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## PUESTA DEL SOL ELEMENTARY

[www.bsd405.org](http://www.bsd405.org)

Dear 2016-17 Puesta del Sol Kindergarten Families,

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to Puesta del Sol and the Bellevue School District! We are thrilled to have your incoming kindergartner join our school community. Kindergarten is such an amazing year of growth for each child, and we look forward to partnering with you on your child's educational journey!

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, state funding will allow us to provide full-day kindergarten for every student in the district free of charge. This is tremendous! Coupled with the funding from the state is the requirement to implement a kindergarten readiness process known as the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). One component of the WaKIDS process is an opportunity for each parent/guardian to meet with a kindergarten teacher prior to the start of the school year for the purpose of sharing information about their child and developing a school-home connection.

Our kindergarten teachers are truly excited about this new opportunity to connect with you and learn about your child! In order to provide time for the kindergarten teachers to meet with each parent/guardian prior to the start of the school year, the first day of school for kindergarten students will be delayed until Tuesday, September 6, 2016. All other students in grades 1-12 will start school on Thursday, September 1, 2016. On August 26, following our scheduled Kinder Camp on August 24, you will receive email notification of your child's teacher and an invitation to sign up to meet with the teacher.

Please log on to the following web addresses to learn more about state funded kindergarten or WaKIDS:

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/>

WaKIDS:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS/pubdocs/WhatIsWaKIDS.pdf>

State-funded full-day kindergarten:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/EarlyLearning/FullDayKindergartenResearch.aspx>

Below is a review of important dates coming up in August and September:

**August 23** – Beginning of year assessment on Sign-up Genius

**August 24** – Kinder Camp (9:00-12:00), Fiesta de paletas/Picnic (12:00-12:30), Bus ride (12:30-1:00)

**August 26** – Notification of teacher assignment (via email)

**September 1-2** – Family meetings

**September 6** – First day of school for kindergarten students

As we know that a parent/guardian is a child's first teacher, we are excited to learn from you about your child's strengths and goal areas.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Shearer  
Principal, Puesta del Sol