

Brookside Elementary Principal's Message

12/18/18



Greetings Brookside Families,

Happy Holidays!

This Friday will be our last school day of 2018! Our staff offers its warm winter wishes to you and your family. The holiday season can be a time to refocus and remember the people we care about the most. No matter which holidays your family celebrates, we hope that you are able to spend joyful time together over the break. I look forward to hearing about holiday adventures from the kids when they return. Happy Holidays! ☺

Science on Wheels – This Week!!!

Thanks to a generous District-wide grant from the [Shoreline Public Schools Foundation](#), the Pacific Science Center's *Science on Wheels* program is coming to Brookside just before we go on Winter Break. You can read details on the assembly, classroom workshops, and mini science center exhibits in my 12/4 Principal's Message. If you would like to volunteer to help, click this link: <http://signup.com/go/LcMYEnw>

Online Safety for Children

It feels a little odd for me to add this in the Principal's Message just before break, but it is certainly timely as many of our students will have lots of time online over the next two weeks. Families make different decisions about how they allow their children to access social media and use the Internet. We want to help you make these decisions with accurate and meaningful information. Our great counselor (Rachelle Friskey) has been working with the King County Sheriff Department to set up the following opportunities:

- 1/17/19 **Online safety workshop for parents/guardians of students of all grades** at 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please call our office to RSVP: 206/393-4140.
- 1/24/19 **Online safety workshop for grades 4-6 students** will occur during school

Over the past few years, I've encountered several situations where an online interaction between students had gone in a bad direction (including this school year). Thankfully, adults at home or school became aware at an early phase and were able to intervene before things progressed very far.

To a large extent, you and I were allowed to leave our past in the past as we made mistakes and learned from them. Often, this may not be the case for our own children due to the Internet and social media. A flippant harmful remark that could have been forgiven and forgotten during our childhood can be documented online with a life of its own, causing much more harm for more time than anyone intended or expected. People learn, broaden their understandings, and change their opinion as they grow. However, postings made on a given issue now sit in a time capsule online for years, even after the author has grown and moved on. There have been many reports of corporations looking into applicants' online profiles and postings as they make hiring decisions; one can easily imagine this practice expanding over time. No one knows how comments made online in a person's youth will be interpreted later because these technologies did not exist in previous generations.

As a fellow parent of school-aged kids and principal of your child's school, I invite you to speak openly and frequently with your child about how they use social media and the Internet. Your children should see you as a resource to go to when something concerning or questionable happens. I look forward to seeing you at the workshop the evening of the January 17th.

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