

# B.E. INFORMED

## Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 1, SEPTEMBER 2019



### **FAMILY SKATE NIGHT**

Come to the back to school skate night and have fun with your friends, family and teachers! Let's roll...

Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> - 4:30-7:00 pm

Lynden Skateway  
421 Judson St. Alley, Lynden  
(360) 354-3851

Skate rental is ONLY \$4.50 per person!

### Month at a Glance

September 10 <sup>th</sup> 8:30am	PTO Coffee Talk
September 10 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	PTO Meeting
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Walk-a-thon Kickoff
September 13 <sup>th</sup> 4:30-7pm	Family Skate Night
September 16 <sup>th</sup> 10:20am	Late Start-No Breakfast
September 19 <sup>th</sup> 6-8:00pm	Back to School Night
September 23 <sup>rd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	BES Spirit Week
September 24 <sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm	<u>WALK-A-THON!!</u>

## From The Principal



Welcome back Blaine Elementary students and families! We've had a great first week of school with our students as we launch into the 2019-20 school year. Last Friday we held our annual "New Year Assembly" to celebrate the start of the school year with staff and students. At this assembly we introduced our staff, shared about our character attributes for the year and then shout out an enthusiastic "new year" count down. Our next assembly will focus on the attribute of Borderite Pride. Throughout this school year we'll be sharing ideas and learning about how we can show Borderite Pride in our school and community. As the year progresses we'll focus on four more attributes including: empathy, perseverance, integrity and self-management. Look for more details coming your way as we cover these topics.

Another important start of the year event is our Walk-a-thon fundraiser. This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Walk-a-thon at Blaine Elementary, which is organized by our PTO each year. The Walk-a-thon kick-off assembly will occur on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. At the kick-off assembly we'll explain to students how the Walk-a-thon works and get them energized to participate in the Walk-a-thon, which occurs on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at the BHS Track. Our Walk-a-thon is held each fall to raise funds for the BES PTO. The Walk-a-thon is our main fundraiser for the PTO, so getting everyone involved is very important! The PTO uses Walk-a-thon funds to support a variety of Blaine Elementary School events and educational needs. These include increasing access to technology in our school, providing a variety of educational resources and supplies to classrooms, supporting field trips and organizing enrichment events and putting on all-school celebrations and recognition days. Last year the Walk-a-thon raised over \$33,000 for our school and students. Look for information about our Walk-a-thon coming home soon!

Other upcoming September events include our Back to School Night, which will take place on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. This event is a chance for families to visit the school, meet with their son or daughter's teacher and learn about what's going on at BES. Back to School Night will start at 6:00pm in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) followed by sessions with teachers. Later this month, our office will send home more specific information about the event. I hope that all of our families will take time to join this important event at BES.

Please look for future BE Informed Newsletters on the first Wednesday of each month as well as on the BES webpage. We will send home all school mailings on Wednesdays throughout the school year. As we launch a new school year we also send out our "first week packet" with a variety of important information, so please take time to review these documents. Our hope is to communicate and connect with families as we share the good news and events taking place at Blaine Elementary School each month. I'm glad to welcome you back to another school year and look forward to partnering with families to support the success of students at BES!

Craig Baldwin

Principal



### **Blaine Elementary Student Drop Off and Safety Reminders!**

As we kick off the 2019-20 school year, Blaine Elementary and schools throughout the Blaine School District would like to remind you of our drop off/arrival procedures to support a safe transition to and from school for students and families. One important reason for these procedures is that all students in the Blaine School District arrive on campus during the same window of time each day as school starts at 8:20am each day. To support a safer arrival with this traffic flow the following procedures are in place. If you have questions about any of these guidelines please do not hesitate to contact the Blaine Elementary School office @ 332-5213. Thank you to every community member for their contribution to a safe school environment each school day!

#### **Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures for Blaine Elementary:**

- Please drive slowly and carefully along the streets leading to and from Blaine Elementary.
- Please use the designated “drop off” lane on the east side of Mitchell Ave. to drop off your child if at all possible. This is a **drop off only lane from 7:30-8:30am and 2:30-3:30pm M-F.** If you do use this lane, please load/unload promptly and reenter traffic onto Mitchell safely.
- Please remind your child to **ALWAYS use a crosswalk**, especially if they are crossing a street during drop off or pick up times.
- **Students are allowed to enter the school building at 8:00am each day. If students are eating breakfast at school they can enter the cafeteria at 7:45am each morning (through the cafeteria doors). Students having breakfast should be dropped off no earlier than 7:45am as there is no supervision prior to this time. All other students can be dropped off at 8:00.** This is especially important during the winter months when we have cold and/or wet weather and it’s very dark around the school campus. We don’t want children to be in cold or dark conditions outside when there is no staff available to supervise.
- There is additional parking available in the elementary school’s north parking lot if you prefer to drop off your child and walk them to the entrance or their classroom. Please use the front door to enter the school.

As a community we depend on each member to do their part to make our school a safe place for children. Please help us by following these procedures and spread the word to others who may be unaware of these safety guidelines.

# Counselor's Corner

## Hello BES Families!

Welcome back to another school year! I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer break. I am very excited to hit the ground running this year with our character attributes and social/emotional learning! We will have the same six character attributes throughout our school year and will be starting with *Borderite Pride*. Our first character attribute assembly will also include the launch of the Walk-a-thon, our largest school fundraiser, on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> in the PAC.



Last year, our PTO generously bought all of our students a t-shirt that had our character attributes listed on them, and we hope to start the year showing our Borderite Pride by wearing them! Staff and students are encouraged to wear their attribute t-shirt on Tuesdays (*T-shirt Tuesdays*).

Another thing I will begin again soon will be the Kind Kids Club, which is a program I started last year that went very well with our students. The Kind Kids Club is a program where students complete secret operations and kind acts throughout the school year for other staff and students. Students must complete "*Mission Possible*" which means completing ten random acts of kindness before they're admitted to the club! Our definition of a random act of kindness is "doing something kind for someone and not expecting anything back in return".

Some of the things that the Kind Kids Club did last year was put kind bookmarks in library books, putting flowers and kind notes on cars in our parking lot, and doing kind messages in sidewalk chalk. The Kind Kids Club is completely optional and had a group of about 50 students last year. Students can apply and become a member anytime throughout the school year.

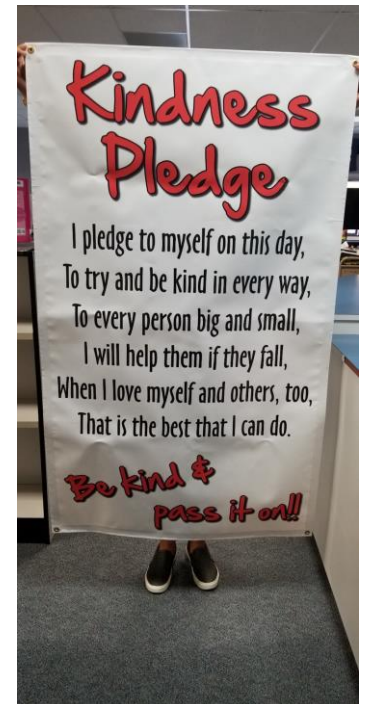
*"Be Kind and Pass It On"*

If you would like more information on my inspiration for the Kind Kids Club, visit [youtube.com](https://youtu.be/ZBicz2uoG8Q) and type in Kind Kids Club.

<https://youtu.be/ZBicz2uoG8Q>

Warmly,

Ms. Point-Moore



# Blaine Thrives

*Blaine's K-5 21st Century Grant Program*



Blaine School District has recently received a 21st Century Grant for our Primary and Elementary Schools. This grant provides us with funding for after-school programming, monthly community meals, adult education, and summer programming. We are excited to have the opportunity to strengthen bonds with families and positively impact hearts and minds in our community. As we further develop our programming more information about these services will be shared in future newsletters.

Ashley Walser  
21st Century Grant Director



We will be participating in the  
Box Tops for Education™  
program again this year!

**This year's goal is \$1,000!**

Drop off your Box Tops outside  
the PTO room.

We will be having fun contests  
later this year!



1. Go to **[Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**
2. Search & Select Blaine  
Elementary PTO
3. That's it! Remember to shop at  
Amazon Smile and the BES  
PTO will benefit from all your  
Amazon purchases!

# **Social/Emotional Learning**

## **September 2019:**

This year at BES we are continuing our emphasis on the area of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Please join us in some of our learning, by reading this column of the BE Informed Newsletter each month. If you have questions about current SEL work at BES or would like to get involved in our efforts, please contact Kelli Alonso or Craig Baldwin.

**WHAT IS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING?** SEL is broadly understood as a process through which people build awareness and skills in managing emotions, setting goals, establishing relationships, and making responsible decisions that support success in school and in life. (See WA state's SEL Implementation Guide) SEL is not a way to "grade" or identify deficits, and it is not just a curriculum or add-on. Rather, SEL is an intentional approach to building student assets.

**WHY FOCUS ON SEL AT SCHOOL?** Learning is inherently social and emotional. When students feel connected to their teachers, peers, and school, the learning networks in their brain become stronger. Emotions and relationships can either motivate students to engage in learning, or, if unmanaged, interfere with learning, memory, and positive behaviors. Decades of research tells us that social emotional skills are critical to both academic learning and to the competencies our children will need to be successful in career and civic life. Children's social emotional development is best supported when parents and families, schools, and community partners all work together.

**Social emotional learning (SEL) starts at home.** Parents and families are a child's first teachers of SEL. As children grow, parents and families continue to support the social emotional lives of their children in the home. Continue to check this newsletter monthly to learn ways to promote social emotional development at home.

**SEL continues at school.** For older children, school is another environment that offers opportunities to become aware of their emotions, show empathy for others, and contribute to the well-being of the community. The Elementary School has an active Social Emotional Learning Team, which is focusing on promoting social emotional skills within our students across all school environments.

**SEL continues in the community.** Community institutions play an essential role in supporting healthy child development and in allowing student learning to continue across the many settings in which children learn. In the Blaine School District, we engage in this element of our SEL work through Birch Bay-Blaine Thrives. This group is a collaborative effort facilitated by the Whatcom County Health Department with the goal of formally nurturing and sustaining stronger relationships between families, staff and those agencies in the community that are positioned to offer additional social, emotional and behavioral support services for students and families.

*Source: Washington SEL Implementation Brief: For Parents and Families*

***Kelli Alonso, MS, CCC-SLP***

Speech Language Pathologist  
Social Emotional Learning  
Blaine Primary & Elementary School





The Family Service Center (FSC) of the Blaine School District is here to help families and students by helping them with basic needs and linking them to local resources.

Our normal hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30am-3:00pm. Please feel free to call us at (360) 332-0740 or visit us to see if we can help you. We are located on the south side of the middle school gym (corner of H and Mitchell Streets) with a blue door that faces the elementary school.

Thanks to grants and generous donations from our community, we are able to provide;

- School supplies including...backpacks, pencils, paper, binders, and more.
- Household/Personal items such as hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo, laundry detergent, etc.
- Vouchers (as available) for gas, food and shoes.
- Children's clothing such as coats, socks and underwear.

We also can help with referrals to community resources to assist with housing, food, holiday needs (i.e. Thanksgiving baskets, toys, etc.), domestic violence support and counseling referrals, etc.

For students who qualify as homeless under the Federal law known as McKinney-Vento, we can help with rights and services including transportation, free/reduced lunch, immediate school enrollment, housing assistance, etc. Please check with us to see if you might qualify.



# Spirit Week

Blaine Elementary School

Let's put a little spirit into the week! All students, teachers and staff are encouraged to participate!

**Monday**  
**Sept. 23**

**Crazy Hair Day**



Go crazy  
with your  
hair today!

**Tuesday**  
**Sept. 24**

**Blaine Pride  
Day**

Wear your Blaine  
Gear or come in  
school colors

**Wednesday**  
**Sept. 25**

**Jersey Day**



Wear your  
favorite sports  
team jersey

**Thursday**  
**Sept. 26**

**Pajama Day**



Come to  
school in your  
pajamas

**Friday**  
**Sept. 27**

**Class Color Day**

Third: Wear Black  
Fourth: Wear Orange  
Fifth: Wear Grey

## **Blaine Elementary Physical Education**

Physical education provides the opportunity to learn positive behaviors, values and attitudes, along with sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline rules and work ethic in a safe, meaningful, and enjoyable way.

We are looking forward to a fun and active year in PE at BES. **We ask that all students have the proper shoes for days that they have P.E. Tennis shoes with laces or velcro are best.**

Expectations in P.E. are to always try your best, do what's right and treat others with respect.

Below are the evaluation criteria for BES P.E. This is a standards based reporting system. We will use these for report cards to assess your child's performance in P.E.

### **Sportsmanship**

Students exhibit responsible and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings:

**4=** Exceeding standards at trimester.

**3=** Meeting standards at trimester

**2=** Progressing toward standard at trimester

**1=** Below standard at trimester

### **Skill Grades**

Student develops fundamental and complex movement skills, as developmentally appropriate:

**4=** Exceeding standards at trimester.

**3=** Meeting standards at trimester

**2=** Progressing toward standard at trimester

**1=** Below standard at trimester

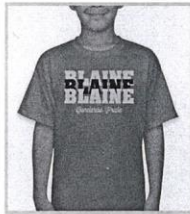


# BLAINE ELEMENTARY SPIRIT GEAR SALE

Show your school and community pride with our new spirit gear.

## Port & Company T Shirt | Youth and Adult Men Sizes

3 Color Screen Print \$16



Core Blend Shirt, 50/50  
Cotton Poly Blend

Youth					
XS	S	M	L	XL	

Write quantity in boxes

Adult						
S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL

TOTAL

Quantity of shirts X \$16

## Port & Company Twist T-Shirt | Ladies and Youth Girl Sizes

3 Color Screen Print \$25



Twist detail in  
front. Hi-Lo  
Style T-shirt.

Ladies						
XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL

Write quantity in boxes

Youth		
S	M	L

TOTAL

Quantity of shirts X \$25

## Port & Company Hooded Sweatshirt | Youth & Adult Men Sizes

3 Color Screen Print \$40



7.8 ounce 50/50 Cotton Poly  
Fleece Blend

Youth					
XS	S	M	L	XL	

Write quantity in boxes

Adult						
S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL

TOTAL

Quantity of shirts X \$40

5.2 oz., 65/35 Polyester/Rayon Jersey

## Big Accessories Urban Trucker Hat | One Size



Quantity of Hats X \$20

TOTAL

## Port & Company Hooded Full Zip Sweatshirt

Adult Men, Ladies and Youth Sizes

3 Color Screen Print \$45



BLAINE  
Elementary School

Logo will be on the back

Youth					
XS	S	M	L	XL	

Write quantity in boxes

Ladies						
S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL

Adult Men						
S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL

TOTAL

Quantity of shirts X \$45

7.8 ounce 50/50 Cotton Poly  
Fleece Blend

## ORDER INFORMATION

All orders are considered final sale and cannot be returned.  
Please print legibly. Incomplete order forms will not be  
accepted. Return form to school by September 20, 2019.

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total of all the items: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Methods: Cash, Check or Credit Card

Please make checks payable to Blaine Elementary PTO and  
return this form to the school.

Credit Card Information: VISA MasterCard AMEX

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Credit card transactions will be charged an extra 4% fee

Orders must be placed by September 20, 2019. Delivery estimated by October 15.