



# The Brier Bulletin

Brier Elementary School—Home of the Bobcats

## A Message from the Principal:

Greetings Brier Families,

It's hard to believe that March is already here and spring is on its way! February was a terrific month here at Brier with many fun, motivating, and exciting activities taking place. Early in February, the Hot Dog USA Jump Roping Team came to our school and performed their amazing jump roping skills. The students had a blast watching all of their tricks, cheering them on, and getting excited about jump roping! We were extra excited to be watching one of our very own Bobcats perform with this group. Way to go Avery Dokka, you were GREAT!!! We wrapped up our Coat Drive at the end of January and ended up collecting 112 coats for Clothes for Kids! Thank you to our Brier Community for your support of this coat drive. We made a difference because of all of you! The end of February we celebrated our voluminous vocabularies with our Brier Elementary Word Parade! What an exciting day for everyone! February was full of fun, and we're looking ahead to March with the same excitement!

This summer is going to prove to be an interesting time here at our school. As part of the Capital Projects Bond passed by voters in 2006, our traffic and parking lot areas will be reconfigured during our summer break. Needless to say, many of you know that currently our parking lot and traffic lanes are difficult to maneuver at times. The solutions that were created for this parking lot project aim to work with the existing physical constraints, meet budget allocations, conform to building codes and environmental regulations as well as show sensitivity to the needs of both our community and our staff.

Presently, the parent and bus pickup and drop-off areas overlap. Students must cross bus traffic to reach automobiles and bus ingress and egress are blocked by waiting automobiles creating safety concerns. The new project creates separate pick-up/drop-off points and routes of traffic for automobiles and buses. The automobile drop-off and pick-up area will be at the front of the school while the bus arrival area will be at the back of the school taking over a portion of the north playground. With the separation of the bus and the parent pick-up points, no cross over of foot and vehicle traffic will occur except at marked crosswalks. In short, our new parking lot reconfiguration will include: restriping of parking areas, defining new crosswalks and ramps, reconfiguring the parking area at the front of the school, defining a new automobile arrival area, and defining a new bus arrival area. Inside this bulletin, you will find a visual drawing that may help to "see" the idea of the project. If you have a chance to drop by school, inside the office, you will find a detailed drawing of our parking lot project. If you have any questions regarding this work you are welcome to give us a call here at school or contact Nick Chou at the district office at (425) 431-7161.

Brier Families, have a wonderful month of March! Be on the lookout for kid mail advertising our Brier Elementary Food Drive March 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> and a drive for Children's Hospital during the same week! Brier Elementary is giving back in so many ways. It is fascinating to watch our students invest time and energy in giving to others. The next bulletin will arrive April 7<sup>th</sup> to update you all on WASL testing!

March Smiles,

Tori Thomas, Principal



### How do you use an allowance?

You want to give your child an allowance, but you may not be sure how—or when—to start. Experts advise parents to:

- **Use an allowance** to teach important lessons about money management. It will help your child learn to make responsible decisions. Let him experience spending mistakes.
- **Start giving** an allowance early—when your child starts wanting to buy material things. This is often around age five.
- **Discuss how** the allowance will be spent: What is your child expected to purchase (such as toys and CDs)?
- **Separate allowance** from chores. Emphasize that housework is part of being a family. It's okay, though, to pay for out-of-the-ordinary tasks.



Source: Lynne Tichnor, "Should your kids get an allowance?", MSN Money, <http://articles.moneycentral.msn.com/CollegeAndFamily/RaiseKids/ShouldYourKidsGetAnAllowance.aspx?page=1>.

### Questions & Answers

**Q:** I'm not perfect when it comes to disciplining my child. In fact, I'm not perfect when it comes to any part of parenting! How can I tell if I'm doing a good job?

**A:** By cutting yourself some slack! No one—repeat, no one—is a perfect parent. And no one is perfectly firm, fair and consistent when it comes to disciplining a child. The best you can do is simply to do your best! Remember to:

- **Love your child.** Let her know she's cherished every single day. Give her plenty of hugs and kisses when she needs them (or "just because") and offer her a hand when she stumbles.
- **Make her feel secure.** Be sure your child knows you'll protect her and keep her safe. Support her when she's scared or unsure.
- **Bring order to her life.** Kids thrive on routines, so be sure your child knows what to expect as far as bedtime, dinnertime and homework rules go. She'll appreciate the structure (even though she might complain about it).
- **Give her responsibilities.** Treat your child like the capable person she is! Assign her age-appropriate, reasonable chores to do.
- **Praise her.** Did she just do something well? Congratulate her! On the flip side, if she does something she shouldn't have, criticize her actions—not her.
- **Listen to her.** Be there for your child when she wants to talk. You don't need to have all the answers—just be available when she asks the questions!



Source: "Parenting Tips," FamilyDoctor.org, <http://familydoctor.org/360.xml>.

### Build a 'support team'

Parenting is tough—especially when you're dealing with your child's behavior issues. So don't go it alone! Instead, build a "support team" by connecting with:

- **Your partner.** Nurture your relationship with your partner. It will make you better able to parent your child.
- **Neighbors.** Get to know the people around you.
- **Other parents.** Make friends with parents of kids your child's age. Support and encourage one another, especially during rough times.

Source: "Build Your Team," MYParents.com, <http://myparents.com/article.php?aid=41&cid=1>.

### Use family fun time to squash sibling rivalry

Going nuts over your kids' constant squabbling? Try having more fun together as a family! The less time you spend on enjoyable activities, the more time for sibling rivalry.

To boost family's togetherness:

- **Break out** the board games.
- **Make dinner** together.
- **Enjoy** a friendly touch-football match.
- **Bundle up** to watch the stars on a clear night.



Source: Kyla Boyse, R.N., "Sibling Rivalry," the University of Michigan Health System, [www.med.umich.edu/1libr/yourchild/sibr.htm](http://www.med.umich.edu/1libr/yourchild/sibr.htm).

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Guiding Students for School Success

Publisher: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Managing Editor: Pat Hodgdon.

Editor: Erika Beasley.

Writers: Susan O'Brien, Holly Smith,

Illustrations: Maher & Mignella, Cherry Hill, NJ.

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P.O. Box 7474, Falls Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525

[www.parent-institute.com](http://www.parent-institute.com) • ISSN 1541-437X



## News Flash



### Science Fair-Thursday, March 26th

Please mark your calendar for one of the most exciting events of the school year – the Brier Elementary Science Fair & Egg Drop on Thursday, March 26th. This extraordinary evening event proudly showcases the efforts of our students with science project exhibits and the famous egg drop containers. All families are invited to



attend this wonderful event. Our exhibit areas include both the gym and the library, and all exhibit areas will open early for easier access. Come early and dine as there will be food sales from Dominos Pizza. A special thank you goes to the Brier Elementary PTA for providing the funds to make this event possible.

#### Science Fair – Evening Schedule of Events

5:00 – 7:00 pm Pizza and Pop Sales will be open

5:30 pm Egg Drop by Fire Truck Ladder Truck

Doors open for Science Exhibits

6:00 – 7:00 pm Students display Science Fair Exhibits

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the Science Fair!

### 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!

**A Brier Safari:** Mark your calendars for our all school musical celebration of African style music and our very own Giraffe Project. Below are the dates for each class' performance. The students are really



excited to perform for you, show you their clay projects and share how they are implementing the Giraffe project in their classrooms. There will be a student council food drive and a Rm. 21 Giraffe project that will be collecting items for donation to Children's Hospital. Concerts of this size depend on everyone's attendance - and you won't want to miss this!



**ZEBRAS-Mon. 3/16:** Overleese, Hemphill, Julius, Kubinski, VanEtten

**HIPPOS-Tues. 3/17:** Gonsalves/Norenberg, Bollen, VeCera, O'Neil



**RHINOS-Wed. 3/18:** King, Gray, Lafferty, Murphy

All concerts will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be held in the Brier Gym.

**Elementary Honor Festival**—We have many band, orchestra and choir students who have begun rehearsals for our Elementary Honor Festival. This concert is prepared by students who are recommended by Mr. Allison (band), Ms. Theßen (orchestra) and myself (choir) together with other elementary students from the Edmonds School District. It will be held on March 24th, Meadowdale High School at 7:00 p.m.

Brier students who are participating are:

**Choir:** Liya Ewing, Jensen Beaumont, Leslie Yarbrough, Chloe Sorenson, Jenay Sprague, Catherine Allemann

**Band:** Nikki Bouche, Brett Ralston, Joe Walrath, Ben Bogle, Adam Knudsvig, Toby Castillo

**Orchestra:** Nicole Hairrell, McKenna Hunt, Connor Worman, Josh Wyant & Ali Hitchcock

**Future Dates -**

May 4: Southwest Quadrant Orchestra Concert: MTHS 7:00

May 5: Southwest Quadrant Band Concert: MTHS 7:00

May 6: Southwest Quadrant Choir Concert: MTHS 7:00

### FROM THE LIBRARIAN:

Kelly Milner Halls, author of Tales of the Cryptids and other books was our visiting author in February. Thanks to the Brier PTA for sponsoring her visit. Kelly wanted the kids to know that there are stories, artifacts, and information behind every non-fiction book. She allowed kids to touch dinosaur bone replicas and gave out bookmarks. Kelly autographed books for students too! We had a wonderful day with our guest author.

Thank you to everybody who participated with the Word Parade. The costumes were wonderful, imaginative and we look forward to doing it again next year. Dave Sonnen, Teacher Librarian (425) 431-2081

<http://staff.edmonds.wednet.edu/users/sonnend/>

### 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



- March 13—no school Teacher Prof. Dev. Day
- March 16-18 Music Concerts 7pm Brier Gym (Hospital & Food Drive—bring items to the concert - see flyer)
- March 19—early release 12:20pm & Parent Conferences for full-day Kind & Grades 1.
- March 19 --No school for part-day Kind.
- March 26—Science Fair Day
- March 30-April 3—SPRING BREAK! NO SCHOOL

**Snow Make-up Days:** Please update your calendars! The blast of winter weather in mid-December resulted in three non-school days. The last day of school is currently Friday, June 19th (early release) unless additional snow make-up days are needed. June 16th will now be a full day. Wednesday June, 17 and Thursday, June 18th are full days. If additional make-up days are needed the next day scheduled is Friday, May 22nd.



**Lost and Found:** Please check the lost and found in the gym for any coats, jackets or hats. We will be donating any unclaimed items after March 27



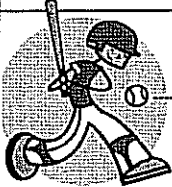
to Clothes for Kids. PTA bought our school a beautiful rack to organize lost items.



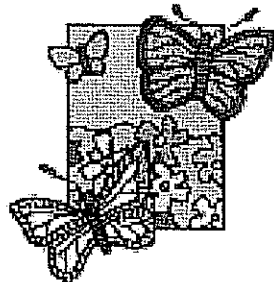


# MARCH



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	
1	2	3 <i>6th grade parent meeting at BTMS 7pm in Gym</i>	4	5 <i>Student Council Meeting 8:15am</i>	6	7	
8 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins Move clocks ahead 1 hr.</i>	9 <i>Classified Employees Week (9th-13th)</i>	10	11	12 <i>Site Advisory Council 8:10am Science Fair Egg Drop entry forms due</i>	13 <b>No School</b> <i>Teacher Prof. Dev. Day</i>	14	
15	16 <i>Music Concert 7pm Brier Elem. Gym Hospital &amp; Food Drive</i>	17 <i>Music Concert 7pm Brier Elem. Gym Hospital &amp; Food Drive</i>	18 <i>Music Concert 7pm Brier Elem. Gym Hospital &amp; Food Drive</i>	19 <i>Early Dismissal 12:20pm - Parent Teacher conferences for full-day K &amp; Grades 1 No part-day Kind.</i>	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i>  Report cards go home	21	
22	23	24 <i>Chinese Acrobat Assembly 9:30am Elementary Music Honor Festival 7pm @ Meadowdale High</i>	25 <i>Science Fair Assembly 1:40pm (K-3) Science Fair Assembly (4-6) 2:30pm Bring in egg drop project by 9:15am</i>	26 <i>Science Fair Day! Bring science fair project to classroom today Science Fair 5-7pm</i>	27 <i>Spirit Day—Twin/Triplet Day 2:45pm Parade of States Kick Off</i>	28	
29 	30	31	<b>SPRING BREAK — March 30-APRIL 3</b>				
<b>SCHOOL RESUMES ON APRIL 6TH</b>							

Thank you to our PTA for sponsoring our Chinese Acrobat Assembly and our Science Fair Assembly.



## SPRING

