



## BROOKSIDE BIRD'S EYE VIEW

### Calendar September

- 9-12 Early Release @ 1:50
- 9-12 to 9-14 6th Grade to Orkila
- 9-19 Early Release @ 1:50
- 9-25 Individual School Pictures
- 9-26 Early Release @ 1:50
- 9-27 Walk-a-Thon 1:30-3

### October

- 10-3 Early Release @ 1:50
- 10-5 PTA Family Movie Night
- 10-9 Early Dismissal @ 11:45 conferences
- 10-10 Early Release @ 1:50
- 10-11 Early Dismissal @ 11:45 conferences
- 10-12 Early Dismissal @ 11:45 conferences
- 10-12 PTA Oktoberfest Fundraiser @ LFPCC
- 10-17 Early Release @ 1:50
- 10-24 Early Release @ 1:50
- 10-24 Family Engineering Night
- 10-31 Early Release @ 1:50

### October Conferences

Brookside's Parent/Teacher conferences are on **Tuesday, October 9th, Thursday, October 11th, and Friday, October 12th.** These dates are NOT on the school district calendar as they were negotiated after it went to press. School will be dismissed at 11:45 AM on these days. Your child's teacher will be contacting you to set up a conference time.

There are no Parent/Teacher conferences on Wednesday, October 10th. This will be a regularly scheduled early release day, with dismissal at 1:50 PM.

### Important Attendance Procedures

Thank you to those who are calling the Brookside office to let us know your child will be absent or tardy or having an early dismissal. The office must have a phone call, email, or note from the parent in order to excuse a student's absence. If we do not hear from the parent, we call home and email the parent. If we have still not heard from the parent by the following day, an unexcused letter will be sent. On the second unexcused absence, the truancy process begins.

In complying with School Board Policy #3122, students are expected to attend all assigned classes each day. At times, students may be appropriately absent from class (examples are illness, medical appointments, family emergency, or religious observances). If your family is planning a trip, fill out the attached form for excusing the absence. You will be notified if the absence is approved as excused.

It takes just a moment to call the office 206.393.4140 or email us at [bks.attendance@shorelineschools.org](mailto:bks.attendance@shorelineschools.org). Thanks for your help in making it a priority to have your child at school every day and on time.

### Blue Jay Parent Program

The Blue Jay Room Parent Program needs Parent Volunteers! The Room Parent Program brings together school staff, the PTA and the broader parent community through regular meetings, the sharing of information and ideas, and support of classroom teachers. Interested in learning more or signing up - please contact Emily Jo Artim at 206.890.1612 or [erajotte@fredhutch.org](mailto:erajotte@fredhutch.org)

### Opt Out Form

If you are **not** interested in your student being in the school yearbook, school newsletters, class webpages etc. please stop by the office and pick up a FERPA OPT-OUT Form. If you do not want your student to be in the PTA student directory and/or receive mailings regarding membership, meeting events and school activities, please fill out the same form.

### PTA Rainy Day Dinner

The PTA sponsored after school class in on Monday not Thursday as published earlier.

## Start the school year with a focus on attendance!

Research shows that chronic absenteeism (missing 15 or more days in a school year) damages academic success. Unfortunately, more than seven million students across the nation miss three weeks or more each school year.

When students miss school or arrive late, everyone suffers. Teachers spend time collecting makeup work and reteaching. Meanwhile, other students - who are ready to learn - must wait.

Your child's most fundamental school - related responsibility is to get to school on time every day. To support your child:

- **Stick to a schedule.** Establish evening and morning habits that help your child be prepared. For example, select outfits and pack lunches at night.
- **Schedule carefully.** Make medical and other appointments during non-school hours when possible.
- **Seek help when needed.** Many problems contribute to missing school. If your family struggles with health, transportation, work, child care or other issues, talk with school staff. Our shared goal is to help children get to school to do their best.

*Source: P.W. Jordan and R. Miller, Who's In: Chronic Absenteeism under the Every Student Succeeds Act, FutureEd, niswc.com/ elem\_chronic.*

## Back-to-School Clothing Drive

The PTA clothing drive for gently used clothing items or shoes your child has outgrown continues until Sept. 14. All donations support the WORKS program, a clothing room providing high quality, clean, gently used children's and teen's clothing to Shoreline School District families experiencing circumstances that make it challenging to clothe their children for school. A collection box is in the school lobby at Brookside to accept donations. Thanks for your support!

## School Breakfast Program

Did you know that Brookside offers breakfast every day? Kids are invited to join us at 8:45 for a delicious selection of whole grain entrees, fruits, and ice-cold milk. Breakfast is only \$1.75. If your student qualifies for free or reduced price meals, breakfast is absolutely free! Parents are invited to join their child for breakfast for only \$2.75.

## How to pack a WASTE FREE LUNCH

As a King County Green School, our school encourages waste reduction and recycling in the lunchroom and classrooms. Students sort their lunch waste into recyclable materials (milk cartons/juice boxes, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans), compost (food scraps, napkins) and trash.

Food waste comprises an estimated 30 – 50 percent of total garbage volume in school cafeterias. Wasted food equals wasted money and wasted nutrition for your child. It also takes up landfill space, wastes natural resources and emits methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that is impacting climate change.

Here are easy ways to make a waste-free lunch for your child.

- **PACK ONLY WHAT YOUR CHILD CAN EAT** - Have your child bring home everything they don't eat so you can see what they are able to eat in a lunch period. Only pack a half-sandwich if that's all your child can eat during lunch.
- Use **REUSABLE** containers to pack the lunch. Use any durable plastic containers instead of plastic baggies, or check out these options for purchase: [www.laptoplunches.com](http://www.laptoplunches.com), [www.reusies.com](http://www.reusies.com).
- **USE A REFILLABLE DRINK BOTTLE** instead of disposable or recyclable containers.
- If a refillable or durable drink bottle is not available, select drinks that are packaged in recyclable containers (such as a plastic bottle, an aluminum can, or a milk carton) that can be recycled at school. Avoid Capri Suns as these are not recyclable and do not breakdown in landfills.
- Pack durable utensils, if a fork or spoon is needed.
- Ask your child to bring home the durable, reusable items along with any leftover food.
- Buy snacks in bulk and pack them in reusable containers. This eliminates the waste at school.

Thanks for teaching your child how to waste less! Watch for another article with food waste tips in our next e-newsletter.



Please welcome Ernie back again this year! Ernie is a certified Therapy Dog, who will be returning to Brookside with our School Psychologist, Erika Longley Sundgren. Mrs. Erika has used Ernie in a school setting for the past 7 years and we welcomed him to Brookside last year. Some of the benefits of having a therapy dog in school are teaching students about animal safety and providing a calming presence for students who need a cuddle. He has been used for students to talk to, read to, calm down with, walk with and as a special reward time activity.

Ernie will be with Mrs. Erika during his school time, will occasionally visit classrooms and may be seen walking the halls. However, he will not have frequent access to the building and students with known allergies will be reminded to wash their hands if they come in contact with him.

If you have any questions about Ernie, you can contact Erika at [erika.sundgren@shorelineschools.org](mailto:erika.sundgren@shorelineschools.org)



**BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY**  
**REQUEST FOR PLANNED ABSENCE TO BE EXCUSED**

Use this form when your child will have a planned absence that does **NOT** fall into the situations shown at the end of this form. You can find the complete Shoreline School District Attendance Policy (3122) on the district website.

**PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED**

Please send this form to our registrar at least 14 school days prior to your planned absence. You can drop it off in our main office or email it to us at: [bks.attendance@shorelineschools.org](mailto:bks.attendance@shorelineschools.org)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Absence: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason for Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone/Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your plans to maintain the student's academic skills: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Make-up assignments may not be provided in advance. The teacher may require some work to be completed upon the student's return.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Relationship to Student

You do **NOT** need to use this form for these situations:

1. Participation in a district or school approved activity or instructional program.
2. Illness, health condition or medical appointment (including, but not limited to, medical, counseling, dental or optometry).
3. Family emergency, including, but not limited to, a death or illness in the family.
4. Religious or cultural purpose including observance of a religious or cultural holiday or participation in religious or cultural instruction.
5. Court, judicial proceeding or serving on a jury.
6. Post-secondary, technical school or apprenticeship program visitation, or scholarship interview.
7. State-recognized search and rescue activities consistent with RCW 28A.225.055.
8. Absence directly related to the student's homeless status.
9. Absence resulting from a disciplinary/corrective action. (e.g., short-term or long-term suspension, emergency expulsion).

***For Office Use Only***

Teacher feedback:

Student is achieving at or above grade level?  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature Date

Other Considerations (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Decision:  Excused  Unexcused

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Designee Signature Date