



BIRCH BARK

October 8, 2010

1035 Birch Street, Broomfield, CO 80020
24 Hour Attendance Line: 720-561-8802
Office: 720-561-8800
Fax: 720-561-8801 www.bvbsd.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 pm
Tracy Stegall, Principal

Principal's Message

Happy October, Birch Community!

The first day of school is far behind us, leaves are turning (and falling!), and autumn is officially here. This season is my very favorite; growing up here in Colorado I am thankful for truly HAVING seasons to appreciate. Autumn is full of promise for me... it's the season where I believe wholeheartedly that anything is possible. How fitting, then, that our school goals are set and teachers are engaging your children in meaningful learning. We have growth targets set in reading, writing, and math; our climate goal will continue to focus on safety and personal responsibility. Thanks to those of you who answered your 'survey monkey' survey. Your responses are important, and we're listening. To that end, over the next few months, the B.E.S.T. meetings will have a parent education component. In November, we'll focus on how to help your child at home in mathematics; in January, we'll have a Love and Logic component; in February, we'll focus on how to help your child in reading. We hope you'll attend all three!

Our B.E.S.T. fundraiser wrapped up with a strong finish. A huge thank you goes out to Kenna Butler, Donna Keeler, Jen Krieger, Dawn Mielke, Susan Pluta, and the numerous parent volunteers who helped with The Bulldog Jog. Some funds are still trickling in; we raised close to \$12,000 for Birch! The prizes for this fundraiser were a little different this year; we focused on 'experience prizes' instead of 'stuff'. Top fundraisers for the school won an experience with teachers here at Birch, and they got to choose a friend to join them. Prizes include being "principal for 45 minutes", decorating cookies with Mrs. Carter, going to the movies with Mrs. Walsworth, being a ball carrier at a Broomfield High School soccer game with Mr. Morreale... the list goes on! If your child is involved in one of these prizes, you would have received a letter this week.

As the weather begins to turn, please remember to send your child to school with appropriate clothing (coats, boots if it snows). If you need assistance in purchasing coats or boots for your children, let us know right away so that we can be prepared! Finally, thank you for all you do for your children... all you do for Birch... and all you ARE. Happy Fall!

--Your Principal, Tracy Stegall



Parent Engagement Network presents:

Thriving During the Elementary Years

Understanding ADHD

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is estimated to affect 3-7% of school-age children. For many, these challenges continue into adulthood. There are three types of ADHD; “Predominantly Inattentive”, “Predominantly Hyperactive-Impulsive”, and a combination of the two (“Combined Type”).

Over the years there have been valid concerns that many children are inaccurately diagnosed as having ADHD. This is problematic in part because medication is often prescribed to treat the disorder. It has been shown that some children, who were initially diagnosed as ADHD, were actually in the early stages of having Bipolar disorder and the ADHD symptoms were a function of the manic component. In these cases, prescribing stimulant medication can actually trigger manic episodes. There have also been instances where children were initially diagnosed with ADHD and it later was determined that their concentration problems were actually a symptom of depression. Finally, there are large numbers of children that were simply misdiagnosed and did not need to be put on medication at all.

To accurately diagnose ADHD there need to be several indicators that together confirm the diagnosis. These would include: feedback from parents, teachers and children themselves; objective evidence based on standardized psychometric tests constructed to assess for ADHD; and meeting the specific criteria developed by the American Psychiatric Association. Too often these critical steps are skipped and medication is prescribed.

To learn more you can attend a free panel discussion entitled “ADHD: Diagnosis, Challenges and Treatment” on Monday November 1, from 7:00-8:30pm in the BVSD Board Room (6500 Arapahoe) in Boulder. You can also watch it live on Channel 22. Audience members and folks watching at home will be able to submit questions for the panelists. For more information, please visit: www.BoulderPsychologicalServices.com.

In addition, BVSD will be hosting an all day conference on attention issues, entitled: “Late, Lost and Unprepared” on Saturday, November 6, from 9:00am-4:00pm, at the BVSD Ed. Center (6500 Arapahoe, Boulder). Contact Parent Liaison Anna Stewart for more information on the conference, as well as information on the BVSD AD\HD Parent Support Group, which meets monthly (720-561-5918 or anna.stewart@BVSD.org).

Secrets to Success in Parenting Your Teen “One - On - One Workshop with Sue Blaney!”

Wednesday, October 20, 6:30 - 8:30pm
Louisville Middle School (\$ Donation)

Thursday, October 21, 9am - 12pm
BVSD Ed Center (\$ Cost) RSVP Required

Sue Blaney

National Presenter and author,

Please Stop the Rollercoaster: How Parents of Teens Can Smooth Out the Ride

www.pleasestoptherollercoaster.com

Learn more about PEN by visiting their website: www.parentengagementnetwork.org or by contacting Paula Nelson, PEN chair (pjn6225@yahoo.com, 303-880-6030) or Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach, (foxbetsy123@msn.com, 720-563-7007).

Dr. Jan Hittelman, a licensed psychologist, is Director of Boulder Psychological Services and the Founder of the Boulder Counseling Cooperative. Questions or comments for this monthly column can be sent via email to: jan.hittelman@gmail.com, or by phone: 720-217-3270

Due to scheduling conflicts with Scholastic **we will NOT be having a book fair during conferences;** instead, we **will be having a Holiday Book Fair during the week of the Winter Choir Concert!** More details to come. As usual, there will be NO supervision available for children during conferences, so please plan accordingly. Thank you! –Mrs. Butler

Three For Me Upcoming Volunteer Needs:

- 1. We need people to serve on a newly formed Full Circle Garden committee.**
- 2. We need parents to provide meals for the teaching staff during conferences Oct. 19 – 21st.**
- 3. Volunteer to help with vision and hearing screenings on Nov. 5.**

Please Contact Jamie Penner at birch.volunteer@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping with any of these volunteer opportunities.

PAWS for Applause!

A BIG thanks to all our volunteers ~ we could not do it without you!

Copy room Data Entry Picture day

Assessment check-in Bulldog Jog Walk to School Day

Classroom helpers Literacy helpers Crossing Guards

Library helpers Broomfield Days and much more!

B.E.S.T. Meeting is October 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Parent Enrichment to Focus on November Ballot Measures

You've seen the signs and noticed the numbers but what do 3A, 60, 61 & 101 really mean? Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the upcoming Birch Educational Support Team (BEST) meeting on Thursday night. This month the parent enrichment portion will focus on the upcoming November ballot measures. Jennie Belval, Boulder Valley School District Board of Education member, will be the guest speaker. Ms. Belval will be providing information about the upcoming BVSD 3A mill levy override and State of Colorado Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 & 61. All of these measures will have an impact on school funding, classroom sizes and future improvements to our school. Everyone is encouraged attend, learn more, ask questions and make a well-informed decision at the polls this November. The meeting is held in the school library and free childcare is available.

RECYCLE YOUR USED ATHLETIC SHOES WITH BIRCH AND ECOCYCLE

Along with International Walk to school day on October 6th Boulder Valley Schools are working with EcoCycle, the non-profit recycling organization to recycle used athletic shoes.

Did you know it is against the law to take your shoes off in a theatre in winnatka, Illinois if you have smelly feet!!! Bring your old smelly, used athletic shoes to school to be recycled!!! The used shoes will be recycled into a rubberized material for playgrounds and athletic fields. Over a week, hundreds of pounds of used tennis and running shoes will be collected from schools to be recycled rather than being dumped in our landfills.

****We need your Athletic shoes such as running, tennis or aerobic types. please do not tie laces together.**

****We cannot accept Light up sneakers (they may contain mercury) keds or sneakers with metal parts.**

Please bring in your used athletic shoes (Any size) and put them in the bins located in the Gym and at the front office between Wednesday September 22nd and Tuesday October 12th

“Daily 5 Drive”

Donate new or used Pre-K – 7th grade level books October 4 – 22.



Bring us your used books!

Birch Elementary has implemented the “Daily 5” to develop the daily habits of reading, writing and working independently that will lead to a lifetime of literacy independence. This is an exciting program that the teachers at Birch are embracing whole-heartedly, which consists of a series of literacy tasks. (See the box at the right.)

- “Daily 5”
1. Reading to Self
(Ask your child about their reading “stamina”.)
 2. Reading with Someone
 3. Writing
 4. Word Work
 5. Listening to Reading

Each child has his/her own box filled with books that are specific for their reading level. We need books that range from Pre-K to upper-middle school due to the wide range of reading abilities among students. Unfortunately, Birch doesn’t have enough books to go around. This is where you come in! Please go through the books that your family is no longer reading and bring them into Birch to donate.

“Daily 5 Drive” boxes will be in each classroom October 4th - 22nd.
The classroom that brings in the MOST books will win a prize!

SPELLING BEE COMING SOON!

****If you are interested in bringing in a science club and or would be willing to help please contact Heather Witbeck. Thank you.**

SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER OR EMERGENCIES

All schools will be in session on each school day unless inclement weather or other emergencies result in the closure of some or all of the facilities. Whenever a closure is necessary, the school district will immediately contact the radio and TV stations listed below. Notification will be given before 6:00 a.m., or as soon as the decision is made to close schools during the day. **The school district web site will continue to be the official public notification of school closures** www.bvsd.org.

KWGN-TV	CHANNEL 2	KOA	850 AM
KCNC-TV	CHANNEL 4	KRCN	1060 AM
KMGH -TV	CHANNEL 7	ONDA	1150 AM
	CHANNEL 8	ALICE	105.9 FM
KUSA-TV	CHANNEL 9	KBCO	97.3 FM
FOX 31 NEWS	CHANNEL 13	KGNU	88.5 FM
		KOSI	101.1 FM



Operational Services

720-561-5052

Fax: 720-561-5118

www.bvsd.org

6500 East Arapahoe, PO Box 9011
Boulder, CO 80301

September 1, 2010

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

Fall is here and the changing seasons remind us that inclement weather can result in school being closed for one or more days. We all need to plan ahead and be ready in case that happens.

School district officials have a responsibility to keep the schools in session except under the most extreme conditions. In the case of extreme inclement weather, parents are requested to make the decision regarding attendance or late arrival of their children. A personal contact by the parent or a written note to school building officials will excuse a student's late arrival or absence during these conditions.

Occasionally, the weather is severe enough that it is necessary to close schools in all or part of the district. When this occurs, it is extremely important that working parents have pre-arranged child care available to them; arrangements with a friend or neighbor; provisions at a child care center; child care leave from work (if available); arrangements with a neighborhood teenager who also would be out of school; etc. It is very important that parents make these arrangements now, since the weather is unpredictable and often we are hit with storms early in the school year. **The school district web site will continue to be the official public notification of school closures** www.bvsd.org.

Birch Bark

2010-2011 Student Directory Art Contest

The following students are winners of the **Birch Elementary Students Directory Art Contest**. The drawings depict their classroom teachers very well. Congratulations!

Kindergarten

<i>Baldner</i>	Andrzej Rose
<i>Murphy M/W</i>	Clara Denham
<i>Murphy T/Th</i>	Garrett Keeler

First Grade

<i>Aguirre</i>	Adam Coons
<i>Zordrager</i>	Kaylee Howe
<i>Smith</i>	Edin Hrnjic
<i>Fey</i>	Alysia Black

Second Grade

<i>Carter</i>	Jenika Woodward
<i>Aragon</i>	Julia Flanagan
<i>Nunnery</i>	Jason Hernandez

Third Grade

<i>Butler</i>	Andrew lee
<i>Lind</i>	Eric Rathmann
<i>Tschoepe</i>	Charlie Vanderberg

Fourth Grade

<i>Evans</i>	Elyse Valdez
<i>Bialick</i>	Ondrelee Doyle
<i>Schiola</i>	Anna-Marie Abeyta

Fifth Grade

<i>Freemann</i>	Mitchell Gorman
<i>McCormick</i>	Samantha Cook
<i>Peters</i>	Asher Walker

BIRCH ELEMENTARY - OCTOBER 2010

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 7:45 Stud. Council. 3-L F/T EcoCycle 9-2 Birchoir 3-4 pm	6 3-B F/T EcoCycle 5 th Grade Art Club 3-4 pm	7 Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4 BEST General Mtg 6 pm	8	9
10	11 Paws Players 3- 3:45 Library Columbus Day	12 Kdg. Murphy Conferences 3-8 Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4	13 Kdg. Murphy Conferences 3-8 5 th Grade Art Club 3-4	14 Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4	15 TAG Scavenger Hut 10 AM	16
17	18 Paws Players 3- 3:45 Library	19 7:45 Student Council 3-8 Parent/Teach. Conferences	20 5 th Grade Art Club 3-4 pm 3-8 Parent/Teach. Conferences	21 3-8 Parent Teacher Conferences	22 School Picture Makeups NO Preschool	23
24	25 Paws Players 3- 3:45 in the Library	26 Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4	27 5 th Grade Art Club 3-4	28 Birchoir Rehearsal 3-4	29 8:30 Fall Parties	30
31 Halloween	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6

OOPS! We made a mistake on your Bulldog Jog receipt.

We are so sorry, but the tax exempt ID number on the Bulldog Jog receipts was incorrect. Please pass this correction on to everyone you gave a receipt to. The corrected receipt is also stored on our B.E.S.T. website under the Events / Bulldog Jog:

www.birchbest.org

(While you are checking out our website, don't forget to join our B.E.S.T. Facebook Group: BEST (Birch Elementary).)



Birch Educational Support Team
1035 Birch Street
Broomfield, CO 80020
(720) 561-8800

Thank you for supporting the 2010 Birch Elementary Bulldog Jog fundraiser. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Pledge Amount: \$ _____

Date: _____

Birch Elementary School BEST/ PTO is a 501(3)c nonprofit organization; tax exempt number is

98-02383-0000. As required by the Internal Revenue Code, there were no goods or services provided to you in consideration for this gift. Keep this receipt for tax purposes.

**USE THIS TAX
EXEMPT ID:**

84-0939161

What are Interventionists?

A lot of parents, as well as my parents, are asking what an Interventionists is? Better yet, what do Interventionists do?

Well the answer to that question is not a simple one. Debbie Haseman and I perform a number of different duties. Interventionists do everything from co-teaching with classroom teachers to organizing staff professional development. **The most important one is supporting ALL students and teachers at Birch in developing their capacity for literacy.** This doesn't mean we only help support teachers and students with reading and writing. We also could help students and teachers with math or any other content area. However, literacy (reading and writing) is a priority. Some of the other duties we are asking to perform are one-on-one conferencing, small group instruction, whole class instruction, staff training, supporting staff with instruction, provide materials to classroom teachers, support student assessment, manage student support meetings, leading staff professional development, attend grade level team meetings, manage literacy resources, manage book room, attend district literacy meetings and communicate information to staff, collaborate with district literacy team, participate in school leadership team, investigate, investigate and write grants for school, organize school literacy committee, and any other duties requested of administration.

We just wanted to keep an open line of communication with parents about what we do. If you have further questions about our role, please contact Debbie Haseman at Debbie.haseman@bvsd.org or Carl Morreale at carl.morreale@bvsd.org.

Lastly, look for us at parent/teacher conferences. We will have a table set up to provide parents with information on supporting your child at home with Literacy. We look forward to see you then.

Attention Popcorn Lovers!!!

**BEST will be selling bags of popcorn for .25 per bag in the Gazebo Oct 15th from 3-3:30!
Come get your popcorn & support Birch.**