



Blazing Trails Newsletter

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Dates to Remember:
October 14th- All Day BT
October 25th-26th- BT Closed
October 26th- 2 hour early release
October 31st- BT Halloween Bash

Birthdays:
1st- Miranda A.
7th- Devin I.

October is here!

It's been a crazy ride up to this point, but we made it! Thank you all for your flexibility and understanding during all of the wacky schedule changes.

The Bridge from School to After School and Back

Every year the staff of Blazing Trails attends the annual Bridge Conference for professional development; two days of workshops and trainings designed to help those of us working with youth of all ages expand our knowledge on how to better help and understand the children and families we serve with academic challenges, self esteem or self identification, friendship dynamics and so much more. We are blessed to be able to send all of our staff to this conference. It is an excellent networking and team building opportunity.

What this means for our families:

Tuesday October 25th and Wednesday October 26th, Blazing Trails will be **CLOSED**, as workshops will be conducted all day. This is a great opportunity for networking with other families and arranging play-dates for your children. We will be back to our regular hours on Thursday October 27th. Per council approval, these days are included on your October invoice. If you have any questions about billing, please speak with Jennifer, Rita or Mckinsey.

If you would like more information on this conference, please visit:
http://www.schoolsoutwashington.org/1986_190/NationalConferenceonAfterschool&SummerLearning.htm

BT's Halloween Bash

Blazing Trails holds one party each year: a Halloween Party. On this day, children will be allowed to bring their costumes to Blazing Trails

8th- Riley K.
9th- Eli B.
16th- Iris C.
20th- RITA GARTON
23rd- Willow C.
25th- Orion G.
25th- Finnegan T.
30th- Bryce A.
30th- Johanna R.

in the morning and change into them in the afternoon for our party. We will have various games and activities, ranging from bingo to balloon chases. This year our party will be held on Monday October 31st. This tends to be our biggest event, so if your child doesn't normally attend Blazing Trails on Monday's and would like to attend, please ask our office staff about availability.

Things to Know

-Billing

Invoices are created and sent on the 1st business day of every month. **Payment is due 10 days after the billing date.** If you get your invoice emailed and you don't see it in your inbox by the 5th, it may have been sent to your spam folder. We would suggest double checking your email settings to make sure that your bill goes to the right place.

If you still don't see it, call us or come in and we can tell you your balance or print off your invoice. **Any accounts unpaid 15 days from the invoice date will be charged a \$10 late fee.**

Remember, we require a 30 day written notice for any permanent schedule changes to be reflected on your invoice.

- Kid Searches

If alternate plans have been made for your child's afternoon (i.e. play dates, doctor's appointments, afterschool activities, etc), Blazing Trails **must** be notified not to expect your child. If we need to go searching for your child, a \$5 Kid Search fee will be charged to your account. You can call or email with this notification, or come in and write it down in our **Parent Communication Log**, located on our **Family Information** table next to the sign out/in sheet.

Kid searches require at least one staff member to be removed from our mix to locate all children that are missing. This includes phone calls, talking to school staff and sometimes district transportation. We take kid searches very seriously. Please help ensure your child's safety by making sure we know if they are not going to be in our care on any given day.

-Lost and Found

Blazing Trails has a lost and found located at our front entrance. You can also check the Pathfinder lost and found, located in the lunchroom. Please check to see if any of your child's things are hiding there.

-Communication of Absences and Other Changes

Please email us with any absences or schedule changes. This also includes alternate pickups. Keep in mind that emails are sometimes slow to get to us, so make sure that emails are sent early enough for us

to respond.

A phone call will also suffice for passing on information. Please call before 2:45 with any information pertinent to your child. If you call after 3:00, we may not be able to answer as we are preparing for our afternoon and will have children arriving.

If you are picking your child up from school, please make sure to come in before 3:00. **Please make sure that a staff member has seen you.** Things get pretty crazy right after school and we can't always check the family log book after school has let out. This will help us know that all of our kids are where they are supposed to be.

-After School Activities

Starting October 17th, Pathfinder's OST (Out of School Time) programs will begin. If your child goes to another school, check with their school office about their OST start date.

If your child is signed up for an after school activity and is supposed to come to us in the afternoon, here's the protocol (this also applies to after school sports and academic support classes):

- If your child is signed up for an OST activity, BT needs an email confirmation.
- Children check in at Blazing Trails **before** going to their activity. They won't be signed in until they return from the activity.
- When they are done with their after school activity, they must come back into the Blazing Trails den (classroom) to be signed in before going to another BT space.
- If a child does not check in with us before their activity, a staff member will go looking for your child. You may be charged a \$5 kid search fee.
- If your child checks in before, but not after their activity, a staff member will go looking for your child. You may be charged a \$5 kid search fee.

-Late Pick Ups

We understand that there can be some unforeseen circumstances when coming to pick up your child, such as traffic or emergency work situations. Please remember that we close at **6:00**.

Should you arrive late, you will be charged \$5 for every 5 minutes, beginning at **6:05**. We may also charge you a late fee if you sign out before 6:00, but remain in our facility past our closing time. Please remember that our staff would also like to go home. Let us know what we can do to help get your child/ren ready to leave by the time you get here.

Chronic tardiness is grounds for termination of Blazing Trails care (policy **622** in your **Family Handbook**), so please do your best to get

here on time or arrange for alternate pickups if you know you can't be here by closing.

Dates to Remember

Friday October 14th - All Day B.T.

Seattle Public Schools will be closed for Professional Development. Blazing Trails will be open all day from 6:30-6:00. If your child is scheduled to be with us on Fridays, mornings or afternoons, they automatically have a spot this day. If you don't need the day, please let our office know.

If your child is not normally scheduled on Fridays and you would like them to drop in, please contact our office about availability.

Tuesday October 25th and Wednesday October 26th - Bridge Conference

Blazing Trails will be **CLOSED**. School will be open.

Wednesday October 26th - 2 Hour Early Dismissal

School will get out 2 hours early, at 1:15. Blazing Trails will be closed due to our conference.

Monday October 31st - B.T. Halloween Party

If your child is bringing a costume, please make sure that they drop it off at Blazing Trails **before** going to class. Their costume should have their name on it to ensure that the right kid gets the right costume.

If your child doesn't normally attend on Monday afternoons and would like to participate, please talk to an office staff member about availability.

I know that this is a lot of information to take in! Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email them to me (mckinseygarton@blazingtrails.org), call us or come in and talk to us directly.