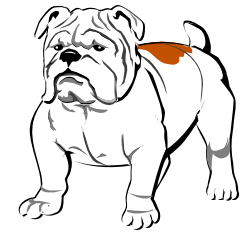


BIRCH BARK

September 5, 2008

Home of the Birch Bulldogs



Welcome to the 2008-2009 School Year

Thank you to the Birch community for such a warm welcome. I've had an incredible start to the year and have loved meeting all your children (and many of you!). It's a pleasure working in such a supportive community and I look forward to the next many months with kids and adults alike.

This year brings the beginning of our positive behavior support program, P.A.W.S. (Personal responsibility, Accept others, Wise choices, Safety). These four ideals will guide our classroom instruction, our time in the cafeteria/ on the playground, and will be reinforced building-wide. Look in this newsletter for more information about this extraordinary program!

This newsletter also arrives home at the same time as our fall fundraising information. I encourage all of you to read this information and consider supporting Birch Elementary

in this way. There are two different support avenues: 1) purchasing of gift wrap from Innisbrook and 2) direct contribution to the Birch PTO. Many of Birch's programs are the result of our fundraising efforts, and ANY contri-

*Starting here, what do you want to remember?
How sunlight creeps along a shining floor?
What scent of old wood hovers, what softened
sound from outside fills the air?
Will you ever bring a better gift for the world
than the breathing respect that you carry
wherever you go right now? Are you waiting
for time to show you some better thoughts?
When you turn around, starting here, lift this
new glimpse that you found; carry into evening
all that you want from this day. This interval you spent
reading or hearing this, keep it for life--
What can anyone give you greater than now,
starting here, right in this room, when you turn around?*

--- William Stafford

tribution you can make is welcome and appreciated. I'm a big believer in community building; as such, I see myself as a full community fundraising cheerleader! Any student who participates in the fund-

raiser (in any amount, whether through gift wrap sales OR direct donation) will be recognized on our "Fundraising Wall of Fame".

As we embark on this year together, I'm moved by the new beginnings that we're all a part of. Some of us (me included!) are in a brand new school. Others have been part of Birch for a long time and are also celebrating a new start to the year. The beauty in working in education for me is in the magic of learning and growing... in helping each child reach her or his potential... in the whole school community coming together to do what's best for all kids at Birch. For me, I see my work as moment to moment, with each moment being the most important one. My 14 years as a literacy teacher always pulls me toward poetry... Here we go, Bulldogs... let's do everything we can to make this a great year!

Tracy Stegall, Principal

BIRCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1035 Birch Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

Office/24-Hour Attendance Line: 303 469-3397

Fax: 720 887-3592

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00 p.m.

www.bvsd.org

9/5, INNISBROOK, Fundraiser Kick-off
-Ice Cream Social 5:00-7:00 p.m.
-IZZE Book Trailer 3:00-3:30 p.m.
9/8, 5th Grade Inst. Music Begins.
7:40-8:20 a.m.
- 5-F, Field Trip, Sombrero Marsh 9:00-2:00 p.m.
9/9, Grade Birchoir Rehearsals, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
-SIT Meeting, 3:15 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

9/10, 5th Grade Inst. Music
- 5th Grade Art Club, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
9/11, Birchoir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00 p.m.
-Pudge Bros. Pizza Night
9/12, 5-P & 5-Mc Field Trip, Sombrero Marsh, 9:00-2:00 p.m.
-IZZE Book Trailer, 3:00-3:30 p.m.

9/15, 5th Grade Inst. Music, 7:40-8:20 a.m.
9/16, Birchoir Rehearsals, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
9/17, 5th Grade Inst. Music
-5th Grade Art Club, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
9/18, Birchoir Rehearsals, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Welcome Back!



BIRCH CHOIRS

Returning for another Awesome year . . .

BIRCHOIR

Open to all 4th and 5th Graders

Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Thursdays

3:00—4:00 p.m. in the music room.

BRAND NEW TO BIRCH . . .

BULLDOGS CHOIR

Open to all 2nd and 3rd Graders

Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Thursdays

3:00—4:00 p.m. in the music room

FIRST REHEARSAL: Tuesday, JANUARY 13, 2009

More information will be sent home closer to the 1st rehearsal.

If you have any questions or would like more information,

please ask Mrs. Hohensee.

When it's all over, it's not who you were ... it's whether you made a difference.

---Bob Dole



Instrumental Music

You do not need to know anything about music to assist your child in this new endeavor. We just ask that you support and encourage your child in their efforts to become a successful musician. Included in that support is assisting them to come to class regularly and on time. **Instrumental Music Classes will be offered at Birch Elementary every Monday and Wednesday**

from 7:40 to 8:20 am, beginning Monday, September 8.

Unlike other schools, Birch is unable to offer Instrumental Music during the regular school day. **Therefore, your extra support in helping your child attend class regularly and on time is needed!**



From the Library . . .

Dear Parents,

My name is Kevin Minnihan and I will be the new librarian this year at Birch. This is my first year in this new endeavor and I'm excited about serving your children's library needs. This is the first week I saw your kids and the main focus was on **taking care of library books.** It's imperative that you help



your children remember to **take care of the books** they borrow from the school, so others can enjoy them in the future. If any of you wish to volunteer in the library, that would be greatly appreciated. If you have questions or concerns, my email is

kevin.minnihan@bvsd.org.

Kevin

FIFTH GRADE ART CLUB SCHEDULE

Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00.

8 weeks in the fall and 8 weeks in the spring.

Fall session

9/17

9/24

10/8

10/15 **No Art Club** (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

10/22

10/29

11/5

11/12

11/19

Spring session

4/8

4/15

4/22

4/29

5/6

5/13

5/20

5/27





PAWS For Applause



Thank you to the many **SHAREFEST** coordinators, volunteers and community members who worked inside and outside of our school during our summer break to brighten and bring cheer to Birch for our new year! Your dedication is very much appreciated.

Thank you Birch PTO. You are the best! We enjoyed the meals you provided on August 11th for our return back to school.

Obrigado!

Thank you to all Birch volunteers. You are always welcome and your support is greatly appreciated. If you have not filled out a 2008-2009 volunteer confidentiality form, please do so in the office.



2008-2009 School Year

Lunch Prices

- Elementary lunch with milk: \$2.50
 - Reduced price lunch with milk: \$.25
 - Adult price lunch with milk: \$3.50
 - A la carte bagel with cream cheese \$1.25
 - A la carte milk: \$.50
 - A la carte juice: \$.50
 - Bottled water: \$.75
- Any student with a milk allergy can get juice as a substitute for milk with a doctor's note on file in the clinic. If you plan to have lunch with your child and wish to order a hot lunch, please contact the office 303-469-3397 to let us know before 9:00 a.m.



Be a Breakfast Buddy!

Birch serves breakfast between 8:15—8:30 a.m. daily. The cost is \$1.50 per student. For more questions, please contact Dawn Mielke @ 303 887-2700.

Lost and Found

Please be sure to label all items with your child's name in permanent marker; including backpacks, lunch boxes, coats, hats, outdoor gear, etc. Any item in lost and found with a student's name will be returned to their classroom at the end of the month. **All items unclaimed on the last school day of each month will be donated to charity.**



No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure."
-- Emma Goldman

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM



If your child needs to take any medication at school, you must fill out a "Request to Give Medication" form available from the Birch office (including over the counter medicine). This form needs to be signed by the student's physician and parent. All medication must be in its original packaging with the prescription label attached. Medications and forms should be dropped off at the clinic, located at the front office. Students are not allowed to keep medication with them during the school day (with the exception of inhalers with a doctors permission). All cough drops need to be administered by the health room para.

Also, if you have not yet returned your Emergency Cards, Physical Information or a copy of your current Immunization Records, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Dorothy Baker

Tech Savvy Parenting

BVSD's Lifelong Learning Program offers "Tech Savvy Parenting" class. Internet safety is a huge topic among educators, parents, kids, teens and organizations such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and for good reason. According to a recent NCMEC study and pcmag.com, "By age seven, 60 percent of kids have been online; a number that jumps to 90 percent by age 9. Most tweens—kids between the ages of 8 and 12—stay on the internet for at least two hours a day." NCMEC and Cox Communications hosted an internet safety summit in July and found that approximately "28 percent of tweens reported having been contacted by a stranger

while online. About 18 percent did not tell anyone about being contacted, while 11 percent responded to a stranger." Not only do kids and teens need to be aware of internet predators, but internet bullying is on the rise. NCMEC reports 22 percent of kids have friends who have been bullied online. These statistics can be unsettling for parents. How can you keep your 'tweens protected and safe on the internet? BVSD's Lifelong Learning is addressing these concerns by offering a "Tech Savvy Parenting" class to help educate parents about the latest technologies and how to keep kids safe on the internet. The class will also offer suggestions for using technology to support student

growth. About the instructor: Michelle Eckstein is the founder of Gifted Kids Network and an educational consultant specializing in using technology with gifted students. She has a master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut. Michelle serves on the BVSD Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee and currently serves as Secretary of Boulder Valley Gifted and Talented.

TECH SAVVY PARENTING
 Dates: Monday, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.; three sessions starting October 13 and ending October 27.
 Cost: \$89, Materials Fee \$10
 Location: New Vista High School in Boulder

Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens."
 President Bill Clinton on International Literacy Day, September 8th

**Boulder Public Library Foundation &
 Boulder Psychological Services Community Partners
 Present**

Pathways to Parenting Success

A Free Lecture Series

Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30pm

Meadows Branch Library 4800 Baseline Road (Behind Safeway)

Panel Presentations in September:

9/08/08 - How to Help Your Child be Successful in School: Learning & Behavior

Iris Lee / Dr. Jan Hittelman / Linda Cain, MEd / Susan Elling, MA CCC-SLP

Through presentations and group discussion, parents will learn how to identify and address key learning and behavioral factors that impact student achievement by using proven strategies at home and in school.

9/15/08 - How to Help Your Child be Successful in School: Social & Emotional

Dan Fox, LPC / Iris Lee / Lauri Benblatt, LPC / Marcela Ot'alara, LPC

By increasing their understanding of social and emotional challenges that impact student learning, parents will be better prepared to address these issues and maximize their children's success in school and life.

9/22/08 - Parenting Essentials for the Elementary School Years

Iris Lee / Jamie Lau / Dr. Jan Hittelman

Utilizing the effective parenting strategies offered in the early school years can provide significant benefits in the elementary school years and create an effective structure to build on in adolescence.

9/29/08 - Parenting Essentials for the Middle School Years

Jamie Lau / Marcela Ot'alara, LPC / Dr. Patti Ashley / Stuart Marshall, LPC

Learn how to adjust your parenting strategies as your child shifts from childhood to adolescence in order to reduce conflict, maximize family harmony and work collaboratively with your child on school issues. **For more information, please visit: BoulderPsychologicalServices.com**

Get details and register at www.bvbsd.org/III

More information on P.A.W.S.

Birch will be kicking off our new positive behavior support initiative. We know that supporting positive behavior increase academic performance. For this reason, Birch has adopted the new PAWS program as our positive behavior support programs. PAWS stands for personal responsibility, accepting others, wise choices, and safety. These are values and lessons that we will be teaching and reinforcing school-wide. All parents should be receiving a brochure with more PAWS details in their students next Friday folder. Also, more general information about positive behavior support can also be found at www.pbis.org. If your student receives PAWS coupons, please give reinforcement at home and talk with them about what they did to earn this coupon. Also, if you would like to continue our PAWS program at home, below is a handout that your student can help you complete.

Have your child fill you in on how they define each of these terms at school. Agree on a common definition.

Brainstorm what positive behaviors would "look like" in each of these home routines.

State behaviors in positive terms. For example, instead of don't yell, you would write what you want your child to do "talk quietly". These become the norms for your home.

Reinforce when you notice your child demonstrating these behaviors. Remember not all rewards/incentives are consumable. Sometimes verbal praise, a hug, or a high five are enough to encourage positive behavior.

Act as if what
you do makes
a
difference. It
does.

~William James

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mission Statement

Birch Elementary Student Council will act as a student forum in which elected representatives are encouraged to become involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating activities, which build school spirit and community service.

Time, Place, and Frequency of Meetings

Student Council will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:45 a.m. in Mrs. Lind's classroom. In September, meetings will take place on the 9th & 16th.

Membership Eligibility

The Student Council is made up of the traditional officer roles as well as grade level representatives. Interested students may qualify to run for student council based upon satisfactory academic progress, appropriate behavior, responsibility, and teacher recommendation.

Membership is open to all students in grades 2-5. Second through fifth grades will elect two representatives per class.

Officers and Elections

The election process can be determined by each individual teacher. One recommendation would be to have interested students write a letter or speech stating why they would be the best candidate for their class. Students would then vote anonymously for their candidates. A suggestion is to have them vote for one boy and one girl.

Titles and Duties of Officers

Elected student council representatives will vote for the following offices:

President - The President will represent the student body at various functions and perform additional duties as assigned by the Student Council Leaders and the Principal.

Vice President - The Vice President will serve in the absence of the President.

Secretary - The Secretary will take minutes of the meeting.

Treasurer - The Treasurer will report on the finances of Student Council.

YOU CAN HELP

Fundraising Notice:

Today is the kick off of our fall fundraiser! The fundraiser will continue until September 22nd, when all monies are due. Fundraising packets were sent home today! Please look for information about Innisbrook Wraps, and the second option of Direct Donation to raise money for the PTO. With both options students will have the opportunity for ice cream treats, their picture up on the Fundraiser Wall of Fame bulletin board and prizes for participating. Information about coupons for treats and prizes are inside the fundraising packets.

Please note this year the Innisbrook Wraps is completed online, using the **EZ Order Entry** system from your own home. You will need our school number which is **102744**. You collect orders from friends and family and then you enter them as one order. After you have placed your order you will receive an order voucher that you will turn in to your child's teacher along with your payment, by September 22nd. Products will be delivered to the school at the end of October.

If you do not have access to a computer, please hand in your order form and payment to your child's teacher, and the PTO will enter your order for you.

We are so excited for a very fun and successful fundraiser! Thank you again for all of your support. Please call your PTO fundraising coordinator, Stacy May at 303-404-9439 with any questions.

Work while your kids are in school!

BVSD's Nutrition Services Department is seeking applicants for nutrition services workers in your child's school.



Open positions include cook helpers,

cashier and substitutes. The work schedule is generally two to three hours over the lunch period. The pay is competitive and benefits are provided for some positions. If interested, please contact Sarah Acker at 303-447-5049 or sarah.acker@bvsd.org.

Student Council is sponsoring the IZZE trailer throughout the month of September. Students will bring in new or gently used books to fill the trailer which will be parked at our school. Birch was selected as one of the schools to work with Global Education Fund (GEF), a non-profit organization, which works to improve the lives of orphans around the world through education. Please bring new or gently used books of any genre (especially children's) to the IZZE trailer on these dates:

- Friday - September 5
3:00-3:30 p.m.
- Friday - September 12
3:00-3:30 p.m.
- Thursday - September 18
3:00-3:30 p.m.
- Friday - September 26
3:00-3:30 p.m.



King Soopers Scrip

Please don't forget about the ongoing sale of King Soopers Scrip. You can purchase one of these gift cards at Birch, from the people wearing blue aprons outside the school, at drop off and pick up on Mondays and Fridays or at the front office anytime. Then, you shop for your groceries and **Birch will earn 5%** from that one gift card you purchased. **Remember, Birch receives money without any extra cost to you!** So, don't forget your checkbook the next time you're at school and pass the word on to grandparents too! This is the easiest way to earn money for Birch! Please contact Sharon Lage at 303-469-9166 if you have any questions. Thank you and happy shopping!



DOG LOVERS...

DOG OWNERS...



We love dogs, too! Many of us have dogs of our own... AND we'd like to ask you respectfully to keep your dogs off the school grounds of Birch.

Why?? It's important for us to keep kids and adults safe. Before and after school, there are approximately 500 people milling around in very close quarters. Even if your dog is beautifully well-behaved, we never know what might happen in the proximity of small people (and other dogs!). We also have a number of folks with allergies (including dog allergies) and we'd like to be respectful to them as well.

So... if you're walking your dog to school with your child (or walking your dog to pick up your child), please make arrangements to meet your child at the far perimeter of the Birch grounds. THANK YOU for your help in keeping our community safe always!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM (SIT)

Calling all interested Birch community members!! Have you seen the new PAWS video? Did you enjoy the Birch Anthology? Was your child inspired to write by the Picture Writing Prompt Bank? SIT is charged with monitoring progress and supporting the school goals in the School Improvement Plan. The video, the anthology, and the picture bank are examples of some of the important work that our School Improvement Team undertook last year to achieve this mission. If you would like help with these types of contributions to our school, please join us for our first meeting of the year on September 9th at 3:15 in the Science Lab. Due to the school improvement planning deadlines, we will have a second September meeting on the 23rd. SIT usually meets once per month and child care is available. For more information, please contact Bob Abeyta or Karen Hopley, our parent co-chairs, or Jeni McCormick, our faculty representative, at 303-469-3397.

District Accountability Committee & District Parent Council Representatives Needed

Please consider helping Birch by serving as the 2008-2009 DAC or DPC representative.

The District Accountability Committee, (DAC), is a committee of representatives from all schools in Boulder Valley School District (BVSD). DAC advises the School Board and informs the public about the implementation and effectiveness of the district's accountability programs. There is a monthly evening meeting held at the BVSD central administration office.

The DPC is an advisory group to the Boulder Valley School District's Superintendent, Administration, and School Board. Their mission is to engage in regular two-way communication between the district and parents and to deliberate and advise the district administration and school board when issues arise. DPC explores topics relating to curriculum and district operations to keep all school parent organizations informed. For further information about the responsibilities of DAC and DPC member, please contact Tracy Stegall at school 303 469-3397.

WELCOME

Questions? Concerns? Compliments?

The Birch Elementary School Office Staff is always happy to help! Our goal always, is for all families to feel welcome here at Birch!

Introducing: Anna Moran, Support Assistant
Dorothy Baker, Health Room/Support Assistant
Tammie Hill, Principal's Assistant
Tracy Cannon, Support Assistant
Tracy Stegall, Principal

We have an open door policy and encourage your open communication with us!

