

## **BCTA Starts Up Sakai Tennis Program**

### History

For five years BCTA has run a tennis program in our island's public elementary schools. Kids who graduated from the program were disappointed to learn that tennis was not available for them at Sakai.

The recent move by BCTA to run its sign-ups through itself rather than BIMPRD (see box to right for more details) provided BCTA with enough funding to expand its tennis program.

### Program Details

The Sakai program will run from September 13 to November 3 this year. It will be twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, directly after school. It will be an hour and a half (3:15 to 4:45).

### Equipment

Students will play in the Sakai gym over full size nets on a reduced size court of 60' by 27' (doubles), and with 25 inch racquets and low compression balls. Equipment is provided by BCTA. Some play may spill outside in the covered adjacent play area.

### Practices

Practices will consist of a warm-up, skill-building drills where proper tennis techniques will be taught, fun group games and USTA 10 and under doubles play. Some singles will be practiced if space allows. Serving will be taught and used in doubles games.

### Tournament

A doubles tournament will be held at the end of the season.

### Coaches

Coaches will be volunteers. Julie Riely & Heidi Zwicker (see bios right) will jointly head the program with three or four assistant coaches each week.

## **BCTA Takes Control of It's Own School Programming**

At the end of the 2010 Elementary Tennis season coaches met and voted to separate from BIMPRD.

Classes in 2011 were our biggest to date, with waiting lists at all the schools. Best of all, BCTA now kept all the proceeds from their program, allowing them to buy a full set of equipment for Blakely elementary which will be used not only for our program, but in PE class as well.

Enough funds were left over at the end of the 2011 to make it possible to start up a program at Sakai.

### **Doubles Rules for 10/11 Year Olds**

Best two-out-of-three format, with four-game sets using no-ad scoring.

**Julie Riely**, USPTA Recreational Coach, taught junior tennis at BAC, coached North Kitsap High School girls tennis, and competed herself for ten years in both singles and doubles play. She developed the elementary school tennis program and has coached in that program for five years.

**Heidi Zwicker** has acted as head coach at Blakely for three years. She has and continues to compete at the highest USTA level of competition offered through her local clubs.

**Sign-ups will begin September 1. Join BCTA to receive pre-registration status. Click "Join BCTA" tab on Home Page.**