

Brookside Elementary Principal's Message

11/20/18



Greetings Brookside Families,

Giving Thanks

Holidays can bring people together. I recall many Thanksgiving meals full of food, conversation, and connections with loved ones.

This holiday can also hold other kinds of significance. The simplified representations of Pilgrim-Native American relations presented to me as an elementary school student has many problems. These include stereotypes of Native Americans and the idea that they are a *people of history* rather than part of a network of rich & varied cultural and linguistic traditions that continue as part of the American story today. Despite our broadening understandings of the origin of this holiday, and the problematic portrayals from my youth, Thanksgiving persists as a major holiday on our calendar.

I believe it will continue to do so *because* we see the importance of joining together, recognizing the good in our lives, and showing appreciation for it. In this spirit, I want you to know that I continue to be very thankful to be principal of your school. Your child goes to a great place five days a week; it is filled with people cheering for your child's success. I am also thankful for my loving family (my wife Grace and sons Alexander & Lucien) and our adventures together. During this break, I hope that you and your children are able to find time to join together with friends & family to reflect on the great things in your life while eating good food. ☺

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Chirps!!!

Your children will also see democracy in action in a different way at school. The Brookside PBIS team has decided to use our "Chirps" in a slightly different way this year. We have three ballot boxes that will be placed outside of the lunchroom. Each box will be labeled with a specific all-school reward. Students will start using their "Chirps" to vote for their preferred reward. This means you will not see "Chirps" coming home since our students will be putting them to use in this democratic process.

Highly Capable Testing

Kindergarten students across Shoreline Public Schools engaged the HiCap screener in October. Students who passed the screener have been invited to the full battery testing on December 4 and 6 (they will test on the morning of both days). All testing will be done during the school day at Brookside. Students who are new to our District may also take full battery testing with us in December. If you are interested please contact us at 206/393-4140. There will also be more testing opportunities in spring, see this link for more information <https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/90>

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. – King County Seeks Submissions

As part of the annual celebration of the life and work of this great leader, King County seeks art and/or writing submissions on the theme: "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality." See this link for full details: <https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/600057/schools/40432>

Thank you for supporting to our students, staff, & school,
Principal John Simard