

October 19, 2007

Dear Blaine Elementary Families,

**Thanks for a great start!**

I would like to thank staff, students, and parents for a wonderful start to the 2007-2008 school year. Our Curriculum Night was a big hit and our Family Math Night was also a success. These events, coupled with the collective efforts of our Parent Involvement Committee and Blaine community, have set our students up for a successful school year. We must always remember it is a team effort. It cannot be done alone and we appreciate everyone's help.

Perhaps the easiest way to ensure your student has a successful school year is to make sure they attend school every day and arrive on time. Good consistent attendance is the key to successful academic growth. If your child is sick or cannot attend school, please call our school at 332-5213. According to our district policy, absences that are excused include: illness/health, religious observances, school approved activities, family emergencies, disciplinary action required by law, and family trips with prior administrative approval. Please follow up any absence with a written note to the office. Thanks for your help.

**Staff Development**

Improving academic achievement is paramount to our staff. To achieve this goal, teachers have participated in a variety of staff development opportunities offered prior to the start of the school year. These trainings help teachers provide research-based instructional strategies to their students. Our School Improvement Plan is in the early stages of development as we begin our focus on a new subject area this year...mathematics.

The recent adoption of the updated Investigations Math program has heightened our awareness at school and in the community. Students and staff are beginning to better understand and explore the multitude of hands-on resources included with the Investigations curriculum. Staff development trainings have begun and our staff has met with the Investigations consultant to better implement this new curriculum.

**Conferences**

Elementary conferences are being held this year from November 15th through November 21st. There is a 12:50 dismissal for students on these days since our teachers will be meeting with parents throughout the afternoons. We highly encourage you to attend this important event. It is a terrific opportunity to discuss specifics with your child's teacher.

**Blaine Elementary Website**

A wonderful online resource is our Blaine Elementary school website. It can be accessed at [www.blaine.k12.wa.us](http://www.blaine.k12.wa.us). The school website contains important information, upcoming events, and links to a variety of resources for parents and students.

Thanks once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kathy Newport