



The Brier Bulletin

Brier Elementary School—Home of the Bobcats

A Message from the Principal:

Greetings Brier Families,

Happy New Year! Hooray for 2009! It's a new year, and it feels great to be back in the swing of things here at Brier! I hope that your winter break was enjoyable and you all found time to be with friends and family and share in the excitement of the season! We are thrilled to be back, and we are ready to keep the learning rolling!

Are you familiar with our Brier Elementary Site Council? Our Site Council is a group of dedicated advocates both staff and parents who come together on a monthly basis to work together to create positive change, discuss topics of importance and initiate new goals and visions for our school. I would love to recognize our current Site Council and say, "Thank You so much for all you do for Brier Elementary." Thank you to Bill Alleman, Ken Bogle, Kathy Saneto, Bob Cuplin, Meredith Hunt, Amy Collins, Gail Yampol, Michelle Hayes, Stephanie Bollen, and Rita Lyon. I am excited to share with you a new project our Site Council has stepped up to take on this winter season!

Brier Elementary "Clothes for Kids" Winter Coat Drive January 26-30, 2009

We know that many of you have heard and read the stories about the serious lack of donated clothing available this season at "Clothes for Kids." To help address this clothing need for children in our community, our school will be organizing a children's winter coat drive to directly benefit "Clothes for Kids." The coat drive will be held the last week of this month, January 26-30, 2009 and is being sponsored by members of the Brier Elementary Site Council, with assistance from our Student Council as well as Girl Scout Troop 233. We ask all families and staff to consider donating a new or gently used children's winter coat. Collection boxes will be located in all classrooms as well as the school office starting January 26th. Donated items will be delivered to "Clothes for Kids" the first week of February. We hope all of you will join us and contribute to this very worthwhile community project!

January is a busy month back to school! Not only are we back into learning gear, we also begin to think about the upcoming school year including our new kindergartners. January 10th marks the day of our District Information Fair from 9:00am-12:00pm at Lynnwood High School. This fair provides Edmonds School District the opportunity to have all schools come together and share information about the events, activities, and opportunities available at each school throughout the district. This is also a time for all of our families with students who will be entering kindergarten during the 2000-2010 school year to attend, pick up some paperwork regarding registration, meet some friendly faces, and ask all of those kindergarten/school questions that you might have at this time! You can visit the Edmonds School District Website for more information at www.edmonds.wednet.edu! This fair also provides additional information for our sixth graders who will be transitioning into middle school next year. It is a fun event full of purposeful information. Enjoy your January Brier Families!

January Smiles, Tori Thomas



Polish your child's manners

Your youngster may not be Emily Post, but she can still have excellent manners! To boost her etiquette skills:

- **Remind her.** When your child forgets her manners, give her a nudge. "What do you say when you need to interrupt someone?"
- **Demonstrate good manners.** Never miss a chance to say *please* or *thank you* in front of your child.
- **Congratulate her when she behaves properly.** "You asked for that cookie so politely. Nicely done!"



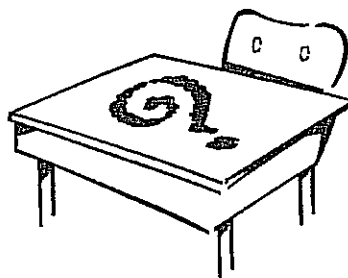
Source: Diane Sonntag, "Can You Change Your Child? Tackling Kids' Bad Habits," [Kaboose.com](http://parenting.leaaboose.com/behavior/issues/can-you-change-your-child-tackling-kids-bad-habits-poor-manners.html), <http://parenting.leaaboose.com/behavior/issues/can-you-change-your-child-tackling-kids-bad-habits-poor-manners.html>.

Questions & Answers

Q: My fifth grader does well in school, but he always has a reason—a headache, a stomachache, etc.—for wanting to stay home. How can I make him understand that attendance matters and he can't skip class whenever he feels like it?

A: It's normal for your child to want to stay home sometimes (especially if the bus stop is cold and his blanket is toasty). But don't let him fall into the habit of thinking it's no big deal to miss school. It is a big deal! Kids can't do their best in class if they're not actually *in* class. To help your child develop good attendance habits:

- **Talk to him.** Make sure there's no particular reason—such as a bully or a tough class—why he wants to stay home. If there is a reason, you'll need to help him tackle the problem.
- **Set a good example.** Do you often call in sick to work when you're feeling fine? Your child is watching. He takes his cues about responsibility from you, so make sure you're sending the right message.
- **Get organized.** Your child shouldn't be scrambling to find his toothbrush, backpack and cereal bowl every morning. Make it easy for him to get out the door by having him organize all the things he'll need the night before. This goes for laying out school clothes, too.
- **Enforce a bedtime.** Overtired kids are especially tough to rouse in the morning. So be sure your child gets to bed at a reasonable hour every night.



Meet the ADHD challenge

Disciplining any child can be tough, but if your child has Attention



Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), the task may be extra challenging. To discipline your ADHD child effectively:

- **Set clear, consistent house rules.**
- **Maintain regular routines.** Give each day a sense of order.
- **Reward his efforts.** Focus on how hard your child tries rather than on what he accomplishes.
- **Catch your child being good.**

Source: Keith Lov, "Parenting Children and Teens with ADD/ADHD," About.com, <http://add.about.com/od/childrenandteens/a/parentingtips.htm>.

What's your style?

Is your discipline style:

- **Authoritarian?** Do you demand obedience from your child—no matter what?
- **Permissive?** Does your child always get what she wants?
- **Authoritative?** Do you set and enforce fair rules consistently?

There's no one "right" way to approach discipline. Still, authoritative parents may have more success in the long run. To borrow from Goldilocks, *authoritarian* parenting may be too hard. *Permissive* parenting may be too soft. But *authoritative* parenting might be just right!

Source: "Parenting Styles," KeepKidsHealthy.com, www.keepkidshealthy.com/parenting_tips/discipline/parenting_styles.html.

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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.

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!



Notes from Mrs. McBride:

Congratulations to Cantare who did a great job at the tree lighting! We will reschedule the Veteran's Hospital Field Trip to some time in February or March.

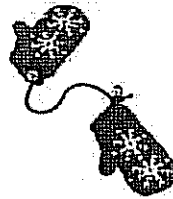


Math @Home

More or Less

Divide a deck of playing cards into two even stacks. You and your child turn over one card at a time and compare: *Is mine more or less? How many more? How many less?* The player with the greater value card takes both cards. When the stacks are gone, who has the most cards? With older children, draw two cards at a time and add them.

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Reminders: Remember to wear your coats, hats and mittens.

Important Dates



- January 10: District Information Fair @ Lynnwood High School 9:00-12:00.
- January 12: Kindergarten Registration 9:30am @ Brier Elementary School Office
- January 19 No School
- January 22 Early Dismissal at 12:20pm/No AM Kindergarten
- January 23 No School
- January 26-30—Brier Elementary Coat Drive

JANUARY 30TH IS SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY—BUDDY COLOR DAY

Brier Elementary "Clothes for Kids"

Winter Coat Drive

January 26-30, 2009

Please donate a new or gently used children's winter coat. Collection boxes will be located in all classrooms.





JANUARY



Sun.

Mon.

Tues.

Wed.

Thur.

Fri.

Sat.



1
New Year's Day
NO SCHOOL

2
NO SCHOOL

3

4

5

6

7

8
Student Council 8:15

9

10
District Fair
Lynnwood High
9-12pm

11

12
Kindergarten Registration begins 9:30am

13
Field trip
Lafferty/Julius
Wizard of Oz 11:45-2:45

14

15
Site Advisory Council 8:10am

16
MLK Jr. Assembly 3:00pm

17

18

19
No School
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

20
Emergency Drill (District) 10:00am

21

22
Districtwide Early Release 2:30pm
No am Kindergarten

23
No School

24

25

26
Brier Elementary "Clothes For Kids" Coat Drive
Jan. 26-30

27

28

29
Student Council 8:15

30
Kind. Report cards go home
Jump Rope Assembly 2:30pm
Spirit Day—Buddy Color Day

31

