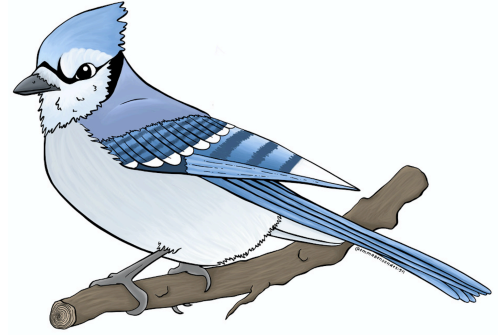


Brookside Elementary

Principal's Message

(School Closure Edition)

3/17/20



Greetings Brookside Families,

I hope that you and your children are all doing well in our new age of social distancing. During our school closure, I plan to send you a Principal's Message each week with info and updates. If any of the links below don't work when you click them, simply copy and paste into your browser or "To" field and they should work.

Staying Informed

Our district office has been sending periodic updates with important information. This information has been coming to you through two different methods. I will not be reposting so be sure that you have direct access.

- **Email:** you should be getting messages from public.info@shorelineschools.org in your inbox. If you don't see these, check your spam folder and your email preferences to ensure you have not blocked messages from this address. If you attend to these and are still not getting the emails, please contact me directly at john.simard@shorelineschools.org.
- **Websites:** you will find updated information on our district homepage (<https://www.shorelineschools.org/>) & COVID-19 page (<https://www.shorelineschools.org/Domain/1960>)

Ongoing Coordination Across Washington State & Our District

The Governor's Office and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have been working directly with Superintendent Miner and other school superintendents. At this stage of the school closure, focus is set on ensuring basic needs are met in our communities. You should have gotten an email this afternoon entitled: "Childcare and Food Needs Assessment Surveys" from public.info@shorelineschools.org to give us information on your needs. Dr. Tanisha Brandon-Felder, our Director of Equity & Family Engagement, has been working closely with the Shoreline PTA Council to attend to the needs of our community. This week, school family advocates (including our own Susie Moore) are being deployed in service of this work.

Emergency Salmon Release

When we announced that school was closing, some Brookside attendees were not able to leave the building...our salmon! I worked with our salmon specialists last

Thursday to determine the best course of action. I am sorry to say that our only real alternative was to release the fry (small salmon) into the creek before we shut down the school. We look forward to doing our standard salmon release again in the coming school year.

2020-2021 Enrollment Forms

You should have gotten a yellow sheet a while back around enrolling for the coming year with a 3/13 due date. Of course, we don't plan to hold you to that date. ☺ If you have any enrollment documents for the coming school year, please hold on to them for now. It will be easiest to turn them in after schools reopen.

Kids and COVID-19

Your children are hearing information from various media and the conversations happening around them. It is important that they have trusted adults at home that they can talk to about everything that is happening. As parents, we don't often get training in how to do this, but there are resources to help.

- Psychology Today has tips for talking with toddlers to teens:
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/smart-parenting-smarter-kids/202003/how-talk-kids-and-teens-about-the-coronavirus>
- PBS Kids has ideas for talking with young children:
<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>
- Erika Sundgren (our school psychologist) shared this *social story* with me. It was designed for use with children with autism spectrum disorder, but would certainly be appropriate for many young children: <https://littlepuddins.ie/coronavirus-social-story/>

Stay Active!

Just because your kids are inside all day, does not mean that they should not be moving! Go Noodle is a resource used by many teachers and homes to get kids blood pumping, check it out here: <https://family.gonoodle.com/>

Thank you for your ongoing support to our school and students,
Principal John Simard