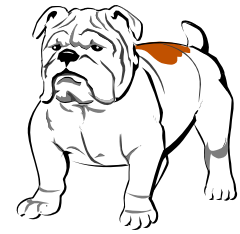


BIRCH BARK

September 18, 2008

Home of the Birch Bulldogs



Principal's Message

Dear Birch Community,

As this newsletter goes to press, we're very close to finalizing our school goals for 2008-2009. It's such a pleasure to work with dedicated staff members and parents deeply interested in doing what's best for ALL our kids. Broadly, we'll be focusing on literacy skills for all kids; we're especially excited about our newly adopted program Being a Writer. Thank you, too, for your patience as we have worked to get our newly adopted spelling program up and running. Both of these programs are rooted in the very latest and best research, and I'm looking forward to seeing the results in our readers, writers, and thinkers.

While our published academic goals are not including mathematics or science, we're certainly paying close attention to our growth in these areas as well. Our school was the recipient of a GK-12 grant designed to support 4th and 5th grade teachers in science instruction. A PhD student from CU will be joining our 4th grade teachers this year (and our 5th grade teachers next year) to team, plan, and execute high quality science instruction for our kids. We're also lucky to be a Boulder Valley School District math

focus school this year. Math experts will be providing high quality, on-going professional development for Birch teachers in mathematics best practices.

I'm sure you've heard some things at home about our PAWS program; this positive behavior support program supports our school climate goals. We're especially interested in ensuring that all kids understand the behavior expectations and are supported in making good choices here at Birch. We're also paying close attention to kids' feelings about each other and about adults in the building; we want to make Birch Elementary a caring community for all.

As our goals are finalized, our School Improvement Team will discuss each goal; there are already plans in the works for larger community support around our literacy goals. We'd love to have many more of you involved in both PTO and SIT; feel free to contact me at any point with questions, concerns, or compliments you might have about our important work. I truly believe it takes a village to raise children, and we're proud to be part of your village here at Birch Elementary!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

9/19, NO SCHOOL for Students:

Prof. Dev. Day/Work Day

9/20, Broomfield Days

9/22, 5th Grade Inst. Music,
7:40-8:20 a.m.

- PTO Innsbrook Fundraiser Ends
- October Count Window Opens
- PTO Mtg. 3:15 p.m.

9/23, Student Council, 7:45 a.m.

- 3-8 Field Trip to Eco-Cycle, 9:00-2:00 p.m.
- 4/5 Grade Birchoir Rehearsal, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

- SIT Meeting, 3:15 p.m.

9/24, 5th Grade Inst. Music, 7:40-8:20 a.m.

- Assembly, *Children's Dance Theatre*, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

- 5th Grade Art Club, 3:00-4:00

9/25, 3-L Field Trip to Eco-Cycle,
9:00-2:00 p.m.

- 4/5 Grade, Birchoir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00 p.m.

9/26, 3-M Field Trip to Eco-Cycle,
9:00-2:00 p.m.

- Izze Trailer, 3:00-3:30 p.m.

9/30, 4/5 Grade, Birchoir
Rehearsals, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

10/1, 5th Grade Inst. Music, 7:40-8:20 a.m.

10/2, 4/5 Grade Birchoir Re-
hearsal, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

10/3, Individual Picture Day



BIRCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1035 Birch Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

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

Fax: 720 887-3592 - www.bvbsd.org

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

Tracy Stegall, Principal



BROOMFIELD DAYS PARADE!!!

September 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Birch Bulldogs, get ready to walk in this year's parade. We will meet in the staging area (space #13) located on Midway Blvd. between Main and Ash Street between 9:00—9:30 a.m.

PTO MEETING

Come One, Come **ALL**

Please join us for our PTO meeting on Monday, September 22nd at 3:15 p.m.. We will meet in the Science Room. Child care is available

Fundraising Reminder!

Hello Birch families! Thank you again for your support during this fundraising time. We wanted to remind you that you have until this coming **Monday, September 22nd**, to make a direct donation or sell the Innisbrook products, at which time all monies are due.

Here are some important things to keep in mind:

1. Our school number is **102744**.
2. Please make all checks payable to **Birch PTO**.
3. Please collect money from customers as orders are placed.
4. Use the EZ online order entry system at www.innisbrook.com.
5. Once you've placed your order **print the order payment voucher and return it to school with payment**.
6. If you don't have access to a computer, please send in your order form and payment and the PTO will enter your order for you.
7. Innisbrook products will be delivered to Birch 10/31.
8. Please save your Innisbrook catalogs, as they will help you when you hand out your products to your customers.

OCTOBER COUNT

At Birch, we strive to have our students at school learning everyday. We understand that on occasion illness and appointments come up. Perfect attendance is our goal. Please make every effort to have your student at school and on time. The BVSD official count period this year is September 22nd through October 13th . This is the period used by the State to determine attendance and school funding. Please make every effort not to schedule any appointments on October 1st, official attendance count day. If you know that your child will be absent or tardy during this period, please contact Anna at 303 469-3397. Thanks for your assistance.

Blue Flag Days

A change in the weather is underway. As a general rule, when the temperature is below 15-20 degrees or it is too wet to be outside, an indoor recess will be called. If indoor recess is called, a blue flag will be hung on the flag pole. Blue flags will also be displayed on the East and West windows of the building. All students should enter through the front door.

Messages at School

It is important to make arrangements with your student in advance regarding how they are to get home after school. Please develop a back up plan that you have discussed with your child if regular plans change at the last minute. Usually the office is not able to deliver messages. In the event of an **emergency**, the office will **attempt** to get messages to students. We appreciate your cooperation.

“When the heart is at ease, the body is healthy.”

Chinese Proverb

Walk to School Day

Get your sneakers ready for Walk to School Day on October 8th. Walk To School Day celebrates walking and student health. All healthful modes of transportation are welcome. If your drive is too far, don't worry; try a “Drive and Stride”. Just drive your car within a five minute walk to Birch, and walk from there. Why walk? It reduces traffic, promotes student health and brings together our school community. Let's all get out and walk on October 1st.

Student Pictures

Mark your calendars! Lifetouch will be at Birch to take individual student photos on October 3rd. If you are planning to purchase student photos, please be sure to return your order form to school by October 3rd.



PAWS For Applause



Thank you to the many parents, volunteers and coordinators who helped with our summer Reading and Math program.

A BIG THANKS goes to all those parents who volunteered for the prize nights and the pizza party. We couldn't do the program without all their help!



3rd Grade Thoughts on Creativity from the Art Room . . .

"Creativity is magic that goes through your mind onto the paper".

--- Nena Vara

"It make you feel good".

--- Josh Bass

"Creativity is something that comes to you".

--- Asher Walker

"Creativity is expressing your feelings and putting your imagination on paper".

--- Sophie Forrey

"Creativity is power in everything".

--- Piper Dumont

"Creativity is a source of the mind".

--- Mickey Pluta

"Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties."
Erich Fromm

Talented and Gifted Program Nominations

BVSD department of Advanced Academic Services provides students of higher ability an opportunity to meet their special needs through an Advanced Learning plan and involvement in their schools Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. As a parent, you are invited to request testing for your student(s) (third- fifth grade) for the Talented and Gifted program. To help you judge your child's need, below is a list of characteristic common in gifted children. Please contact your student's teacher or Jamie Penner, TAG tutor, by **Oct. 3rd** to nominate your student for TAG testing.

While it is not common for a gifted child to exhibit all of the following characteristics, it is common for a gifted child to manifest many of them:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Good problem solving abilities | Abilities with puzzles, mazes or numbers |
| Rapid pace of learning | Preference for older companions |
| Extensive vocabulary | Early or avid reader with greater comprehension |
| Good memory | At times seems mature for age |
| Longer attention span | Unusual sense of humor |
| Compassion for others | Wide range of interest |
| High degree of energy | Perfectionism |

Summer Math/Reading/Writing Program

We are so very proud of the effort that the students made and the dedication of their parents to finish the program. It isn't easy to keep going all summer long. Great job students! The following students completed the summer program:

Axalan, Marie	Hagen, Jessica	Porter, Jake
Axalan, Noelle	Haran, Kaylee	Porter, Mackenzie
Bergen, Bella	Hartley, Nina	Ray, Kyle
Bergen, Katie	Hoff, Madison	Reed, Fallyn
Brashear, Justice	Hoffman, Jessica	Richmond, Alexi
Brashear, Kennedy	Huggins, Madelynn	Richmond, Zolton
Bratach, Kayin	Jones, Madison	Rodriguez, Andrea
Bratach, Micah	Jones, Sophia	Roylance, Meghan
Cannon, Rachelle	Knight, Allison	Schumacher, Katie
Castro, Jose	Knight, Maggie	Snyder, Sarah
Compesi, Carly	Kuhna, Henry	Sorensen, Carter
Compesi, Jana	Ladtkow, Kendall	Sorensen, Genevieve
Cook, Michael	Ladtkow, Kyle	Sorensen, Kristoffer
Darkey, Will	Levenson, Natalie	Staley, Amaris
Dumont, Piper	Levenson, Ryan	Staley, Nicolas
Dunbar, Peyton	Long, Caroline	Staley, Samuel
Dunbar, Sam	Long, Melanie	Stewart, Emily
Dunn, Collin	May, Drew	Stewart, Jack
Dunn, Tyler	May, Jake	Stewart, Ryan
Figgins, Adam	Mindoro, Cailin	Stewart, Elena
Figgins, Meagan	Mindoro, Maiya	Thompson, Laura
Finamore, Caitlyn	Morales, Kailey	Thompson, Rebecca
Finamore, Lauren	Morales, Mattira	Tripp, Hannah
Forrey, Grace	Morales, Mitchell	Tripp, Jenica
Forrey, Sophie	Myers, Caitlyn	Vanderberg, Charlie
Gately, Stephen	Myers, Kaylee	Vanderberg, Jack
Girkins, Emily	Pejathaya, Devyani	Walker, Amelia
Gutierrez, Thomas	Penner, Caleb	Walker, Asher
Hagen, Brook	Penner, Ellie	Walker, Holden
Hagen, Calissa	Peters, Matt	Wallerius, Emily

"The problems of victory are more agreeable than the problems of defeat, but they are no less difficult."

Winston Churchill

THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING THE TRAFFIC FLOW!

Bulldogs- As the weather gets nasty, many of you might be dropping off your children in the circle drive... or driving on in to pick them up. We'd ask respectfully that you drive in, drop off, and drive on out... or drive in, pick up, and drive on out. In keeping 450 children safe during these times, it's important that the circle drive NOT be used as a parking lot. This clogs traffic for all parents and creates safety concerns. Thank you in advance for your respect of procedures that keep all Birch Bulldogs safe!

IZZE TRAILER

The IZZE trailer will be open this Thursday, Sept. 18 and for the last time next Friday, Sept. 26 from 3:00 – 3:30. Birch easily collected over 1,000 books last week and we hope to meet that same number again by the end of the month. Student Council and Global Education Fund appreciate the generosity of our Birch families.