



THE BRIER BULLETIN

February 12, 2008

Greetings Brier Families,

Are you all ready for a fantastic week? I hope so! We have a busy four day week ahead of us! Thank you again for your support of our non-student day on Friday, February 15, 2008. We will be spending that day coming together for a meeting as an entire district to discuss our vision of elementary education. Later in the day, our Brier staff will be back together for an afternoon instructional focus on math journals. We are looking forward to an opportunity of continued learning for all of our staff.

Math, Math, Math! Three cheers for math! Earlier in the year, I shared with all of you the work we are currently underway with in the Edmonds School District. Currently, we are in the process of performing the research and action that it takes to complete a curriculum adoption. About a week ago, our Math Leading and Learning Team representing the district met for 10 hours to listen to presentations from teachers and curriculum specialists representing the five curriculums being considered for adoption in the district: Growing with Math, Math Expressions, Everyday Math, Math Investigations, and Bridges. Teacher teams and curriculum specialists shared information about each curriculum that they were specifically working with. Our team was then allowed time to ask any questions that we might have in order to get a better idea of the depth and instructional competencies of each particular set of materials. It was quite a day of learning!

Let me share with you an excerpt from the revised Washington K-12 Mathematics Standards just released from the state as of January 2008.

In the past, proficiency with algorithms-the step-by-step procedures of mathematics-was sometimes the primary measure of mathematical success. Further, it was often expected that only some students would be successful in mathematics. Consequently, many students never experienced the full range of mathematics learning.

Understanding and being able to use algorithms continues to be a necessary and even critical part of mathematics learning, but knowledge of algorithms alone is not sufficient for developing the deep and flexible understanding of mathematics required in today's world. Most important, it is not longer acceptable for only a minority of students to be successful in mathematics. Mathematically successful students in the 21st century-ideally, all students-must possess a rich set of mathematical tools and thinking skills.

An effective mathematics program, then, balances three important components of mathematics-conceptual understanding (making sense of mathematics), procedural proficiency

(skills, facts, and algorithms), and problem solving and mathematical processes (in which students use the mathematics they learn to solve problems and think mathematically). These standards make clear the importance of all three of these components, purposefully organized to support students' development as increasingly sophisticated mathematical thinkers who not only know and understand mathematics, but also know what to do with what they know. This broad-based foundation prepares students for any avenue they may choose to pursue in the rapidly changing global environment of their future.

I will continue to share with you the steps we take as a district as we continue on our quest for a unified math adoption throughout the district! It is an exciting time in our district as we complete this journey!

Speaking of math...the district has graciously rescheduled the district-wide Parent Math Workshop to be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Terrace Park K-8 School. New posters will be found in our school soon and fliers will be distributed! If you didn't have a chance to attend the first session held at Meadowdale Elementary in late January, please think about attending this session in March! It will provide a wonderful opportunity for understanding the mathematics problem solving skills, vocabulary, and other concepts needed in order to help all of our students to succeed!

Have a wonderful week Brier Families.

Winter Smiles,

Tori Thomas, Principal

The on-line Brier Bulletin has changed!!! It is now available on our school maintained website, both past and present issues! Paste this link into your favorites: <http://staff.edmonds.wednet.edu/brier/default.html> and you are ready to go! Please notify the school office if you no longer need a paper copy. ***Thank you for saving us time and cost by opting out of receiving a paper copy.***

Calendar of Events

2/11-20 Box Tops for Education Contest - PLEASE TURN THEM IN!!!

2/12 Boeing Science Club 3:40-4:45pm Library

2/12 PTA Board Meeting 5:30pm in Library

2/13 Site Council Meeting 8:00am

2/13 STARS practice at 8:15am in gym

2/13 Boeing Math Club 3:40-4:45pm Library

2/13 6th grade transition meeting 6:00pm Library

2/14 FT (Bollen) Frye Art Museum 9:10-12:30pm

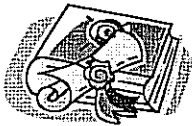
2/14 - Nomination forms due for 2008-09 PTA Executive Board Officers

2/15 NO SCHOOL (TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY)

2/18-2/19 NO SCHOOL

Information for Families

STARS PRACTICE IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH AT 8:15AM.



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT! RESERVE YOUR COPY FOR \$11.25. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO KIDS PHOTOGRAPHY. LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FEBRUARY 29TH. THE YEARBOOKS WILL BE DELIVERED THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL.

The district is offering a parent WASL information meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM, in preparation for the spring 2008 WASL. This meeting is open to parents of students in all grade levels. District staff will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.