



Volume 5, Issue 10
PTA Unit 7.2.15

June 2008

THE BRIER BUZZ

PTA Survey Coming Soon



Please watch for the upcoming "Year End Survey", which will be distributed next Tuesday.

As this school year comes to a close, we're busy making plans for next year and your input is very important! We want to know your thoughts on fundraising, social events and programs. We'd love to get your suggestions and new ideas, as well.

Please complete the survey next week and share your feedback with the PTA board.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite the unseasonably cool temperatures and excessive rainfall, June *has* arrived! The school year is quickly coming to a close and with that, my two year journey as the Brier Elementary PTA president is reaching its conclusion.

At this time I find myself reflecting on the wonderful successes we've accomplished. The PTA has truly enhanced the experience of each student at our school. I'm so proud that our terrific programs and high standards of excellence are recognized at the school and by the Washington State PTA office, as well. For the second year, we have received the "Honor Unit" award. Congratulations to the many volunteers that made this possible!

As I reflect on our successes, I'm filled with gratitude and thanks for the time, commitment and service of those I've worked with. This organization gets better each year, building on the successes of past leaders. I'm grateful to previous presidents Karen Radke and Janice Worman. They helped to form a strong foundation for the Brier Elementary PTA. I hope that my recent leadership can provide solid ground on which to continue to build and strengthen our wonderful PTA.

Thank you to each person who served on the PTA Board of Directors during the last two years. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work together in support of all the students, staff and parents at Brier Elementary School. All the best for additional success to the 2008-2009 PTA Board!

With gratitude,

Debbie Dunne

Brier Elementary PTA President



Upcoming Dates to Remember

June

- 6: PTA Event—BRIER ELEMENTARY CARNIVAL, 5:30—8:30 pm.
- 10: PTA Board Meeting (Board members only), 5:30 pm, in the library

August

- 13: Brier SeaScare Parade popcorn and cotton candy sales, 7:00 pm



**Have a relaxing and fun-filled summer vacation.
From your Brier Elementary PTA Board**

Connect with us...



We'd like to hear your questions, comments, suggestions and ideas!

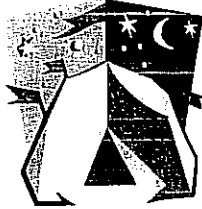
- Get all the latest information by visiting our website at www.brierelementarypta.org
- Contact the PTA Board members by e-mail. Links are provided on the website under "Welcome and Contacts".

Fun for All at CARNIVAL!

This Friday, June 6, is the Brier Bobcat Carnival. We hope you are planning to attend this FUN event!

Great games and activities:

- Captain Hook Giant Slide
- Hi-Striker
- Cake Walk
- Bouncy House
- Face Painting
- Dunk Tank
- Prize Center
- Silent Auction Fundraiser for 6th Grade Camp
- And lots of fun carnival games in the gym.



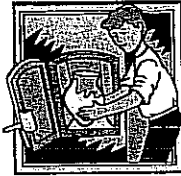
Carnival hours are 5:30–8:30 pm. Yummy food includes pizza, hot dogs, nachos, Caesar salad and more! Volunteer reminders are coming home this week via kid mail.



To avoid standing in line when you arrive at the Carnival, you can purchase your tickets ahead of time at the Ticket Pre-Sale. Thursday, June 5th 8:30–9:30 am, 3:00–4:00 pm and 6:00–7:00 pm.

Get Fired Up Over Brier's Kiln Projects

We are pleased to announce the continued success of the Kiln Program. This year, nearly every class made clay projects. Thank you to Program Chair *Jill Brocksmith* and to all of this year's wonderful parent volunteers, including *Leanne Thomas*, *Wilma Rismoen* and *Laura Signartson*, for sharing your time and talents with students.



Help us reach our goal of 100% classroom participation next year by volunteering for this very exciting art program. Our program chair will provide training and project ideas, and supplies are purchased by the PTA. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cathy Fiorillo for more information.

SUPPORT THE PTA ALL SUMMER LONG

Here are a few ways you can continue to support the PTA this summer:

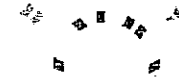
- Shop at Albertson's, and present your Preferred Card
- Shop at Safeway, and present your Club Card
- Save your Box Tops for Education
- Attend the SeaScare Parade in August



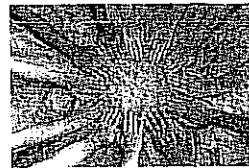
If you are not currently signed up to participate in the Albertson's Community Partners program or the Safeway eScrip program, please check out the PTA's website for details on how to join.

Bowling Wraps up This Year's Family Fun Nights

"THANK YOU" to everyone who attended our final Family Fun Night of the 2007-2008 school year. On May 5th we gathered at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate for a Family Bowling night. It was a huge success! We had 87 participants and even more parents there to watch. We were even given a personal invitation to return next year by the management of Lynnwood Bowl & Skate. In their words, "No school event has been so well received." Great news for Brier! Our thanks to volunteer *Jill Brocksmith*, who stepped up to help organize lanes and groups to come up and pay. We hope to see all of you at next year's Family Fun Nights!



Let's Do it Together!



Do you love science? Have you always wanted to own a book store? Do you enjoy art, music, sports? Do you love to plan parties or events? Do you take pleasure in gardening? Do you like computer work?

We all have special passions, talents, skills and knowledge that make us unique. PTA-sponsored programs, events and family fun nights give parents, guardians and school staff an opportunity to share their passions and talents with our Brier students!

Planning for the 2008-2009 school year has begun. Whether you have time during the day, evening, or even if you can only work from home, we want to give you an opportunity to get involved at your child's school. Working together, we can help Brier Elementary be an excellent (and fun) place, where every student's potential can become a reality!

For more information on how you can get involved, please send us an email (view our contact list at www.brierelementarypta.org) or call Cathy Fiorillo @ 425-640-3393.

Book Fair Benefits Families, Teachers and Library



With approximately \$6,000 in book sales, many students will have plenty of books for summer reading. Our sales included \$835 in gift certificates for our wonderful teachers! The Book Fair was so successful, our library will receive over \$1,800 in books from Scholastic.

A big THANKS to the following volunteers, who helped make this year's Book Fair a success...

Students: **Jon Reeve, Lauren Sowers, Brenda Cordova, Alex Burlingame, Anna Collins, Evan Roberts, Stone Morgan, David Marrs, Chad Wyman, Connor Ebright, Rane Osburn,** and **Jillian Osburn.**

Staff: **Tori Thomas, Dave Sonnen, Julie Whittles, Danielle Croston, Shannon Gonsalves, Mike Hooper, Loretta Henderson-Martin,** and **Jay Wang.**

Volunteers: **Cathy Jackson, Wendy Wolff-Gee, Kathy Saneto, Sue Coppinger, Liane Thomas, Penny Ebright, Laurie Broulette, Cathy Fiorillo, Gavriella Schuster (and mom), Julia Bogle, Marie Tschirgi, Marie Borella,** and **Astrid Rivera.**

Budget Committee Completes Important Task

"Thanks to the PTA's Budget Committee for their hard work in developing a budget for the 2008—2009 school year.

Group members **Cathy Jackson, Cathy Fiorillo, Judy Edwards, Jenny McDowell, Kathy Saneto** and **Debbie Dunne** put forth a team effort and accomplished a difficult task. I couldn't have done it without each one's input."

- Secretary Penny Ebright

BRIER ELEMENTARY ARTS FESTIVAL

This wonderful family event celebrating the arts at Brier owes its success to many people, especially *every student artist*. Our thanks to the Arts Committee, whose members include: **Mary McBride, Gail Yampol, Erin Walsh,**

Todd Parker, Melissa Tomlinson, Tori Thomas and **Debbie Dunne**. For their hard work hanging the artwork, our thanks to: **Lesa Keith, Sue Coppinger, Liane Thomas, Cathy Jackson** and **Debbie Dunne**. Also thanks to the many families who supplied treats for refreshment and those who helped serve the goodies during the event. And finally, a special thank you to **Kim Newall**, artist, who led the family drawing sessions in the library. A fun time was had by all, young and old artists alike!



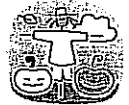
PTA HONORS TEACHERS AND PRINCIPAL

Out to LUNCH!

During Teacher Appreciation Week the PTA honored our teachers and all Brier Elementary Staff with a luncheon. Many thanks to the following wonderful people who contributed delicious food for the event: **Julie Allemann, Dianna Bellecy, Gini Bouche, Ken and Julia Bogle, Sarah Bressler, Jill Brocksmith, Bobbie Cacatian, Sue Coppinger, Bob Cuplin, Penny Ebright, Lisa Farrell-Roberts, Cathy Fiorillo, Bonnie Galus, Diane Hairrell, Ingela Hense, Ann Herbig, Cathy Jackson, Vivian Kirk, Kelly Powers, Kathy Saneto, Ruthie Smith, Marie Tschirgi, Wendy Wolff-Gee,** and **Janice Worman.**

Principal Tori Thomas was honored during Principal Appreciation Week, as well. She received lunch from Claim Jumper, a fun beach bag with treats, and a gift card to Barnes and Noble as a token of the PTA's appreciation for the many ways her work enriches our school.

LOOKING AHEAD... The PTA will once again sell Survival Kits in early September, and hold a Fall Gift Catalog & Cookie Dough Fundraiser beginning in late September. We look forward to great sales in the fall, which will bring in the necessary funds needed to support great PTA programs all year long.



Popcorn Fridays' Volunteers Serve it Up



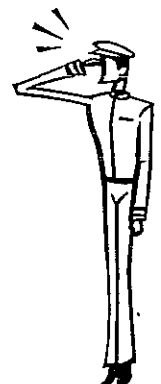
Thanks to these volunteers, delicious buttery popcorn was available for sale at recesses in the fall and spring: **Jill Brocksmith, Penny Ebright, Kathy Saneto, Maria Borella, Wilma Rismoen, Kristine Birnbaum, Synnove Johnson, Bill Alleman, Brynn Marriott,** and **Julia Bogle.**

And on a financial note: popcorn sales for the year totaled \$256, with expenses totaling \$155.

Thanks to Program Chairs for Providing Leadership

PTA fundraisers, events and programs owe much of their success to an army of volunteers who do tasks of many kinds. But behind those volunteers are the PTA chairpersons, who provide leadership and organization and rally everyone to get the job done. Throughout the year, we make it a point to thank the organizers of events as they take place, but as the year draws to a close we want to extend our thanks to those wonderful people we've not yet mentioned, who provided leadership to year-long programs. WE SALUTE YOU!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assemblies	Tori Thomas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Author's Visit	Dave Sonnen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bobcat Merchandise	Laurie Broulette
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fitness Club	Kristin Kvamme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kiln	Jill Brocksmith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phone Directory	Dana Edwards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reflections	Adrienne Schippers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scholarships	Julie Whittles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monster Mash	Dianna Bellecy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box Tops for Education	Dianna Bellecy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Membership Chair	Marie Tschirgi



Your PTA In Action: Artist in Residence Kim Newall

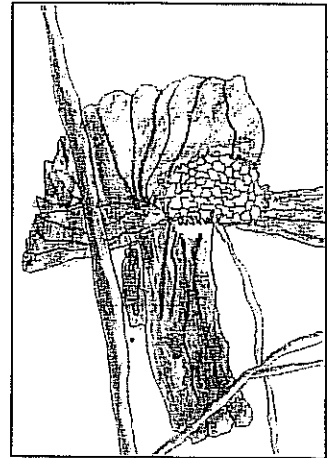
Brier Elementary School is blooming as Kim Newall, artist in residence, begins instruction on watercolor techniques in our classrooms. Vibrant flowers provide the subject of study and students are painting masterpieces.

This is the third year of the Brier "Artist-in-Residence" program, sponsored by the PTA with additional support from Edmonds Community College and various grants. The model allows for an artist to spend extended time at our school. This provides opportunities for teachers to receive art instruction, as well as learn how to incorporate art into the curriculum—in addition to student lessons.

Kim kicked off her time with us at the Brier Arts Festival last month and led two family drawing sessions. She will visit each classroom, sharing her talent and inspiration. The goals of this PTA program

include: empowering our staff with tools and training to integrate art into their classroom; encouraging our students to believe they are wonderful artists; and providing opportunities to create and celebrate visual art.

If your student has already met with Kim, ask about his or her watercolor painting. If not, let him know that a wonderful experience is ahead. In the meanwhile, you may want to find a 9x12 inch frame to display your student's work of art!



Watercolor by Helen Keith, Mrs. Gray's class, 4th grade

MAY 20, 2008 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MINUTES SUMMARY (Pending Approval)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- The district will refund the PTA approximately \$1,780 which was not used for construction of the track/exercise path. These monies will go into line item #44 (Field Enhancement), pending approval by the general membership to transfer the money into the general fund. We will also be refunded \$2,000 that was granted to the district for field enhancements that never were made. These monies will be returned to the general fund.
- A district grant will pay for an Artist in Residence. PTA will use the \$2,500 set aside for the Artist in Residence to buy supplies for the artist, and will purchase an Art Cart and supplies for classroom use.
- The 2007-2008 Survey will go out after the carnival. There will also be a PTA year-end report.



TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Penny Ebright moved to approve the budget for 2008-2009. It was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Annual Corporation Report was sent out
- Charitable Solicitation form was sent in to the Secretary of State.
- End of year audit will be done in July. If interested in being on Audit Committee, contact Penny.
- Taxes don't need to be filed until next year.

Visit our website at brierelementarypta.org



2007—2008 PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President—Debbie Dunne
- V.P., Programs—Cathy Fiorillo
- V.P., Fundraising - Cathy Jackson
- Treasurer—Penny Ebright
- Secretary—Kim Rainboth
- Social Events Co-Chairs—Judy Edwards & Kami Otis
- Hospitality—Kim Sowers
- Newsletter Chair—Lesa Keith
- Historian—Sue Coppinger
- Principal—Tori Thomas
- Teacher Reps:
 - Teacher Rep., Primary—Karolyn Julius
 - Teacher Rep., Intermediate—Amy VeCera

Brier Elementary PTA 7.2.15 is governed by Washington State Uniform Bylaws. The PTA standing rules are on file in the PTA Office at school, and are available for review.

The Brier Buzz is the official newsletter of the Brier Elementary PTA, Edmonds School District No. 15, and is published monthly during the school year. Please send any information you would like included in the newsletter to the editor at the email address below.

Editor: Lesa Keith

Email: newsletterchair@brierelementarypta.org

MAY 13, 2008 BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY (PENDING APPROVAL)

President's Report:

- Seven board members attended the state PTA convention. The Brier Buzz newsletter received the 3rd place award in our unit size division. Brier PTA received a silver level Honor Unit Award.
- Changes in school times for next year. School will start at 9:20 am and end at 3:50 pm. Contact the Assistant Superintendent at the Edmonds School District with any questions.
- There may be a site visit by the Citizen Planning Committee.

Principal's Report:

- The PTA was given some certificates that may be redeemed for items from the Campbell Soup labels catalog.
- Thanks to everyone who hung artwork for the Brier Arts Festival.
- Workshop on Effective Parenting of Teens. Some of the staff have taken this workshop at another school, and wondered if our PTA would be interested in sponsoring this at our school. Can be discussed next year.

Staff Report:

- Thank you from all staff for the Appreciation Luncheon. Learning Support staff appreciated being able to attend at their early lunch hour.

Treasurer's Report:

- The expense in line item #59 was for the 5th grade play, as approved at the February 2008 board meeting.
- The PTA still has not received the Boeing matching grant, so risers have not been purchased yet from the O'Neil Foundation grant.
- Penny gave the teacher representatives a list of how much each teacher had remaining in his or her allowance, and encouraged teachers to submit their receipts.

2008—2009 Proposed Budget

There was discussion about the \$2,000 cut from the Arts Enrichment line item #63. The budget committee felt that there would be other opportunities, such as grants, for obtaining funds for arts enrichment.

- Kami O. moved to remove line item #46 (Field Enhancement Income) and line item #107 (Field Enhancement) from the proposed budget. It was seconded and approved unanimously.
- Kami moved to add the word "Library" to line item #106 so it reads "Bookplate Drive Library Proceeds." Seconded and unanimously approved.
- Kami moved to accept the proposed budget, with noted changes, for approval at the General Membership meeting in May. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- Social Events. Bowling Night was successful and reasonably priced. The bowling alley wants us to come back next year.

Unfinished Business:

- Carnival Update. Classes are assigned to get booth volunteers. All chair positions are filled.
- Arts Festival/Open House. Thanks to those who hung artwork. Debbie asked for cookies for the event, and will buy punch.
- Volunteer Appreciation Social: Invitations went out to all PTA volunteers. Some confusion how SCHOOL volunteers will be appreciated.

New Business:

- Levy Campaigns: Our PTA did not help with the phone banks.
- Field Enhancement Funds: PTA received a check for \$1,008 that remained unspent from the original Trek for a Track funds. The district will return an additional \$780. That money will be placed into line #53, and will read "Money Received from Prior Years' Fundraisers." We will also get back the \$2,000 that was granted to the school district for Field Enhancement. This will go into the general fund. There was discussion about that to do with the leftover Field Enhancement funds. The decision will be voted upon at the May General Membership Meeting.
- Unallocated Funds Plan: Debbie reminded the board that donation funds need to be spent this financial year. Unallocated funds remain from the O'Neil Foundation and from the \$1,000 donation for Reflections and Art Enrichment. Suggestions were made that the funds go to the library or to the Art Cart. A decision must be made at the June board meeting.
- Surveys: Will go out through kid mail the Tuesday after the Carnival. There will be surveys for students, parents and staff. A year-end PTA report card will also be made available closer to the end of the year.
- Addendum: There is a new grant request from Sue Coppinger—to give \$50.00 for the 6th grade graduation celebration for this year and for years to come. Cathy Jackson moved to give the 6th grade class \$50 out of Unallocated Funds to use for the graduation celebration this year, and to put a standing line item in future budgets for \$50 for 6th grade graduation celebrations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.