

Briarwood Elementary PTA



Making a difference...one member at a time!

Briarwood PTA

Bear Facts

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Issaquah School District
Briarwood.Issaquah.wednet.edu
BriarwoodElementaryPTA.org

PTA Unit 2.6.5
Membership - Growing!

PTA BOARD

President
Beth Donahoe

Secretary
Karen Nelson

Treasurer
Laila Collins

VPs, Programs
Lara Chung
Tonya Kezele

VP, Volunteers
Jenna Thoresen

VP, Ways & Means
Melinda Baggenstos

Members-At-Large
Leslie Kahler
Myrriah Hayden

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

PTA General Meeting
Monday, September
21
6:30-8:00pm
Library

Please join us!

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 16 & 23
Curriculum Nights

September 21
PTA General Meeting

September 28
Money due for Pizza
Bingo

September 29-Oct. 2
Book Fair

October 2
Pizza Bingo!!

A letter from the President:

Welcome to Briarwood and the 2009-2010 school year. We are already off to a great start with the first day of school behind us and many, many fun-filled events and programs ahead of us. We will need your help to make it all come together, so I hope you'll join us on our journey. Our PTA board is largely new this year, some to the board, some just to their current positions. I thought you'd like to know some interesting facts to get to know your board better. I'll start with myself:

Beth Donahoe, President: This is my first year of serving on the PTA board (what a way to start!). I've been married to my husband Jim for 12 years and we have two kids: Lillian is a 5th grader, and Kasten is a 1st grader. I'm a stay-at-home mom (who's never home) and we have way too many animals: two dogs, one cat, four chickens, two ducks, two miniature horses, and a rabbit. That's twelve in all.

Melinda Baggenstos, VP of Fundraising: Melinda grew up in Snohomish, WA and has been married to her husband Bryan for 17 years. She has a 4th grader, Katelen, at Briarwood. When she's not serving on the PTA Board (she has also served as VP of Programs), she works at the Scrapbook Nook, helping people preserve their precious memories.

Jenna Thoresen, VP of Volunteers: As well as being a PTA Board member and involved parent of two boys, one of whom is a 3rd grader at Briarwood (Jacob), Jenna is also a teacher in the Issaquah School District (on Fridays, right here at Briarwood!). She grew up in Renton, where she lives with her husband Alan, and their kids.

Karen Nelson, Secretary: Karen is a retired television news producer, now sharing her time and talents as our Board Secretary. She has two boys, with Cameron a third grader here at Briarwood. She moved out west from

North Providence, RI with her husband Geoff.

Laila Collins, Treasurer: Laila is especially well qualified to serve as our treasurer as she also works as a CPA part-time. She and her husband Scott have two lovely daughters, one of whom, Lauren, is in the first grade this year. Laila is a real local girl who attended Issaquah Valley Elementary, Issaquah Middle School, and Issaquah High!

Next month look for fun facts on our other board members—Lara Chung, Tonya Kezele, Leslie Kahler & Myrriah Hayden.

Thanks are in order!

Our Back-to-School BBQ was, by all accounts, a huge success. It was extremely well attended, T-shirts sold like hotcakes, and we signed up 51 families and 4 teachers as PTA members. Thank you to each and every one of you who made this commitment to our school and your children. Several members also expressed interest in chairing a program or event, and there's still room for more.

If you're interested as well, please contact our VP of Volunteers, Jenna Thoresen at a.thorsesen@comcast.net.

...And even more thanks...

To all the volunteers who worked at the BBQ and all the back-to-school events that got our new year off to a great start:

- 1st Day Packet Stuffing: Laila Collins, Lara Chung (and her daughters!), and Myrriah Hayden
- Back-to-School BBQ Chairs: Leslie Kahler and Tonya Kezele
- Tea & Tissues for Kindergarten Parents: Karen Nelson, Susheila Widmer and Leslie Kahler

Plus all the people at the BBQ who volunteered at the tables, selling shirts, Entertainment Books, signing up PTA members, grilling and handing out hot-dogs, water & apples. Many hands really do make light work!

PTSA Newsletter Articles



Welcome Back! We're looking forward to a great year with a wonderful group of ISF/PTSA Liaisons. **What is an ISF/PTSA Liaison?** Your "go-to" guy or gal for all Issaquah Schools Foundation information. ISF/PTSA Representatives do a tremendous job of building bridges of understanding, support, and enthusiasm between our schools and the ISF. This year's ISF/PTSA Liaison at Briarwood is: Lara Chung and she can be reached at larach001@gmail.com.

ISF Needs You...to Contribute to *Calling for Kids*

Calling for Kids—the Foundation's campaign to raise funds to help the District provide students with a comprehensive 21st Century education—is in full swing. Parents were mailed informational postcards over the summer and will receive personalized appeals by mid-September. **This year's campaign goal is 100% participation.** If every District family contributes, the Foundation can easily raise over 1.4 million for our schools. ISF is asking families to **join the campaign with a \$50 donation or to renew and, if possible, increase their previous *Calling for Kids* support.** High school students will call all families on October 20th and 21st. To avoid a call, log onto www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org to make a secure online donation or download a *Calling for Kids* flier. For more information, please check the ISF [website](http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org) or contact the ISF office, 425.416.2045.

Make ISF Your Facebook Friend!

ISF is becoming social media savvy! Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Krista Mui, ISF has a Facebook page. Take a moment to join our family. You'll be privy to pictures, fun tidbits, and behind-the-scenes information. Find us at www.facebook.com.

Nourish Every Mind

It's not gone...we've just moved it to the Spring. Keep reading your PTSA newsletter and watch the ISF website for the date and location.