



August 2009

Dear Picnic Point Student and Family,

If you stopped by Picnic Point you would feel excitement in the air and be amazed by the activity and flurry around the school. Teachers are preparing their classrooms. Our custodial staff is cleaning away and helping with last minute teacher (and principal) requests! Our office staff is busy organizing, enrolling and putting supplies away. We have also been busy finalizing the master schedule and class lists. Lunch procedures are being examined and we are likely to implement a recess before lunch schedule that has been successful at other schools. We are all busy with anticipation and excitement looking forward to your return to school on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The first day of school will be here soon and I want to make sure that you have important information and know of important dates and events to help you plan for the first day.

**Staffing Updates:** This summer our staffing changes have been minimal but I would like to introduce you to staff members who were hired over the summer. We are thrilled that Miss Cho will be returning to Picnic Point this year. Miss Cho taught first grade at Picnic Point last year. Joining our fourth grade team will be Miss Karl. Miss Karl comes to us with experience teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Renton and California and most recently Language Arts at Olympic View Middle School in Mukilteo.

**2009 – 2010 Class Assignments:** On August 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm class lists will be posted. We are waiting until the last possible moment to post class lists because we need to make sure our enrollment count is as accurate as possible. A great deal of time, effort and thought goes into the process of student placement. Consideration has been given to the input of teachers and parents, student learning styles and teaching style. Our classes are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. All of our teachers strive to make each year a positive learning experience for your child and they are looking forward to having your child in their class.

**Open House and Back to School Blitz:** We will hold our open-house for students and parents to visit their classrooms and meet their teacher on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 4-5 pm. Please understand that teachers generally work late on the day before school to finish every last detail. Do not expect classrooms to be picture perfect as there is always more to do to get ready for opening days. Please end your visit by 5:00 so teachers can use their time for preparation. Your PTA is once again hosting the Back to School Blitz on Tuesday Sept. 1 from 4-6. There will be informational booths about school events and programs and a barbecue hosted by your PTA.

**First Day of School:** The first student day is Wednesday Sept. 2. Students are allowed on the playground at 8:40. There is no supervision earlier than that so please help your eager student plan the best time to leave for school. Breakfast will be served on the first day starting at 8:30.

**Kindergarten Open-house:** For kindergartners, the first day is orientation for parents. For students registered in the morning or afternoon sessions, this is a shortened schedule with no bus transportation. Additional information is being sent to kindergarten families.

**School Schedule:** School begins at 8:55 each day. First and second graders are dismissed at 2:30. Third, fourth and fifth graders will be dismissed at 3:30. AM kindergartners are in school from 8:55-11:32 and PM kindergartners are in school from 12:53-3:30. Breakfast begins at 8:30 each morning. The playground opens at 8:40. Please do not drop your child off before 8:30.

**Bus Transportation:** Bus numbers and pick up times will be mailed to each bus riders home. Please let your child take the bus to school on the first day if they will be riding the bus throughout the year. Students learn bus numbers and drivers in the morning and will ride the same bus in the afternoon. Students who do not ride the bus in the morning will not know what bus to ride in the afternoon.

**Walking:** If you live in a walking area, we really encourage you to let your children walk to school. We have crossing guards in the morning and at both dismissal times. Only children in grades 3-5 are allowed to ride their bicycles to school. Before allowing your child to ride their bike to school please evaluate the dangers of the route and the skills of the rider.

**Driving Private Cars:** If you live in a walking area, we really encourage you to let your children walk to school. Parking is limited and pick-up after school is crowded. If you do elect to drive your child to school, please know that at pick up and drop off times it can be quite congested. Remember:

- Slow down in our parking lot, pay attention and obey traffic safety laws including hands free driving.
- Please DO NOT park in the loading zone or leave your car unattended.
- Traffic supervisors will assist in keeping traffic moving.

**Breakfast and Lunch:** The cost of school lunches this year will be \$2.25. Breakfast is served each morning at 8:30 and the cost is \$1.25. Applications for “free and reduced lunch” will be included in the first day packets and can also be picked up in the school office.

**Curriculum Nights:** Please plan to attend these important informational evenings to learn more about your child’s school year. On Thursday September 10 grades 1 and 2 will be hosting their curriculum night. Grades 3, 4 and 5 will hold their curriculum night on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

I hope that you have enjoyed the wonderful weather we have had this summer. It has truly been an amazing summer of beautiful weather and incredibly hot days! I sure enjoyed the sun and was able to spend lots of time with my husband and family. My husband and I also were able to complete some projects around the house. It feels good to start the school year with some of those projects completed, although there always seems to be more to do! I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Lynn Olsen  
Picnic Point Principal