



Bremerton Backpack Brigade

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Here we are, turning the calendar to October. Don't you just love fall? It's my favorite time of the year. Those clear, beautiful days, interspersed with heady, sweet smelling days of rain and the incredible crisp, cool nights! It's a different kind of "New Year," a new start for many things. The Brigade is starting a new school year, in a new pantry, with new (and "seasoned"!) volunteers already busy packing and delivering food backpacks. If you haven't come by the new space yet, we'd love to give you a tour (honestly, it's that big, we can take you on a tour!). We're absolutely reveling in having so much space!

We're gonna start including vegetable packets in the backpacks again this school year. We need four or five people to champion that task. It entails meeting at our pantry on Wednesday mornings at 10am. wash and/or chop the vegi's, pack up some combination of baby carrots, celery, chunks of broccoli or cauliflower, sweet peppers, little cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, (in short, kid friendly, yummy, fun vegi's), into individual baggies. The whole thing takes about an hour and a half. If you think this is a volunteer opportunity that might work for you (doesn't have to be every week) just let us know, you'll be "in like flynn" (whoever flynn is).



We also need three to four people willing to collect the returned backpacks from the schools on Wednesday mornings (pick up from 10ish, return to the pantry by 11ish). If each volunteer picked up backpacks from two or three different schools, brought the empty backpacks to our pantry, and helped sort them, it should take around 90 minutes from start to finish. And, again, you wouldn't have to help every week, volunteers can take turns. Let us know if you're interested, we'd love your help.

And, we need to empty our shed(s) from the West Hills site. A crew of 3 or 4 folks can make this happen on a Saturday or name your availability! We'd love your help and your pickup trucks, to get everything over here in one trip! We even have some shelves to assemble that day. What fun! Right? I have a feeling this is going to be a pivotal year in Brigade Land, come join us and help make changes in young lives happen, one backpack of food at a time.

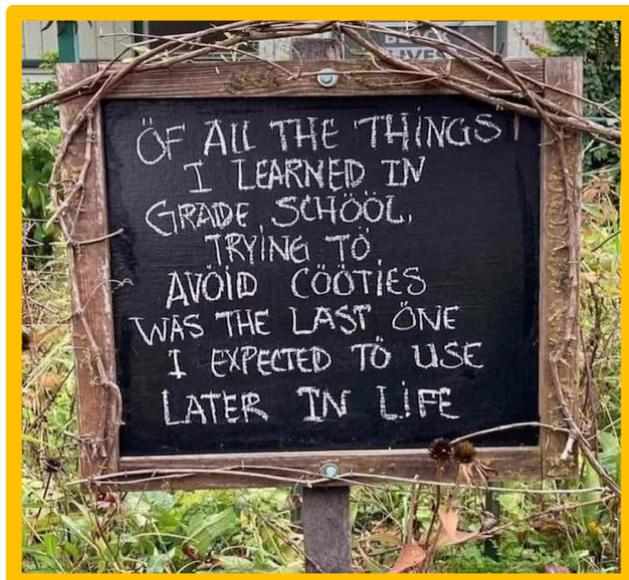
Because of COVID and it's variants, and for the safety of our volunteers, their families and loved ones, and especially to protect the children we serve, who cannot yet be vaccinated:

BEGINNING Friday, Oct 1st We will be physically checking the vaccination cards of our volunteers as they enter our building. Please bring your card with you. All volunteers must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask anywhere on school property. We'll ask you the usual questions about exposure, any possible symptoms, etc., and you'll sign a tracking sheet, that includes your name, phone and email. We know it will slow us up a bit getting started, but it will be worth it if not one single case of COVID is ever tracked to our pantry. A little over year ago, during the summer months, (when no one was working in our pantry!) COVID claimed the life of one of the Brigade's beloved, senior volunteers. Let's all work hard together to make sure that doesn't happen again!

Look At All This Bounty!



Coram Deo Church just finished their annual food drive for the Brigade! Every fall, the faith family at Coram Deo Church collects well over a 1000 pounds of nonperishable foods for the Brigade (this year might just break that record!). Their continued support is making a huge difference in the lives of hungry kids all across our community. On behalf of all the children the Brigade serves, we offer our most heartfelt **Gratitude!**



October Volunteer Schedule

Oct. 1 st	Fri. 9:30am - Fri. , 10am	1 st Week Packing Backpack Delivery
Oct 6 th	Wed. 10am Wed. 10am	Vegi Prep Backpack Collection
Oct 8 th	Fri. 9:30am Fri. 10am	2 nd Week Packing Backpack Delivery
Oct 13 th	Wed. 10am Wed. 10am	Vegi Prep Backpack Collection
Oct 15 th	Fri. 9:30am Fri. 10am	3 rd Week Packing Backpack Delivery
Oct 20 th	Wed. 10am Wed. 10am	Vegi Prep Backpack Collection
Oct 22 nd	Fri. 9:30am Fri. 10am	4 th Week Packing Backpack Delivery
Oct 27 th	Wed. 10am Wed. 10am	Vegi Prep Backpack Collection
Oct 28 th	Thurs 9:30am Thurs 10 am	5 th Week Packing Backpack Delivery

Please note: There is a fifth week in October, and a "non-student" Friday. That means we'll need volunteers to make up impromptu 5th week packing and delivery teams, on **Thursday, Oct 28th**. And, we're still looking for a few people for our vegi prep and backpack collection teams on Wednesdays. Let us know if you're interested in helping with this. We would really (REALLY!) love to hear from you!

If you shop online, through AmazonSmile, and you select the Bremerton Backpack Brigade as your favorite nonprofit,



a small percentage of the total of your your online purchases can be donated to the Brigade, at no cost to you, and you will be helping the Brigade feed hungry kids!