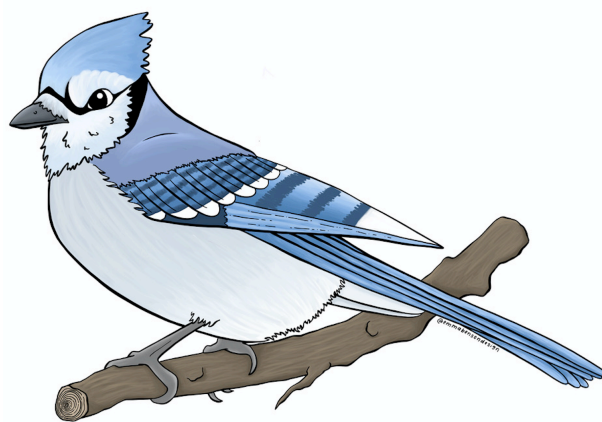


Brookside Elementary Principal's Message



10/22/19

Greetings Brookside Families,

Our School Vision and Mission

Over the course of last school year, our staff reviewed and honed our school vision and mission statements. I've been using these in my work with the staff ongoing and I want to ensure you see how our staff members see their work with your kids and the school they attend.

Brookside's Vision:

Brookside students will apply a growth mindset as they practice confidence, responsibility, empathy, & perseverance in order to learn and succeed.

Brookside's Mission:

Through high-quality instructional practices, compassion, and a growth mindset, Brookside staff members provide a learning environment focused on equity and success for all students. We prioritize developing a culture of kindness and empathy by implementing positive behavior practices that support social-emotional development and academic learning.

Halloween at Brookside

You may have heard about schools in and out of Shoreline looking at Halloween celebration practices more closely. I will be leading our staff in evaluating if our traditional Halloween celebrations later this school year. At this time, students may wear costumes conforming to the guidelines below and any other rules put forward by your child's teacher.

Keep these things in mind...

- ***Portable:*** your child's costume should be something they can carry in their backpack; they will put it on while at school.
- ***Independent:*** your child should be able to put their costume on independently when the time comes.
- ***Fun:*** this is a great time to wear something imaginative and fun – choosing materials and assembling a Halloween costume can be a fun family engineering challenge!

Avoid these when choosing a Halloween costume to bring to elementary school...

- ***Stereotypes:*** costumes that reinforce ethnic, racial, religious, or cultural stereotypes should not be worn at school.

So...your kid suggests a costume that *may* involve a stereotype, what should you do?

First, ask yourself this question: "Does this costume reflect a significant part of your child's own heritage and identity all year long?"

Your Answer	
Yes	If you answered, "yes" to this question, perhaps this is something that you should share with our community at Multicultural Night later this school year. We want you to share your home culture and family history, but putting on a costume is about <i>pretending</i> rather

	than how you identify as a person in <i>real life</i> .
No	If you answered “no” to this question, it is best to leave that one on the shelf and find another costume for school.

- **Political Speech**: costumes can be a fun way for students to express themselves. Free speech is an essential pillar of our democracy, but wearing a politically-charged costume to elementary school is **not** a productive or appropriate way to express political views. Please leave such costumes at home.
- **Weapons & Gore**: any weapons and gory parts of costumes should be left at home. These kinds of things are **not** allowed at school on any day. Remember, we have lots of Kindergarten students (and sometimes preK siblings of students) who will see the costume. Let’s work together to help our little ones have a fun day. 😊

School staff may instruct students to change out of a costume if it is considered disruptive to the classroom or school environment. If you question whether a costume is appropriate for school, please have your child bring it to Brookside before 10/31 and check with their teacher, or give me a call at 206/393-4140.

The Great Body Shop & Health Curriculum Night at Shoreline Center on 10/22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Shoreline Public Schools has updated our health K-6 curriculum resources. These materials include lessons covering age-appropriate topics regarding human growth and development as well as HIV/AIDS prevention. For more information about these resources, please come to the Health Curriculum Night at 6:30-7:30 p.m. on 10/22 in the Shoreline Room at the Shoreline Center. It is the district’s policy to provide parents & guardians an opportunity to preview these instructional materials. Per Washington Administrative Code (WAC), if a parent/guardian wishes their child excused from those lessons, they must preview the materials and sign a written excusal form. Alternative educational opportunities shall be provided for students who are excused. If you are not able to attend that meeting, you may arrange to view the materials by making an appointment. Call 206/393-4140.

PTA General Meeting at Brookside on 10/24, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Brookside Elementary students, families, and staff benefit from a strong PTA in so many ways. The PTA exists and flourishes because of YOU! Join us for the October general membership meeting. I look forward to seeing you there. 😊

Conference Week November 4-8

We look forward to seeing you at our first conference for the 2019-2020 school year. Students will be **dismissed at 11:45 a.m. every day that week**. This was NOT listed correctly on the Shoreline paper wall calendar...don’t be fooled, the time is 11:45 a.m.

“Angst” Film Screening at Brookside on 11/6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This fall begins my tenth year as an elementary school administrator (6 years at Brookside and 4 years in California). I’ve seen the kinds of significant impacts that anxiety can produce for students and their families. I am glad to report that societal acceptance and compassion for anxiety and other emotional and mental health issues have grown in that time. However, that comes through education and understanding. Our PTA leadership has coordinated a screening of this important film to further increase these in our community as well. I look forward to seeing you there. For more information on the film, see the official website: <https://angstmovie.com/>

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