection to reach a goal. In fact, facing setbacks—and persisting in spite of the setbacks—is quite an accomplishment.
- **Limit criticisms.** Kids need their parents' support, so tell your child what she's doing right. When you must criticize, do it in a helpful, caring way.
- **Be a role model.** Show that you like to keep trying. Note positive examples in stories and books (*The Little Engine That Could*).
- **Offer encouragement.** Say things like, "That math homework isn't easy. But you're really sticking with it!"
- **Teach patience.** Patience and perseverance go hand in hand. For example, waiting for results from a science experiment takes both—but it's worth it!



Source: Marianne Neifert, M.D., "Raising a Moral Child," Parenting.com, www.parenting.com/article/Mom/Health-Fitness/Raising-a-Moral-Child-21354393/6.

When is disobedience a serious problem?



All kids disobey their parents at times. But consider that your child's disobedience may signal a bigger problem if it:

- **Happens constantly.**
- **Doesn't improve** despite your efforts to make it stop.
- **Is accompanied by anger or aggression.**

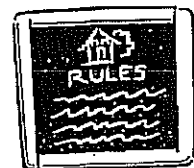
If this sounds like your child, you may be dealing with more than simple disobedience. At this point, it's important to talk to his school counselor or pediatrician about finding outside help.

Source: "What can be done about a chronically disobedient child?" American Academy of Pediatrics, www.aap.org/publiced/0KJ_Disobedience.htm.

List and post your essential rules

Try writing down your family's "household rules." How long is the list? Consider making just a few, reasonable rules (not too many!). You can set clear limits based on your values. Post the rules as a helpful reminder.

Not sure what to include? Next time you're at school, notice which rules teachers have posted in the classrooms. These provide good food for thought—and consistency between school and home.



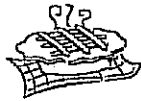
All *work* and no *play*, as the old saying goes, makes a child dull. But all *play* and no *work* doesn't prepare a child to grow up to be a responsible adult.



This summer, help your child use her leisure time wisely. Set aside time to read favorite books aloud, and schedule visits to the library. Encourage physical activity. And expect her to keep to the chore schedule.

Is your child patient?

Does your child want what he wants—when he wants it? To teach your child patience:



- **Enjoy "slow" activities.** When you're gardening or baking together, it's tough to rush.
- **Delay gratification.** Have your child save for what he wants.
- **Model it.** If you're stuck in traffic, don't pound the dashboard. Chat with your child or play a car-friendly game like I Spy.

Source: Marilyn Helms, M.D., F.A.A.P., "Teaching Kids Patience," ParentKidsUghr.com, www.parentkidsright.com/pt-patience.html.



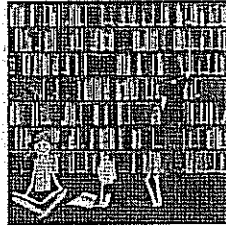
News Flash



Open House & Arts Festival is Thursday, May 21st from 5:45-7:45pm

Open House in classrooms will only be from 6:30-7:00. There will be two clay sessions that you can choose from taking place in the library. Clay Session One: 5:45-6:30. Clay Session Two: 7:00-7:45.

Brier Elementary Book Fair will also be going on this evening as well in the gym before, during and after the event.

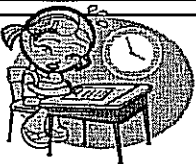


HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

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!



Congratulations WASL Testers! We are so proud of you! Thank you to all of the parents who sent in snacks for our WASLers!

Teacher Appreciation Week

is May 3-8. We appreciate you and your dedication, your talents, your caring attitude and being a dynamic part in the lives of our children! Thanks for helping to make us a great school, and for being a part of our great staff!



WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Edmonds School District #15 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION June 2, 2009

In these challenging and difficult times our volunteers are more important and valuable to us than ever before. In appreciation of the many hours of volunteer service given to the Edmonds School District, the School Board would like to honor our generous volunteers at a reception on June 2, 2009.

Please join us from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 101/102 at the Educational Service Center (ESC), 20420 68th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA 98036 for refreshments and an opportunity for the Board to share their sincere gratitude.

"May happiness touch your life today as warmly as you have touched the lives of others." - Rebecca Forsythe

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



- No School May 8, 22 & 25
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-8
- National Educational Bosses Week May 17-23 (Principal Thomas)
- Quad Orch. Concert May 4—7:00pm @ MTHS
- Quad Band Concert May 5 @ 7:00pm @ MTHS
- Quad Choir Concert May 6 @ 7:00pm @ MTHS
- Open House/Art Festival 5:45-7:45 May 21st
- Community meetings: May 6 7:00pm at Lynnwood High, May 14 4:00pm @ Meadowdale High, May 20 7:00pm at Edmonds/Woodway and May 27 4:00pm at Mountlake Terrace High

Future Dates

- 6/4 Parade of States 6:30pm
- 6/11 Site Advisory Council 8:10am
- 6/12 Field Day
- 6/19 Last day of school (early dismissal at 12:20pm)
- 6/19 Assembly
- 6/19 Report cards go home
- 9/8 First day of school!



MAY



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Jungle Book Assembly @2:50pm	2
3 Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-8 National Music Week	4 Quad Orchestra Concert at MTHS 7:00pm Rehearsal 9:30-12	5 Quad Band Concert at MTHS 7:00pm Rehearsal 9:30-12	6 Quad Choir Concert at MTHS 7:00pm Rehearsal 9:30-12 Community Mtg. 7:00 Lynnwood High Lib.	7 Student Council 8:15am FT—Mrs. King 1:30-3:15 Assembly-3:10pm	8 No School Teacher Professional Dev. Day	9
10	11	12 Rise to Revolution Play 6:30pm Gym	13	14 Site Advisory Council 8:10am Battle of Best Books 12:45pm @ Meadowd. Community Mtg. 4:00pm Meadowdale High	15	16
17 National Educational Bosses Week May 17-23	18	19	20 Community Mtg. 7:00pm Edmonds-Woodway High Library	21 Open House/Arts Festival 5:45-7:45pm	22 No School Teacher Professional Dev. Day	23
24	25 No School Memorial Day	26	27 Community Mtg. 4:00pm Mountlake Terrace High Library	28 Student Council 8:15am ESD Battle of the Books @ Meadowdale 9:15-noon	29 Split Day—80 's Day FT—1st grade Mercer Slough 9:30-1:30	30
31						

No School May 8, 22 & 25

