

September 16, 2009

To Briarwood Parents:

The Briarwood Community E-mail system is an important tool to keep our parent community informed about happenings at Briarwood. This is an informational e-mail only. If you have comments or questions about the e-mail system, you can call the main office at 425.837.5000. If you know someone who would like to receive this communication, please forward the following link to them: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/list/Briarwood.asp>. If you would like to be removed from the list, please go to the same link and follow the directions for leaving the list.

Thank you.

**Item 1: Legal Notices:** Please read the important safety, health, and equal-rights notices that are posted online at <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/legal/Default.aspx>. You will find information about asbestos, nondiscrimination, pest management, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), possession of firearms, sexual harassment, Title IX, and more.

**Item 2: Curriculum Nights:** Our Curriculum Nights will be held on two evenings for the 2009-2010 school year: tonight, **Wednesday, September 16** (grades 3-5) and **Wednesday, September 23** (grades K-2) from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

**Item 3: Picture Make Up Day: Friday, September 18** is picture make up day for students who did not have their picture taken on September 1. Please click on this link for available [picture packages](#).

**Volunteers** are encouraged to have their pictures taken for badges between 9:30 am and 11:30 am in Portable 1 on **Friday, September 18**.

**Item 4: First PTA Meeting of the New School Year:** Please join us in the Briarwood library, **Monday, September 21** at 6:30 pm for our first PTA meeting of the year. We will have a guest speaker from ISF, approve this year's budget, and discuss upcoming events and programs affecting you and your children! Contact Beth Donahoe at [beth.donahoe@comcast.net](mailto:beth.donahoe@comcast.net) for more information, or visit our PTA website at [www.briarwoodelementarypta.org](http://www.briarwoodelementarypta.org).

**Item 5: Fall Book Fair:** Our first book fair of the year begins **Tuesday, September 29** and runs through **Friday, October 2**. Books and other great Scholastic merchandise will be available in the library during lunch recess and immediately after the school day and also during Pizza Bingo on Friday night. Contact Myrriah Hayden at [myrriahhayden@comcast.net](mailto:myrriahhayden@comcast.net) for more information.

**Item 6: Pizza Bingo:** Don't forget Pizza Bingo night on Friday, **October 2** at 5:30 pm in the multipurpose room. Come dressed as a Dawg or a Cougar and let's play ball! Order forms are due September 28 and were sent home in first day packets. Questions? Contact Louisa Pardo at 425-922-4244 or via email at [louisampardo@hotmail.com](mailto:louisampardo@hotmail.com).

**Item 7: Annual School Bus Ridership Count:** The Transportation Department will hold their annual School Bus Ridership Count on **Monday, October 5** through **Friday, October 9**. On those dates, bus drivers will count each student who rides the bus in the morning and each child who rides the kindergarten bus at mid-day.

It's very important for students to ride their buses during the count week because those numbers determine the funding Transportation receives from the State of Washington.

**Item 8: Spring 2009 WASL Results:** WASL results from spring 2009 testing are available in Family Access for students who tested in grades 3-12. Families without internet access may request paper copies from their student's school. Forgotten log-in or password information for Family Access may be obtained from individual schools.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has created one-page summaries of learning expectations for students in grades K-10 called "Your Child's Progress." These summaries may be viewed or downloaded at the following link on the OSPI website:  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/resources/default.aspx>

This year the Measures of Student Progress (MSP) will replace the WASL for grades 3-8 and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) will replace the high school WASL.

**Item 9: Issaquah School Foundations (ISF):** As we start the new year, I want to help 'spread the word' about a community partner that helps make our schools special—the Issaquah Schools Foundation. The Issaquah Schools Foundation is a community-supported non-profit that works year-round to raise money to bridge the gap between the dollars the state provides for basic education and the money our schools need to give our students a comprehensive 21st Century education. With your support, the Foundation is able to fund programs and investments that advance academic achievement, support struggling students, and promote professional development.

The Foundation has enriched Briarwood's learning environment with Academic Enrichment grants. Each year, our teachers can apply for funding for programs and/or materials that bring learning to life through technology, innovation, science, math, literature and the arts.

Since 1997 Briarwood has received \$81,523 from ISF in direct grants. In the past three years, ISF funded investments at Briarwood include:

**Learning is a Blast:** *Hands-On Astronomy-Combines Onsite Museum of Flight* programs with hands-on projects for a cohesive and fun study of astronomy, space and rocketry.

This year Briarwood received the following grant:

**Keyboard Pianos:** Fifteen keyboard pianos and adapters for three elementary schools for use in the general music classroom.

In addition, this year a music grant was funded to benefit all elementary schools:

**Learning Music Through Technology:** Music software that provides an engaging way to teach and reinforce a variety of music skills and concepts and help differentiate instruction.

ISF's funding also provides:

**National Board Certification Scholarships:** Scholarships that give teachers access to the 'pinnacle' of professional development programs; equipping them with the tools to develop inquisitive, engaged learners.

You can help the Issaquah Schools Foundation continue elevating education for all students by joining the Calling for Kids Campaign. A Calling for Kids informational flyer was included in your student's first day packet. We have additional copies in our office. The Foundation is asking every parent to participate. We hope that you do. Your support will make a tremendous difference in the quality of educational resources we can make available to your student. Please consider contributing online today at [www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org). You may also contact the ISF office at 425.416.2045.

Thank you for making Issaquah Schools the best they can be.

Michelle Weldon, Office Administrator/Issaquah Schools Foundation, can be reached at PO Box 835, Issaquah, WA 98027, 425.416.2045 or by e-mail at [mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org](mailto:mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org) or [www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org).

**Item 10: VOICE Mentor Program (Volunteers Of Issaquah Changing Education):** The VOICE Mentor Program is looking for community volunteers to work one on one with Issaquah students. These students are referred by teachers and counselors as needing extra support whether it is academic, social, or emotional. The volunteer commitment is one hour per week through the school year. The volunteers work in the school setting in partnership with school staff. Our volunteers routinely state that they make a strong bond with their student and “get more than they give.” We strive to make the students and mentors time together meaningful and valued.

Placements are made based on the mentors’ interests. Whether a mentor’s passion is literacy, ESL students, math or another area, we have a place for you in Issaquah schools. Please help us recruit your neighbors, friends, relatives or colleagues to become a mentor.

For further information contact: Susan Gierke, VOICE Mentor Director, e-mail VOICE@issaquah.wednet.edu, or phone at 425-837-7139.

VOICE is funded by the Issaquah Schools Foundation in cooperation with the Issaquah School District.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
September 16	Curriculum Night – Grades 3-5	6:00-7:30 pm	Classrooms
September 18	Picture Make Up Day	9:30-11:45 am	Portable 1
September 21	PTA Meeting	6:30 pm	Library
September 23	Curriculum Night – Grades K-2	6:00-7:30 pm	Classrooms
September 29 – October 2	Book Fair	Lunch Recess After School Pizza Bingo	Library
October 2	Pizza Bingo	5:30 pm	Multipurpose Room
October 5-9	Annual School Bus Ridership Count		

What's happening outside of school? Check out [Briarwood's Community Fliers](#) electronic bulletin board.

*In case you've never received E-News before, why are you getting it now? Every July, October, and January we automatically roll your e-mail address in Family Access up into the E-News lists for the schools your students attend and for the District E-News.*

*To unsubscribe from this list [click here](#).*

*Please share this information with others who might want regular Briarwood E-News updates and messages. They can join this list at <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/news/ENews/>.*

*Please do not reply to this E-News message as it comes from an unattended e-mail address used to distribute information to the community. To contact someone about topics in this E-News, please call (425) 837-5000. Thank you.*

What's happening outside of school? Check out [Briarwood's Community Fliers](#) electronic bulletin board.

*In case you've never received E-News before, why are you getting it now? Every July, October, and January we automatically roll your e-mail address in Family Access up into the E-News lists for the schools your students attend and for the District E-News.*

*To unsubscribe from this list [click here](#).*

*Please share this information with others who might want regular Briarwood E-News updates and messages. They can join this list at <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/news/ENews/>.*

*Please do not reply to this E-News message as it comes from an unattended e-mail address used to distribute information to the community. To contact someone about topics in this E-News, please call (425) 837-5000. Thank you.*