



# BIRCH BARK

## BIRCH ELEMENTARY

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1035 Birch St., Broomfield, CO 80020

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 pm

Tracy Stegall, Principal

Apr. 8, 2011

Ahhhh... SPRING! What a wondrous season! This is the season of potential and possibility and we're thrilled about some important upcoming events (be sure, too, to check the calendar in this BARK).

On April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, we'll be visited by teams from both the Colorado Department of Education and the Boulder Valley Schools to examine our work, celebrate our accomplishments, and determine next steps. Each of these visits will offer important opportunities for us to shine and learn as professionals.

April 21<sup>st</sup> also brings our LITERACY FAIR! We're looking forward to seeing many of you here to learn from and with your children about reading and writing. Bring a bit of money, too, because there will be an extraordinary basket raffle with the proceeds going to help fund an increase in our book room!

This is also the season of planning for next year. We're gearing up for some staff changes for 2011-2012. Nancy Lind, third grade teacher is retiring at the end of this year. She has been an extraordinary asset to the Birch community for years and we wish her the best! Stephanie Tschoepe is not returning to Birch next year; she wants to take another year to be at home with her children.

We will also be interviewing for two more openings in the building; we're required to post and interview for jobs that have been filled by limited term contracts each year. I'm still making decisions about teacher placements on our K-3 teams and there may be some re-working and re-shuffling of current staff. I'll keep you informed as things are finalized, but they may not be until mid-June. We will be working on class lists for 2011-2012 this spring, but not necessarily attaching teacher names to those lists. To that end, important to note that specific teacher requests are not taken from parents. We do, however, listen to specific parent input about teaching style and personality needs of students for class placements. If you have any questions at all, please email or call!

Here's wishing you the best of Spring weekends!

**Just a reminder that NEXT YEAR'S SCHOOL DAY will be 8:00-2:35**

## **LITERACY FAIR: April 21 from 6 - 8pm**

The Literacy Fair will showcase student work, provide a variety of presentations and share opportunities for summer activities. Mark your calendar now to attend!

We are looking for volunteers to help with the fair in these areas:

### PREPARATION

- Typing, organizing work into binders
- Making copies
- Mounting and laminating
- Collecting items for the basket raffle
- Itemizing and preparing baskets for the raffle

### DAY OF EVENT

- Setting up /Tearing down
- Helping with AV equipment in a classroom
- Selling raffle tickets

Contact [donnaakeeler1@comcast.net](mailto:donnaakeeler1@comcast.net) or call 720-320-9670 for more information.

Basket Raffle tickets will be for sale (1 ticket for \$1 / 6 tickets for \$5).

## Birch Elementary Literacy Fair - April 21, 2011

6:00 - 6:30					6:30 - 6:45					6:45 - 7:15					7:15 - 7:30					7:30 - 8:00				
<b>Baskets Displayed for Raffle</b>																								
4th and 5th Grade Hallway (Raffle at 7:45pm - Winners Posted the Following Day)																								
Pre-K Castellano: Interactive Read Aloud					Pre-K Castellano: Interactive Read Aloud					Pre-K Castellano: Interactive Read Aloud					Pre-K Castellano: Interactive Read Aloud					Pre-K Castellano: Interactive Read Aloud				
Kindergarten Balder / Murphy: Activities & Stations - Arrive Anytime																								
1st : Computer Lab - Summer Reading					1st Grade Hallway & Classrooms - Showcase & Activities					1st Grade Hallway & Classrooms - Showcase & Activities					1st Grade Hallway & Classrooms - Showcase & Activities					1st Grade Hallway & Classrooms - Showcase & Activities				
2nd: Student Prepared Video & Take-Home Packet - Arrive Anytime (All 2nd Grade in Nunnery Classroom)																								
3rd Lind: Showcase					3rd Lind: Read / Write Activity					3rd Lind: Showcase					3rd Lind: Showcase					3rd Lind: Showcase				
3rd Butler: Showcase					3rd Butler: Read / Write Activity					3rd Butler: Showcase					3rd Butler: Showcase					3rd Butler: Showcase				
3rd Wyner: Showcase					3rd Wyner: Read / Write Activity					3rd Wyner: Showcase					3rd Wyner: Showcase					3rd Wyner: Showcase				
4th Schiola: Showcase & Read / Write Activity*					4th Bialick: Showcase & Read / Write Activity*					4th Evans: Showcase & Read / Write Activity*					4th Evans: Showcase & Read / Write Activity*					4th Evans: Showcase & Read / Write Activity*				
					4th Witbeck: TAG Debate in Science Lab					4th Witbeck: TAG Debate in Science Lab					4th Witbeck: TAG Debate in Science Lab					4th Witbeck: TAG Debate in Science Lab				
5th Freemann: Showcase & Read / Write Activity																								
5th Peters: Showcase & Read / Write Activity																								
5th McCormick: Showcase & Read / Write Activity																								
					ESL: Computer Lab - Recorded Performance					ESL Fuelling: Student Showcase					ESL Fuelling: Student Showcase					ESL Fuelling: Student Showcase				
Music: Pre-School - 5th Activity (Hallway Near Mr. Schiola's Door)																								
Library: Videos by Students & Summer Reading Program - Arrive Anytime																								

\* You are welcome to attend ANY classroom session. Teachers will present the SAME content.

## End-of-Year Birch Appreciation Family Picnic

Join us on Wednesday, May 4, from 5:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m., at Midway Park (Girl Scout Pavilion) for a Birch Appreciation Family Picnic. We will celebrate our collective accomplishments during the 2010-2011 school year and look towards the 2011-2012 school year.

This is a pot-luck event. If your last name is A-H please bring a side dish, I-S bring a main dish, and S-Z a dessert. Please provide your own beverage. BEST will provide paper products and cake.

Childcare is not available, so please make plans to stay with your Birch student.

Sponsored by the Birch Educational Support Team (B.E.S.T.)



### 3 for Me ~ Help Needed:

FIELD DAY Assistant

This would include making phone calls to confirm volunteers, going to the store to pick up watermelons and arranging for volunteers to help cut up the watermelons.

Please let me know if you can help out.

Jamie Penner [birch.volunteer@hotmail.com](mailto:birch.volunteer@hotmail.com)

## *Birch Cookbook*

We would like to kick off a new tradition here at Birch by creating a cookbook that represents our entire school community. Please join us by sharing your family favorite appetizer, main dishes, desserts, after school snacks, etc. Pick up a Recipe Collection Sheet at the Birch front office today!

Do you have any interesting stories about Birch or the people that teach and attend there? Your Birch stories may be chosen to appear in the Birch Cookbook as fillers in between recipes. Pick up a Birch Stories Collection Sheet at the Birch front office today!

### Timeline

Drawing Contest (for Cover and Divider pages): May 2-26

Advance purchase: May 6-31

Recipe collection and Birch stories: Now through Aug 31

Recipe compilation/book production: Sept/Nov

Delivery: Before Winter Break 2011 IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

These great books will be available for \$10 and any proceeds will go to BEST

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact:

Sheryl Kallivrousis 720-854-0180

Laurie Mickey 303-717-9232



## **The Spell-a-thon is here!**

We are currently in the middle of The Spell-a-thon! This fundraiser will run from April 1st - April 20th. Students will complete their spelling tests next Friday, April 15th. They will receive their test results on Monday, April 18th. Then we ask that you collect pledges from family, friends and neighbors based on how your student did on the test. Please turn in your pledge collection form, envelope and money to your classroom teacher by **Wednesday, April 20th.**

Don't forget about the **PRIZES:**

**The top three earning students of the school will receive Prizes.**

Prizes are **Elitc tickets**, an **autographed photo from an Avalanche player** and a **family four pack to Colorado National Speedway**. The top earning student from each classroom will receive a prize. The top earning classroom will win a pizza and ice cream party. Any student who receives a 24/25 or 25/25 on his/her spelling test will win a ribbon.

**Please understand that Birch will receive 100% of the money collected from this fundraiser, which will go to support the overall function of the school!**

Thank you again for all of your hard work and support!

**Let's SPELL our way to SUCCE\$\$ !**

# FAMILY NIGHTS TO SUPPORT BIRCH:

## APRIL

Look forward to a wild and CRAZY night at the **Flatirons Chick-Fil-A in April**. This family dinner night was such a hoot that it is back by popular demand on **April 12!** (20% of sales go to Birch!)

THREE Chick-Fil-A Prize Wheel Volunteers Are Needed - April 12!

- It's easy
- It's fun
- It's a 1 hour commitment (between 5 - 8pm)
- 100% of prize wheel proceeds go to Birch!
- Contact [donnakeeler1@comcast.net](mailto:donnakeeler1@comcast.net) or call 720-320-9670 to volunteer.

## MAY

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream...and ART! On **May 10**, B.E.S.T. families will travel to **Higgy's Ice Cream in the Westminster Promenade** for amazing homemade and organic frozen treats and a Birch Student ART SHOW from 4pm - 10pm! (20% of sales go to Birch!)





## *Kindergarten Registration*

Parents can now register their students online at <http://mab.bvsvd.org>. If you do not have a home computer, computers are available at the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library. After completing the online registration, bring the receipt, a copy of the child's birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residence. Students must be 5 on or before September 30. Please tell your friends and neighbors!

Please join us for an incoming parent meeting on 6:00 p.m. on April 14. This event is for **adults only**. We want to be able to offer lots of information and answer all of your questions about kindergarten.

Kindergarten round up (designed for both kids and parents) will be Tuesday, May 10 at 6pm at Birch.



# B.E.S.T.

## 2011-2012 School Volunteer Opportunities

### Our B.E.S.T. in Action

#### Programs Supported

- Teacher Appreciation
- Box Tops for Education- Art & P.E.
- Assessment Testing
- Hearing & Vision Screening
- Field Trips
- Class Programs
- School Assemblies
- Teacher Mini-Grants
- Summer Reading & Math
- Full Circle Garden

#### Events

- Ice Cream Social
- Bulldog Jog
- Math Night
- Spell-A-Thon
- Literacy Fair
- Family Dinner Nights Out
- Walk to School Day

#### Services & Supplies

- School Spirit Wear
- Student Directory
- King-Soopers Reloadable Cards
- Conference Dinners
- Teacher Appreciation
- School Supplies

JOIN US · IT'S REWARDING · IT'S IMPORTANT · IT'S EVEN FUN!

- ✓ I want Birch Elementary to be one of the best schools in Colorado.
- ✓ I want my child to have a great school year – to learn and to have fun!
- ✓ I want to help decide how B.E.S.T. fundraising moneys are spent.
- ✓ I want all the students at Birch Elementary to be successful.

If you answered “Yes” to one or more above, consider a volunteer position with B.E.S.T. during the 2011-2012 school year. We all know parent involvement is critical for a successful school. Dedicated teachers, staff, and PARENTS help make Birch Elementary a great school!

In 2010, Birch Elementary launched the “Three For Me” program asking each parent to volunteer at least three hours to Birch Elementary. It’s easy! Volunteer opportunities range from one-time events, some take no more than a couple hours a month, and a few that require a routine commitment. Many positions can be shared- so grab a friend. (See back of form for position descriptions.)

Please review the available volunteer opportunities for the 2011-2012 school year. If you would like to get involved or have any questions, please e-mail Kenna Butler ([kennabutler.birch@gmail.com](mailto:kennabutler.birch@gmail.com)). Volunteer positions will be finalized in May. Planning for the 2011-2012 school year gets underway soon!



Ask a friend to share a position with you!  
It is easier & more fun!

## B.E.S.T. Volunteer Opportunities

Position	Description	Current Volunteer	2011-2012 Volunteer
<b>Open Positions</b>			
<b>Co-Presidents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preside at all meetings.</li> <li>• Check in with all committees and Birch staff to ensure proper resources for events.</li> <li>• Lead contact person for B.E.S.T..</li> </ul>	<b>Wendy Roth</b>	1. <b>Jennifer Krieger</b>  2.
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversees Three For Me Program.</li> <li>• Compiles lists of volunteers for the Three for Me Program and delivers them to committee chairs for B.E.S.T. and school sponsored events.</li> <li>• Coordinates volunteers for school-sponsored activities/events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Vision/hearing</li> <li>✓ assessment testing</li> <li>✓ field day</li> <li>✓ school picture days</li> <li>✓ copy room (provide list)</li> <li>✓ book fair</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Jamie Penner</b>	1.  2.
<b>ESL / ELL Parent Liason</b>	This is a new position for next year that is being created to give the ESL/ELL population at Birch a consistent "voice" at the B.E.S.T. meetings and events.	<b>New for 2011-2012</b>	1.  2.
<b>Special Events / Fundraising Activities</b>			
<b>Assessment Testing</b>	We need volunteers to help Birch with the beginning of year assessment testing.	<b>Jamie Penner</b>	<b>Need several for each day of testing!</b>
<b>Ice Cream Social</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event coordinators</b></li> <li>• <b>Committee volunteers</b></li> </ul>	This event kicks off the school year as we all gather for a scoop of ice cream in August. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize and run event, including clean-up.</li> <li>• Get ice cream, bowls, water jugs, candy donations, etc.</li> </ul>	<b>Jamie Penner</b>  <b>Susan Dunn</b>	1.  2.
<b>Bulldog Jog</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event coordinators</b></li> <li>• <b>Committee volunteers</b></li> </ul>	This event, held in September, is one of two major fundraisers for our school. We need lots of help organizing this event, monitoring the race course and providing healthy snacks for our runners.	<b>Donna Keeler</b> <b>Sharon Robinson</b> <b>Kenna Butler</b> <b>Susan Pluta</b> <b>Dawn Mielke</b>	1. <b>Kenna Butler</b> 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
<b>Literacy Fair</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event Coordinators</b></li> <li>• <b>Committee volunteers</b></li> </ul>	The Literacy Fair is a celebration of the reading and writing accomplishments of our students, held in April. Organize event in conjunction with the Principal and Birch staff.	<b>Donna Keeler</b>	1.  2.
<b>Spirit Wear Coordinators</b>	Coordinates the design and sale of Birch spirit wear, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other Birch-related gear.	<b>Jennifer Krieger</b>	1.  2.
<b>Spell-A-Thon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event coordinators</b></li> <li>• <b>Committee volunteers</b></li> </ul>	This is the second major fundraising event of the school year. Help is needed to make copies, promote the fundraiser and collect donations from students. The event is usually late Spring.	<b>Colleen Lyons-Cubides</b>  <b>Stacy May</b>	1. <b>Colleen Lyons-Cubides</b>  2.
<b>Math Night</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event Coordinators</b></li> <li>• <b>Committee volunteers</b></li> </ul>	An important student/family enrichment event sponsored by B.E.S.T.. Volunteers are needed to create flyers, purchase supplies, coordinate refreshments and plan the agenda.		1. <b>Kenna Butler</b>  2.  3.

**B.E.S.T. Volunteer Opportunities, continued**

<b>Walk to School Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-chair</li> <li>• Co-chair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize and advertise event and volunteers.</li> <li>• Get donations from local businesses for event snacks for every Birch student.</li> </ul>	<b>Sharon Robinson</b>  <b>Andrea Thompson</b>	1.  2.
<b>Summer Reading, Writing, &amp; Math Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Coordinators</li> <li>• Program Volunteer</li> </ul>	We need both volunteers and coordinators to organize this important program that keeps our students learning over summer break. The program typically runs late May through August.	<b>Joni Jones</b>	1.  2.
<b>Birch Family Dinner Nights Out</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-chair</li> <li>• Co-chair</li> </ul>	Schedule and advertise multiple school dinner nights at local restaurants offering a rebate to the school based on total sales.	<b>Donna Keeler</b>  <b>Colleen Lyons-Cubides</b>	1.  2.
<b>Birch Family Directory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Coordinator</li> <li>• Advertiser Coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect directory information from 1<sup>st</sup> days folder, compile student data, organize book, get book printed.</li> <li>• Organize advertisers (from 1<sup>st</sup> days folder), artwork, and payment. Assist with proofreading.</li> </ul>	<b>Kenna Butler</b>	1.  2.
<b>Broomfield Days Parade</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Coordinators</li> </ul>	The coordinator registers Birch Elementary for the annual Broomfield Day Parade held in September and, coordinates the school's parade theme and student line-up.	<b>Karen Yarber</b>	1.  2.

# Thank You!!

**A BIG “thank you” goes to the following parents who have already volunteered for the following positions:**

**Nominated for 2011-2012**

Co-President- Jennifer Krieger  
Secretary- Kenna Butler  
Treasurer- Teri Ladkow  
School Accountability - Sheryl Kallivrousis  
District Parent Council – Jennifer Krieger & Adam Schatz  
Room Parent Coordinator – Susan Dunn

**Committee Chairs/Event Coordinators**

Birch Bark newsletter- Susan Dunn  
Birch Family Cookbook- Sheryl Kallivrousis & Laurie Mickey  
Teacher / Staff Appreciation- Karen Hopley & Laurie Mickey  
Full Circle Garden – Nan Williams  
Box Tops for Education – Kathleen Backer

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

See the B.E.S.T. website: [www.birchbest.org](http://www.birchbest.org)

Join our Facebook group to stay connected: BEST (Birch Elementary)

Contact the current Secretary, Kenna Butler ([kennabutler.birch@gmail.com](mailto:kennabutler.birch@gmail.com))  
or the current President, Wendy Roth ([wendy.freeman@colorado.edu](mailto:wendy.freeman@colorado.edu)) for more information

# April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u> April Fool's Day 2:15 Spell-a-thon Assembly  Boulder Dinner Kindergarten. 9-12:15	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> PAWS Players 3-3:45	<u>5</u> 7:45 Stud. Council  Bulldog Choir 3-4 pm	<u>6</u> Writing Club 7:45-8:15 am  Art Club 3-4 pm	<u>7</u> <b>6:00 BEST General MTG</b>  Bulldog Choir 3-4 pm	<u>8</u> <b>Classroom Pictures</b>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> PAWS Players 3-3:45  Bulldog Choir 3-4 pm (Dress Rehearsal)	<u>12</u> Bulldog Choir 3-4 pm (Dress Rehearsal)  <b>Chick Fil-A Night 5-8</b>	<u>13</u> Writing Club 7:45-8:15 am  Love & Logic Class 6-8:45 pm Lib/Sci Lab  Bulldog Choir 3-4 pm (Dress Rehearsal)	<u>14</u> Choir: Performance 2:00 pm assembly  6:30 pm performance  Kindergarten parent mtg 6:00pm	<u>15</u> Spell-A-Thon tests  Choir Celebration 3-3:45 (stage)	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Palm Sunday	<u>18</u> PAWS Players 3-3:45 pm	<u>19</u> 7:45 Student Council	<u>20</u> Writing Club 7:45-8:15 am  Art Club 3-4 pm  <b>Spell-A-Thon \$ Due</b>	<u>21</u> <b>BEST Literacy FAIR 6-8 pm</b>	<u>22</u> Good Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> grade Field Trip-Library 9-12	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> Easter	<u>25</u> PAWS Players 3-3:45	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Art Club 3-4 pm	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> <b>NO SCHOOL/Prof. Develop. Day</b>	<u>30</u>