**A note from the Principal...**

**Thank You**
It is that time of year again to give thanks for all that we have. “Thanks” often come in many different ways and tend to extend beyond the school setting. On behalf of all our staff members at Briarwood, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the opportunity to work with your student(s) on a daily basis. We appreciate all the things that parents do (provide a loving and supportive home, structured routines, good night’s rest, healthy breakfast, etc.) that help prepare their child(ren) to learn. We are grateful for the level of care and support each child from our community receives.

As a member of this magnificent learning community, I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such devoted teachers, staff members, parents, and students. I feel truly blessed to work with these dedicated professionals. The degree of “giving” that occurs in our community is remarkable. From the daily volunteers that flood our school helping in the classrooms to the PTA members that donate their valuable time, as well as providing nourishing meals for our staff members, we are grateful.

**Attendance**
The most effective way to ensure your student has a successful school year is to make sure they attend school every day and arrive on time. Consistent attendance is the key to successful academic growth. If your child is sick or cannot attend school, please call our attendance phone line each day of the absence at 425.837.5001 and follow the prompts. You may also email your child’s absence to our registrar, Andrea Bunker Dalry, at bunkerdalrya@issaquah.wednet.edu. Please include your child’s name, teacher, and reason for the absence.

We appreciate your help.

According to district policy, absences that are excused include: illness/health, religious observances, school approved activities, family emergencies, disciplinary actions as required by law, and family trips with prior administrative approval (please see required pre-approved absence form).

When your child returns from an excused absence the teacher will provide a list of make-up assignments along with a reasonable timeline for completion. The student is responsible for completing missed work. Make up assignments are not provided in advance. Oversleeping is not an excused tardy nor an excused absence from school.

By state law we must follow up when students have accumulated a specified number of absences or tardies. Letters will be mailed home twice per month for students that exceed these limits. If you ever have any questions regarding student attendance, please contact Andrea Bunker Dalry at 425.837.5006.

**Parent Teacher Conferences and Report Cards**
Conferences are an invaluable time for teachers to meet one-on-one with parents to share specific details regarding student progress. We are hopeful that all parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher and have any and all questions answered. Just a reminder, there is no school or before or after school activities for elementary students on conference days.

Elementary conferences will occur on Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday December 3. The window to register for your student’s conference is open until Monday, November 30 at noon. If you have not signed up for a conference time yet, please log in to your Family Access account and select a timeslot to meet with your student’s teacher. If you have questions regarding Family Access, please contact our office staff at 425.837.5000.
First trimester report cards will only be available through Family Access on Wednesday, November 25 beginning at approximately 5:00 pm. Please review your student’s report card prior to your conference.

*It Takes Teamwork*

Your role, as a parent, in the education of your student is as important, if not more important, than that of their teacher. The encouragement and support you lend to your student, at home and in the classroom, makes a monumental difference. The better we can work together as a team, the better our end product will be... student learning. We look forward to meeting with you for the benefit of your student.

Enjoy the season of “giving” with your family and friends and again... thanks for all you do for our school community.

Sincerely,

Drew Terry
Principal