



Upcoming Events

February 5 4:00pm
PTO Meeting
in Room 4

February 10
Remember to Vote!

February 12
3rd/4th grades Field
Trip to release school
raised Salmon!

February 13
Classroom Valentine's
Parties
11am Early Release

February 16-20
No School
Mid-Winter Break

February 24 6:00pm
School Board Meeting
in the Library

March 5 6:00pm
PTO Meeting at
Johnston Realty

March 6
8:30am Adventures in
Music Assembly
11am Early Release

March 20
11am Early Release
6:00pm Spring Fling
Talent Showcase

March 24 6:00pm
School Board Meeting
in the Library

Board of Directors:

President: Summer Ventura
Vice President: Mary Fickett
Director: Michelle Matheson
Director: Mike Reynolds
Director: Rhonda Burrell
Superintendent:
Patricia Beathard

From the Principal/Superintendent, Patricia Beathard

Exciting News!

The Brinnon School District was recently notified that we are being recognized by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as a 2025 State Distinguished School! There are only 4 schools in the state of Washington being recognized in this way. This award comes as a result of our truly exceptional student academic performance and growth. Congratulations to students and staff!

More Grant Funded Improvements

It happened again! The Brinnon School District was awarded a \$5,655,000 highly competitive Small Rural Schools Modernization Grant. We are planning for a busy summer in 2026. The projects include:

- HVAC system upgrades
- Plumbing improvements
- Restroom upgrades including ADA compliant spaces, full-privacy stalls, and renovations
- Other related projects

We have almost rebuilt our school with grant-funded work: floors, roof, generators, siding, windows, lighting, playground, student play surfaces, walking path, kitchen, walk-in refrigerator and freezer, fire panel, 2-classroom modular building, ADA doors, basketball court, etc.

If you have any questions, please call the school to schedule a time to talk with Trish Beathard, our superintendent/principal.

A Community of Learners

Our small, but mighty school district is a strong and supportive learning community. We try to make sure that all efforts, programs, and activities support student learning.

- LOVE CHILDREN – All staff members from kitchen manager to bus driver to teachers must care about children. That is an important hiring criterion for us.
- SMALL GROUPS – Children learn well in small groups. Many important academic lessons are

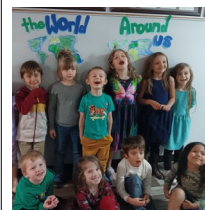
taught in small group classroom settings.

- CULTURE OF RESPECT – We expect kind and respectful behavior and we usually get what we expect. Adults model this behavior for students and almost always get the same in return.
- WASHINGTON READING CORPS – This group of enthusiastic, hardworking, encouraging people are instrumental to our success. They provide instructional classroom support and individual and small group tutoring to students at all grade levels.
- INSTRUCTIONAL VARIETY – Teachers combine traditional instruction with online resources. They include group activities, individual work time, and real-life problem-solving activities. While each classroom has a reliable schedule, every day is a little bit different.

WINTER WEATHER AHEAD!

Register with FlashAlert
<https://www.flashalert.net/id/BrinnonSD>

to get updates for the Brinnon School on weather closures, bus route changes and more!



Mrs. Kaye and Mrs. McEdwards' Transition to Kindergarten and Kindergarten Class

Culture awareness. We are studying the world around us.



Ms. Madill's 3rd/4th Grade

Science Day was provided by the Pacific Science Center with grant funding through West Sound STEM Network. This great day included an interactive all-school assembly, lessons from experts, hands-on exhibits, and a classroom lab experience,

We had so much fun!



The Heart of Learning to Read

By Ms. Brown, 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher



There's something truly special about watching children learn to read. Every day in our classroom, I get to witness those small but powerful moments — a student sounding out a tricky word, smiling after finishing a page, or eagerly raising their hand to share something new they've discovered in a story. Those are the moments that fill my heart as a teacher.

In 1st and 2nd grade, reading growth happens in wonderful ways. We work hard on phonics and fluency, build our vocabulary, and learn how to understand and talk about what we read. But beyond the lessons and practice, something deeper is happening — students are finding their voices,

growing in confidence, and realizing that they are capable of so much.

Every child's reading journey looks a little different, and that's the beauty of it. Some take off quickly, while others build strength step by step — both paths deserve celebration. My goal is always to make reading joyful, meaningful, and full of encouragement.

Families make such a difference, too. Reading together at home — even for a few minutes — helps children feel supported and proud. Talk about favorite characters, ask what surprised them, or simply enjoy the story side by side. Those shared moments create a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.

In our classroom, we often say, "You might not be able to read yet, but you're on your way!" And I see that truth every day

Washington Reading Corps is back and hard at work. We welcomed one new member to our team of four. We are excited to help our students improve their reading skills and support the school's teaching staff however we can. Witnessing students' progress is wonderfully rewarding!

Left: WRC's Emma Bloomfield, Vikki Murray, Cindy Kempf, and Don Kaye collecting items for the Brinnon Food Bank with new manager, Cam!





Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement

The Brinnon School District is a Title I school and district.

Q: How is a district identified as Title I?

A: At least 40% of students come from families identified as low income. 1/3 of public schools in Washington operate Title I programs.

Q: How are the Title 1 Part A funds provided by the federal government used?

A: To provide customized instruction and curricula that helps students meet academic standards and to build opportunities for children whose struggles often keep them on the academic sidelines.

Jumping Mouse Children's Center Therapists in Our Brinnon School

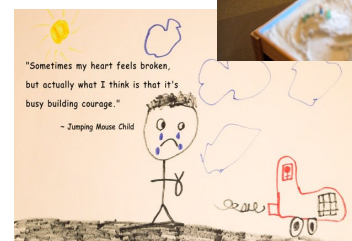
For 25 years, Jumping Mouse Children's Center has been a trusted resource for children's mental health in Jefferson County. Founded by child therapist Dott Kelly, the nonprofit's name was inspired by a Native American legend—where a small mouse survives significant life challenges to become a soaring eagle. Jumping Mouse helps children affected by adverse events or needing support to find their own voice, learn to trust, build resilience, and thrive.

Jumping Mouse partners closely with three local school districts, including Brinnon. With therapy rooms in the schools, students can receive regular services during the school day, making access easier for families. Therapists also work alongside teachers and parents, offering tools and support. As school Superintendent Patricia Beathard says, "Students treasure time with their Jumping Mouse therapist."

Jumping Mouse therapists use Child-Centered Play Therapy, a gentle and effective approach that helps children process trauma, grief, and behavioral and emotional challenges through their natu-

ral language of play. Jumping Mouse provides mental health services for children ages 3-12 and is the only provider in our region offering these services for children ages 3-5.

Jumping Mouse therapists believe that every child deserves to be seen, heard, and supported. By working with our schools and families, they're helping build healthier futures for all our communities—one child at a time.



To learn more or to donate, visit: <https://www.jumpingmouse.org> or call 360.379.5109.

Reading, Writing, and History with Miss Carafas

Our 5th-8th grade ELA and History class has been buzzing with curiosity, thoughtful discussion, and excitement as students explore major moments in American and world history through engaging books and films. This year, students have especially enjoyed reading powerful texts such as *My Brother Sam Is Dead* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which help them connect with history through the eyes of young people who lived through extraordinary

times. These stories have sparked meaningful conversations and a genuine interest in learning about important historical events and their impact on everyday lives.

To bring these lessons even more to life, we also incorporate high-quality films that help students visualize important people, places, and situations that can be difficult to imagine from text alone. Throughout the year, stu-

dents have been building grade-appropriate skills such as close reading, analyzing characters and themes, citing evidence, writing thoughtful responses and arguments, and participating respectfully in discussions. We are proud of the enthusiasm, empathy, and growth our students continue to show as they deepen their understanding of literature, history, and the world around them.

Middle School Math & Science with Miss Small

We have had many projects going on in the middle school math classroom! In 8th grade, we learned about using numbers in scientific notation. The students then got to pick a country they want to travel to someday and compare its population to the US. Students selected countries from all different parts of the globe, including Italy, Finland, Russia, Mexico, Nepal, Nauru, South Korea, Brazil, and Australia.

After learning about proportional relationships, the 7th grade students created their own scenario that could be solved using proportional equations. These ranged from problems about Spiderman sending people to the hospital, to rewards earned in video games, to pet sitting, to how many

candies Miss Small buys. The students are always trying to get some hints in there for me to feed them more candy!

Discovering how to draw shapes and find distances on a coordinate plane has led students into the project of designing their own blueprint. Groups are working together to design their ultimate playground. While one group has focused on the elements of the playground, another group has challenged themselves to see how expensive they can make theirs.

Meanwhile, the 5th grade students practiced their addition and subtraction of decimals as they designed Fall Festival booths. They came up with their ideas, and then they researched the cost of creating the booth, all while trying to keep expenses below \$100. At the end of the project,

the students drew pictures of their booths.

I always love seeing the creativity of the students! Seeing their individual personalities come out in their choices and designs provides great opportunities for me to get to know them better and to engage in meaningful conversations.



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