



The Brier Bulletin

Brier Elementary School — Home of the Bobcats

We're Back in the School Groove here at Brier Elementary...

It's October, and we are in the school groove! Thank you to all of our families who helped to make the beginning of our 2009-2010 school year a huge success. With kids back in classrooms, learning happening each and every moment, smiles all around, and laughter throughout the school, we know we're ready for a super school year. I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all of our families who were able to join us for Curriculum Night September 24th. This evening is always one full of information and a sense of direction as to where the learning for the year will lead. With such a talented group of amazing teachers and staff here at Brier, it always feels good to know that your students are in safe, confident hands and each and every classroom can look forward to a year of learning, community building, continued growth and a whole lot of fun! The end of September also provided us the opportunity to invite families to our Watch D.O.G.S. Kickoff Event! What a night of excitement, possibilities, and fun. Everyone is so excited to begin our Watch Dog program and have our watch dogs join us on campus! If you are a dad, uncle, big brother, or grandfather, please consider becoming a watch dog at our school. We'd love to have you. If you'd like more information about our program, please contact Kim Sowers (PTA Volunteer Coordinator) at slanksowers@comcast.net or Dan Cockbain (Our Top Dog Dad) at brierwatchdogs@hotmail.com.

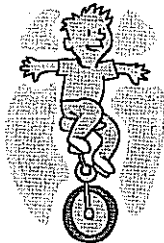
Prior to school even starting, we had some amazing families volunteer to clean up our flowerbeds on campus. I would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who were a part of this work. Having our flower beds cleaned and spruced up made our welcome back to school even better! Your hard work was definitely noticed and appreciated by all. Thank you so much! I'd also like to say thank you to our PTA who offered our first day of school coffee for all families who could join as well as a welcome back luncheon for all staff prior to school starting. Our PTA does so many wonderful things for our school, we are incredibly fortunate to have their talents and support each and every year. If you are not a part of our PTA, I hope you will consider joining. Their continuous hard work and hearts belong to our students and school community. Possibilities become realities because of the support from this group.

Our new parking lot has been a great success in creating a separate place for buses and cars. Everyone's flexibility and patience has been wonderful as we work to ensure safety. Bobcat Tracks has been a great program to get many of our students walked home or close to very safely. Be sure to wave at our crossing guards and give our Safety Patrol kids a thank you if you see them on your way to school. We appreciate our students' leadership in this activity and we think they are doing a terrific job! As we talk about student safety, I'd like to remind everyone that our school day starts at 9:20. We've had some students showing up to school too early. At 9:10 our kindergarten bell rings and our little ones head in for kindergarten. At 9:15, our second bell rings and at that time, the doors are opened to our classrooms, and 1st through 6th grade students can head inside. Please do not allow your child/children to arrive at school prior to 9:10. The only reasons a student may need to be here prior to 9:10 may be because he or she is involved in: Beyond the Bells, a before school program, or is eating breakfast at school. If your student is planning on eating breakfast with us here at school, he or she can head into the gym for breakfast at 8:45, and he or she will remain supervised in the gym until 9:15. Maintaining a safe school is our number one priority at Brier, and students arrive prior to 9:10, we do not have the supervision available for them and we compromise student safety. Just a reminder, childcare is available through our Beyond the Bells program before and after school, however there is a process for placing your student in this program. Please join us in an effort to maintain a school of safety and security for our students and staff by working with your student to arrive at school at the necessary time. Our Brier staff appreciates your concentrated effort on this very much. Have a Wonderful October Brier Families! Tori Thomas, Principal

The Brier Bulletin



PHYSICAL EDUCATION:



Hello! My name is Vicky Hardie and I am your child's PE teacher here at Brier Elementary this year. I have already found this school to be a great place for kids, faculty, and parents and I'm very excited to be here. This is my third year in Edmonds as I've taught PE at Woodway and Mountlake Terrace elementary schools.

Safety comes first when kids are in PE but **having fun** is a close second. I ask students to come to PE with this in mind as well as trying their best and being respectful and good sports. My philosophy is that everyone can be a "winner" just by participating. I try to choose a wide variety of activities in hopes that all students will find something with which they can stay active **throughout** their lives.

Don't forget our Brier PE shoe policy is **no heels or flip-flops**. Shoes that make exercising and physical activity fun are the shoes we want to see. Beware of shoes that may fly off when kicking, with all different sports and games, we'll want to be able to keep our shoes on. If you have any questions about anything regarding your child's PE class please call or email me. I welcome and enjoy conversations with parents as I always learn something new!

We will be starting the unicycle (and possibly juggling and jump rope) club. Details will be available at a later date. If you are interested in helping out or had any experience with this in past years, I would love to talk with you. Thanks for supporting our school!

Vicky Hardie, PE Teacher at Brier Elementary Phone (425)-431-2115

MUSIC:



Hi, my name is Barbara Oakley and I am the new general music teacher at Brier and I would like to introduce myself to you. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. I attended Seattle Pacific University and received my BA in music education with an emphasis on instrumental music. I returned to the Bay Area to start my teaching career. After three years, I returned to the Seattle Area to attend graduate school and met my husband in the cafeteria at school. We have one son who is 25, professional graphic designer and owns his own business. My husband is an estimator for the Washington Department of Transportation. We have one dog, a schnoodle named Banjo.

I started playing piano when I was 5 and started flute when I was 8. I still play both instruments actively. I have taught elementary band, orchestra, choir and general music, middle school band, jazz band, orchestra and choir and high school band and orchestra. I worked for four years for a music publishing company and learned the ins and outs of the music industry. I am starting my 19th year coaching flute for the Cascade Youth Symphony, teach flute privately, play in a chamber trio and sub with the Everett and Cascade Symphonies. I also do a lot of adjudicating for the junior high and high school solo and ensemble festivals. Barb Oakley, Music Teacher at Brier Elementary Phone (425) 431-3842

Congratulations to our Brier Bobcat Safety Patrol!

Austin Irving, Brady Pasco, Carson Dodge, Jack Fiorillo, Jenay Sprague, Jensen Beaumont, Nolan Sowers, Sean Dunaway, DeVany Tate, Mikael Baisch, Jaden Kelly, Ryan Dunne, Emily Anderson, Natalie Bordner and Nicole Gallagher.

A big Brier Bobcat thank you to Nolan Sowers, Sean Dunaway, Jaden Kelly, and Natalie Bordner for taking on extra patrol days to help cover for the sixth graders being at camp.



Brier Bobcat Safety Patrol is looking for responsible fifth and sixth graders who show leadership. If you are interested in patrol, please pick up a blue application in the office and talk to Mrs. Crader, if you have any questions. craderl@edmonds.wednet.edu or (425)431.2116.

STUDENT OFFICE HELPERS: Calling all fifth and six graders! If helping the office staff during recess with filing, copying, shredding, sorting mail and making special deliveries sounds interesting to you—we'd love to have you join. Please pick up an application in the office. We will begin soon! Please see Mrs. Croston or Mrs. Whittles if you have any questions.

Parent/Teacher Conferences—October 26-30

Please return your conference slip to school by Thursday, October 8th. Please send in one conference sheet for each child. Students will be getting out of school at 12:20pm. There is no school for part-day Kindergarten this week.

During conference week, lunch will be served one hour earlier than normal. Primary lunch will be at 11:20am and Intermediate lunch will be at 11:45am this week.



News Flash

Cantare: The Brier Elementary 5th and 6th grade choir, Cantare, will be starting rehearsals on Tuesday mornings from 8:30am to 9:15am. If you like to sing and would like to spend some time with your friends before school, come join the choir. You will enjoy the camaraderie of making music together and in singing in several performances. Questions, please call Mrs. Oakley at (425)431

-3842 or email at: oakleyb@edmonds.wednet.edu.

New Staff: Please join us in welcoming new staff this year to Brier: Vicky Hardie (PE), Colette Christensen (Librarian), Amy Johnson (5th grade), Barbara Oakley (Music), Betty O'Bryan (Guidance Counselor)

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!

• Volunteering at Brier Elementary:

If you'd like to volunteer at school—you will need to complete the volunteer disclosure statement and the Washington State Patrol forms found in the Volunteer Handbook. It takes 1-2 weeks to process. If you would like to drive on a field trip, you will also need to complete the Private Transportation form and will need to obtain a drivers abstract from the Department of Licensing.

• **Office Reminders:** Please, remember to call the attendance line when your student(s) will be tardy or absent. This helps Brier Elementary know that your child is safe. The number is (425) 431-7854. Also, remember to send a note to the office regarding early dismissals. A "Request for Excused Absence" form (for absences other than illness) needs to be completed for 2 or more days. Please see the Annual Update packet and complete the form and return it to school when needed.



• **Student Meal account:** How can I pay for my student's meals? Visit MyLunchMoney.com to add money to your student's lunch account.

Important Dates



- October 8th: Picture Day!!
- October 9th: No school!
- Vision Re-screening: October 21
- October 26-30: Conference Week. Early dismissal at 12:20pm (Full Day K-6th grade)
- October 26-30: No AM Kindergarten



Literacy Training
Are you a volunteer and want to feel more effective when working with students?
Are you a parent looking for strategies to use at home with your child?

This workshop is designed to give you tips, tools and strategies to help struggling readers and writers as well as challenge those above grade level.

Open to all Brier Elementary families and volunteers.

When: Tuesday, October 20th





Time: 6:30-8:00

Location: Brier Elementary Library

RSVP by October 13th to Todd Parker:

parkerto@edmonds.wednet.edu

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8  Picture Day Fall Fundraiser Assembly 3:00	9 No School Teacher Professional Dev Day	10
11 National School Lunch Week School Bus Ridership Week (12-16)	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18 National School Bus Safety Week (19-23)	19 Book-It Assembly 2:50pm Gym	20 Literacy Training for Parents/ Volunteers 6:30-8:00pm Gym	21 Vision Re-screening 	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Parent Conferences Grades K-6. Early dismissal for full-day Kindergarten and grades 1-6. No school for part-time Kindergarten(26-30) </div>						

