



# **Blazing Trails Newsletter**

**Blazing Trails**  
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## **The Blazing Trails Council**

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**Dates to Remember:**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> -**  
**75 minute early release**  
**October 11<sup>th</sup> - All Day BT**  
**October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> - BT Closed -**  
**Bridge conference**  
**October 31<sup>st</sup> - BT Halloween party**

**Birthdays:**

## **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 very fortunate 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:**

**Monday October 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup>**, 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 Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup>. 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:  
<https://www.schoolsoutwashington.org/products/bridge-conference-2019>

## **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 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 Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup>. This tends to be our biggest event, so if your child doesn't normally attend Blazing Trails on Thursday's and would like to attend, please ask our office staff about availability.

**3<sup>rd</sup>- Alex J.**  
**8<sup>th</sup>- Riley K.**  
**8<sup>th</sup>- Phoebe W.**  
**8<sup>th</sup>- Nora G.**  
**9<sup>th</sup>- Eli B.**  
**10<sup>th</sup>- Rafe L.**  
**16<sup>th</sup>- Iris C.**  
**19<sup>th</sup>- Emma F.G.**  
**20<sup>th</sup>- Olivia K.**  
**25<sup>th</sup>- Finn T.**  
**30<sup>th</sup>- Jo R.**  
**30<sup>th</sup>- Annabelle A.**  
**30<sup>th</sup>- Bryce A.**

## Things to Know

### **-Billing (policy 500)**

Invoices are created and sent on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 (policy 611)**

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 looking 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 anytime **before 3:00.**

Kid searches require at least one staff member to be removed from our mix to locate all children that are missing. This could include 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.

### **-After School Activities**

Pathfinder's OST (Out of School Time) programs are starting soon. 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. Please have a conversation with your children to let them know they are responsible for checking in with our greeter.
- When they are done with their after school activity, they must come back into the Blazing Trails 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 11<sup>th</sup> - 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. You will need to provide your child with a lunch. If you don't need care for this 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.

### **Monday October 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> - Bridge Conference**

Blazing Trails will close for 2 days for professional development. Please make sure that you arrange alternate care for your child/ren as there will not be staff members on site.

**Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup> - 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.

**\*Costume weapons are not permitted\***

If your child doesn't normally attend on Thursday 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](mailto:mckinseygarton@blazingtrails.org)), call us or come in and talk to us directly.