

# BIRCH BARK

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Fax: 720-561-8801 [www.bvsd.org](http://www.bvsd.org)  
1035 Birch St., Broomfield, CO 80020  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 pm  
Tracy Stegall, Principal

Nov. 19, 2010

## Principal's Message

This is the true season of being grateful, isn't it? Shouldn't we be spending more time in celebrating the things that are going well? How about the things we're thankful for? Here are just a few...

Thank you for sending your children to school ready to learn... for your kind words of support to all of us at Birch for the work we do every day. Thank you for your volunteerism, for reading with and to your children, for your laughter and smiles at their wonder and awe. Thank you for driving all the way through the circle drive... for turning left instead of right... for reading the whole Friday Folder. Thank you for the notes you put in your children's lunches, for knowing they are your most precious resource, and for trusting us each day to do the right thing. Thank you for your dedication to your role as parents, as grandparents, as friends, as neighbors. Thank you for caring, for seeing, for being.

I wish you a brilliant and beautiful week of rest and celebration!  
Tracy Stegall, Principal



## **DON'T FORGET TO OPEN ENROLL!!**

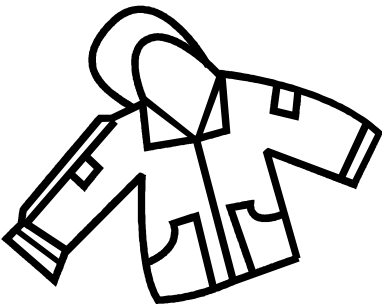
**The application period for open enrollment in the 2011-2012 school year, will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Nov. 29, 2010, and it will end promptly at 4:00 p.m. on Jan. 14, 2011.**

In our efforts to be green, we have established an online submission process where parents/guardians may submit an application online. For those who do not have computer access, hard copies of the application will be available at the Open Enrollment Office at the Education Center beginning on Nov. 29. The link for the online application will be available here and on the front page of the BVSD website at [www.bvsd.org](http://www.bvsd.org) during the open enrollment application period.

**Remember, this is a lottery process -- it is *NOT* "first come first serve."**

### **Student Council is Conducting the Share-A-Coat Drive:**

It is time again for donating those too-small, somewhat-worn, but still-warm coats to the annual Share-A-Coat program. Each year the Boulder Valley Rotary Club, with cleaning services donated by Art Cleaners in Boulder, collects coats from many of our local schools, cleans them and distributes them to families and children who are in need of them. Our pick-up box is located near the cafeteria. The last pick-up is scheduled for Friday, December 3.





THANK YOU  
to everyone who helped  
advertise / donate / collect /  
level books for the “Daily 5”  
book drive!

When teachers told B.E.S.T. that they didn't have enough books to go around to fulfill the newly implemented “Daily 5” literacy program, the community at Birch stepped up in a BIG way!

We collected 3,807 books. That is amazing! We are overwhelmed with your generosity. Watch for NEW books in your child's book box coming soon.

Congratulations to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for donating the MOST books at a grand total of 1,225! You are the winners – watch for your prize coming soon!

Thanks also to BHMS who collected 412 books for Birch Elementary!

So, what's next? We need help getting the proper grade levels on each of these books before they can make it to the classroom. If you have 30 minutes to give, either at school or at home, please contact Debbie Haseman or Carl Morreale to volunteer!

## November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Paws Players 3-3:45	<b>2</b> 7:45 Stud. Council Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4	<b>3</b> Writing Club 7:45-8:15 AM  TAG F/T to FISH 12:30-2:45  5 <sup>th</sup> Art Club 3-4 4 <sup>th</sup> Hip Hop Club 3-4	<b>4</b> Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4  6 PM BEST General Mtg/Literacy Ngt	<b>5</b> <b>End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester</b>  HearingVision Screenings 1 <sup>st</sup> Gr. F/T to Salvation Army  TAG F/T to FISH 12:30- 2:45	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Daylight Savings	<b>8</b> PAWS Players 3-3:45	<b>9</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Performance Rehearsal 1:15-2:45 <b>No Birchoir Rehearsal</b>	<b>10</b> 2:00 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Performance Assembly 7:00 pm 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr Art Club 3-4 pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr HipHop Club 3-4 pm	<b>11</b> <b>NO School/ Veterans Day</b>	<b>12</b> Report cards go home	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> PAWS Players 3-3:45	<b>16</b> 7:45 Stud. Council Birchoir rehearsal 3-4	<b>17</b> Writing Club 7:45-8:15 am 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr Art Club 3-4 pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr HipHop Club 3-4 Preschool Animal Ctrl Visit 9:30 & 1:00	<b>18</b> Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>No school Conference Exchange Day</b>	<b>23</b> <b>No school Conference Exchange Day</b>	<b>24</b> <b>No school Vacation Day</b>	<b>25</b> <b>No School/Holiday Thanksgiving</b>	<b>26</b> <b>No school/Holiday</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> PAWS Players 3-3:45	<b>30</b> Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4				

**BIRCH ELEMENTARY**

**December 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Writing Club 7:45-8:15 am 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr Art Club 3-4 pm	2 Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4 <b>6:00 BEST GENERAL MTG</b>	3	4
5	6 Birchoir Dress Rehearsal 2:45- 4:00 PAWS Players 3:3:45	7 7:45 Student Council Birchoir Dress Rehearsals 2:45- 4:0) Book Fair 8:30am to 4:30pm	8 Birchoir Dress Rehearsals 2:45-4:00 Book Fair 8:30am to 4:30pm	9 Birchoir Performance 2:00 & 6:30 PM  7 pm Hanukah ends  Book Fair 10:00am to 8:00pm	10 Birchoir Celebration 3- 4 pm	11
12	13 Paws Players 3-3:45	14	15 Writing Club 7:45-8:15 am	16	17 2:00 Winter Parties	18
19	20 <b>Winter Break</b>	21 <b>Winter Break</b>	22 <b>Winter Break</b>	23 <b>Winter Break</b>	24 <b>Winter Break</b>	25 Christmas Day
26	27 <b>Winter Break</b>	28 <b>Winter Break</b>	29 <b>Winter Break</b>	30 <b>Winter Break</b>	31 <b>Winter Break New Years's Eve</b>	
<b>BIRCH ELEMENTARY</b>						

**From the Health Room:**

**Dorothy Baker thanks all of the volunteers who helped with the Vision & Hearing Testing. Your help is very much appreciated!**

**Get your holiday shopping done at the Birch Book Fair!**

December 7 & 8

8:30am-4:30pm

December 9

10:00am-8:00pm

Wednesday “parents only” shopping 8:30am – 10:30am

New! Order your books online: [www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs](http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs) from November 28<sup>th</sup> until December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for supporting Birch by shopping at the book fair!

Questions contact Kim Butler – [kim.butler@bvsd.org](mailto:kim.butler@bvsd.org).

**School Closed for Thanksgiving Break!**

Reminder: No school the week of November 22 (Nov 22-26). We will return Nov 29<sup>th</sup> Monday.



## Calendar Community Public Forums

### Give Us Your Feedback!

Please join us at any of the following Calendar Community Forums

And provide your feedback on School Calendar Concepts

For the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 School Years

Monday, November 15, Fairview High School Library, 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday, November 30, Boulder High School Library, 7:30 – 8:30 A.M.

Tuesday, November 30, Centaurus High School Library, 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, December 2, Broomfield High School Library, 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

## Calendario de foros públicos en la comunidad

### ¡Solicitamos sus comentarios!

Por favor, acompáñenos en cualquiera de los siguientes foros

en la comunidad y denos sus comentarios sobre los

Conceptos del Calendario Escolar

para los ciclos escolares 2011/2012 y 2012/2013

Lunes 15 de noviembre, biblioteca de la escuela preparatoria Fairview,  
6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Lunes 30 de noviembre, biblioteca de la escuela preparatoria Boulder,  
7:30 – 8:30 A.M.

Lunes 30 de noviembre, biblioteca de la escuela preparatoria  
Centaurus, 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Jueves 2 de diciembre, biblioteca de la escuela preparatoria Broomfield,  
6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

**Parent Engagement Network presents:**  
Thriving During the Elementary Years  
Healthy Social Development  
By Dr. Jan Hittelman

Social skills are tools that we use to interact with and understand others in our social environment. These skills are not innate, but are learned through our interpersonal experiences. Unlike “abilities”, which we are born with, “skills” can only be learned through practice. For example, some people are born with the ability to sing beautifully, while the skill to write one’s name must be learned. In addition, social skills can be lost if not practiced. It was found that prisoners of war, who were in isolation for long periods of time, actually lost their social skills and had to re-learn them. Children who are shy or socially withdrawn have less opportunity to practice and improve their social skills. Similarly, children with undesirable social behavior may be avoided by others and excluded from social events. Consequently, they are at-risk for falling further and further behind same-age peers in terms of their social skills development. Good social skills are necessary for positive emotional adjustment and successful functioning at home, school, work, and other social settings. Not surprisingly, research shows that people with poor social skills have more problems in school, at home, at work, and with the legal system.

As a parent it is important to provide opportunities for your child to interact with others. Whether it is participating in structured extracurricular activities or just getting together with friends for play dates, regular ongoing opportunities to socialize are important. If your child is reluctant to engage in these activities, use empowerment strategies by giving them choices and a major voice in all of the decisions, but let them know that they need to do something that requires them to interact with others.

Another way to help increase social competence is participation in a social skills training program. This training has been shown to be an effective way for children to learn needed strategies and “catch-up” to their peers in terms of their social competence. These skills can be taught individually or, better yet, in a group setting. The specific social skills that are taught typically involve: non-verbal communication (e.g. eye contact, nodding, smiling), social perspective taking (getting a better sense of how others’ are thinking and feeling), empathy, asking questions, dealing with peer pressure, etc.

As we try to focus on the whole child, nurturing our children’s social development, along with their academic and emotional development, will help them be successful in life.

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**Celebrate Parenting in a World of Diversity**

Comprehensive view of parents, youth and resources in Boulder Valley

Presentation in English and Spanish

Thursday, December 9, 6:30- 8:30pm

Lafayette Public Library

**Eugenia Brady**

Parent Involvement Specialist BVSD

Eugenia.Brady@bvsd.org

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**Parent Engagement Network presenta:**  
Superando con éxito los años de primaria  
El desarrollo social saludable  
Por el Dr. Jan Hittelman

Las habilidades sociales son herramientas utilizamos para interactuar y comprender a los demás en nuestro entorno social. Estas habilidades no son innatas, sino que se aprenden a través de nuestras experiencias interpersonales. A diferencia de “la capacidad”, que se nace con ella, “las habilidades” sólo se pueden aprender con la práctica. Por ejemplo, algunas personas nacen con la capacidad de cantar maravillosamente, mientras que la habilidad de escribir su nombre debe ser aprendida. Además, las habilidades sociales se pueden perder si no se practican. Los niños que son tímidos o retraídos socialmente tienen menos oportunidad de practicar y mejorar sus habilidades sociales. Del mismo modo, los niños con comportamientos sociales indeseables pueden ser eludidos por los demás y excluidos de eventos sociales. Se descubrió que los prisioneros de guerra, que estuvieron en aislamiento por largos períodos de tiempo, en realidad perdieron sus habilidades sociales y tuvieron que volver a aprenderlas. En consecuencia, están en riesgo de quedarse cada vez más detrás de sus compañeros de la misma edad en términos de su desarrollo de habilidades sociales. Las buenas habilidades sociales son necesarias para la adaptación emocional positiva y buen funcionamiento en el hogar, en la escuela, en el trabajo y en otros entornos sociales. Como era de esperar, las investigaciones muestran que las personas con escasas habilidades sociales tienen más problemas en la escuela, en casa, en el trabajo y con la ley.

Como padre de familia es importante que proporcione oportunidades para que su niño interactúe con los demás. Ya se trate de participar en actividades estructuradas extracurriculares o simplemente reunirse con amigos para jugar, las oportunidades continuas para socializar son importantes. Si su hijo se niega a participar en estas actividades, utilice estrategias para facultarlos, dándoles opciones y opinión en todas las decisiones, pero que sepan que tienen que hacer algo que les obligue a interactuar con los demás.

Otra manera de ayudarles a incrementar su capacidad social es la participación en un programa de entrenamiento en habilidades sociales. Esta capacitación ha demostrado ser una forma efectiva para que los niños aprendan las estrategias necesarias y “alcancen el nivel” de sus compañeros en términos de competencia social. Estas habilidades se pueden enseñar de forma individual o, aún mejor, en grupo. Las habilidades sociales específicas que se enseñan suelen incluir: la comunicación no verbal (por ejemplo, contacto visual, asintiendo con la cabeza, sonriendo), toma de perspectiva social (obtener una mejor idea de cómo los demás piensan y sienten), la empatía, hacer preguntas, enfrentando la presión de los compañeros, etc.

A medida que nos centramos en el niño como un todo, fomentando el desarrollo social de nuestros hijos, junto con su desarrollo académico y emocional, les ayudará a tener éxito en la vida.

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**Celebre el arte de ser padre en un mundo diverso**

Visión completa de los padres, los jóvenes y los recursos en el valle de Boulder

La presentación será en inglés y español

Jueves 9 de diciembre, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Biblioteca pública de Lafayette

**Eugenia Brady**

Especialista en la participación de los padres de BVSD

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