

Wayzata Public Schools

Birchview Bulletin

FOR THE PARENTS OF BIRCHVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

OCTOBER 2012

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the first issue of the Birchview Bulletin and the beginning of the 2012-13 school year. The first three weeks of school have been filled with many activities – all designed to get our students acclimated to their new educational settings and to establish a foundation from which to build throughout the school year.

As our students adjusted to their new surroundings, so too, did their

principal. As much as I had heard about the Birchview community, it wasn't until I was up close and able to observe it first-hand, did I have a true understanding of the bond that exists between the students, staff and parents that comprise our community. I am truly amazed at the commitment that all of our adults make to ensure that our students will have a positive educational experience.

I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome that I have received since assuming the role of principal at the end of July. Your kindness and welcoming spirit has made the transition an easy one for me. In return, know that I am committed to the growth and development of each and every student, and will do my best to foster a climate where our young people can strive to reach their potential.

I want to encourage you to communicate with me regarding any concerns or questions that you may have regarding your child's education. I firmly believe that a strong relationship between school and home can provide our students with the support that they need from caring adults as they grow and developed under our watch and guidance.

Thanks for your support,
Steve Root, Principal



Fall Fundraiser 2012



Gift Wrap is back!

Back by popular demand,
Innisbrook is returning to Birchview

SEPTEMBER 20TH - OCTOBER 11TH

Look for more information coming from our two Fall Fundraiser co-chairs, Leigh Doyle and Shannon Anderson!

Thank you for supporting Birchview!



News & Notes

OCTOBER 2012

got milk caps?

Great, because Birchview needs your milk caps! Our school participates in the **Kemps Nickels for Schools**, the **Land O' Lakes Save Five for Schools** and the **Kwik Trip Milk Moola** programs. Thanks to all of the families that have been saving and bringing in milk caps, our school earned nearly \$150.00 from Kemps in March 2012! The PTA can use this money to make our school even better! We have nearly the minimum amount of caps for the other programs and we will submit them as soon as we can!

The Kemps Nickels for Schools program will be ending as of November 1, 2012. Special labeling of these prod-

ucts was phased out this summer. If you have a collection of these caps at home, please send them in as soon as possible. They will be replacing the Nickels for Schools program with a once-a-year program.

What to save

- **The Land O' Lakes Save Five for Schools** program accepts the labelled caps from gallons of Land O' Lakes milk, chocolate milk and orange juice.
- **The Kwik Trip Milk Moola** program accepts caps and bag tops from specially marked Milk Moola products (including many Nature's Touch products - water, iced tea and juices) in a variety of sizes.



When saving, please

- **RINSE** the caps and/or bag top
- Labels must be intact and attached to the milk caps. Do not remove the labels from the milk caps as they will not be accepted by the programs.
- Bring the milk caps and/or bag tops to the school office collection cabinet.

YOU CAN HELP BIRCHVIEW THROUGH THE LABELS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Birchview Elementary participates in the **Labels for Education** program offered by the Campbell's family of products. These points can be redeemed for school materials to help promote academics, athletics and/or the arts at Birchview. Thanks to continued participation we were able to send in 11,597 Labels for Education points from October 2011 to April 2012!

Participating in Labels for Education is easy -- simply save proofs of purchase from participating products and

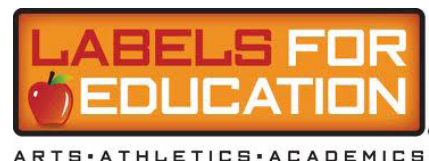
turn them into the school office. Some participating products include BIC, Campbell's, Dannon, Emerald Nuts, Glad Food Storage, Pepperidge Farm, Pop Secret, Post Cereals and Treats, Prego, SpaghettiOs and V8 Beverages.

Please remember

- You need to turn in the UPC's/ Barcodes from each participating product, you can clip and send in the UPC or you can send in the entire label and we'll take care of clipping the barcodes.

- Caps of V8 beverages need to be rinsed and submitted.
- Saved labels and/or V8 caps can be turned into the school office.

More information is available about this program, including a complete list of participating products, at www.labelsforeducation.com. Thank you for helping Birchview earn free materials for our school!



For more information on Milk Caps or Labels for Education contact:

Jackie Tyszka | Labels for Education Program Coordinator | jackietyszka@gmail.com | 763.331.0744

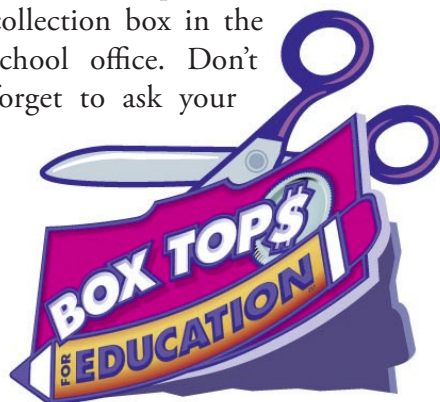
Sue Stinson | mushudogs@msn.com

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

For more than 14 years, **Box Tops for Education** has helped America's schools raise more than \$320 million to buy the things they need. Throughout the last nine years, Birchview has received almost \$17,000 from the Box Tops for Education program. This year we have set a goal of earning \$2,500 through Box Tops. Box Tops offers easy ways to earn cash for Birchview through everyday activities such as buying groceries and shopping online.

CLIP: Clip Box Top coupons from over 200 products from General Mills, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Zip-

Loc, Saran Wrap, Hefty, Scott, Kleenex, S.S. Johnson, Kimberly-Clark, JuicyJuicy, Avery products and many more. Watch for products featuring Bonus Box Tops. Drop off your Box Tops at the collection box in the school office. Don't forget to ask your



MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!

friends, neighbors and family to clip their Box Tops for you.

SHOP: Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace (boxtops4education.com/marketplace). Up to 12 percent of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to Birchview. There is no additional cost to your purchase and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found! For more information on how you can help Birchview earn cash through Box tops for Education, visit the website at www.boxtops4education.com or contact the Box Tops coordinator, **Terri Nelson** at terri.nelson@ymail.com.

Fall Fundraiser 2012



Gift Wrap is back!

Our Fundraiser started on September 20th. The packets were sent home with your children last Thursday. Hopefully, everyone has seen them. The fundraiser will continue for 3 weeks. Please help your children remember to return their packets to their teachers by Thursday, October 11th, the last day of the sale. Delivery date for all items ordered will be the week of November 12-15. A reminder of that date will be sent home with your child and will also be printed in the next issue of the Bulletin. Let's all help Birchview take a "Big Bite" out of our Fundraiser!

SEPTEMBER 20TH - OCTOBER 11TH



President's Letter

The school year is in full-swing. Hopefully you and your families have settled into the routine. My name is Kerry Maahs and I am the current PTA president as well as a Wayzata graduate. My family has been part of the Birchview community for eight years. My oldest child is a seventh grader at East. I have a fifth and first grader at Birchview plus a four year old who anxiously awaits his turn to attend Birchview. I am looking forward to working with the teachers, staff, students and parents this year to foster Birchview's long-standing reputation of academic excellence and community spirit.

The year began with our Welcome Back Picnic. The picnic is possible because of many volunteers who help setup, serve food, and cleanup. A special thanks to our Picnic co-chairs Kathy Parker, Joan Pittman, and Jen Pearson-Nordstrom for their hard work and dedication. Aside from meeting our teachers and seeing old friends, it was our first opportunity to meet our new interim principal, Steve Root. He has a great deal of experience in the Wayzata

School District as both a teacher and a middle school principal. We are excited to work with him this year.

In September, students participated in the Health Screening. Over 80 volunteers were needed to make this event happen! A huge thank you to our chairs Lindsay Merkel, Kate Hofstad, Claire Ingram and Shannon Vekich for their time and energy.

The Family Forums are designed to give parents valuable information on a range of topics from parenting to technology to the state of the district. Be sure to mark your calendars for our first three Family Forums: State of the District and Birchview, Homework Help, and Internet Safety. On October 1st Chace Anderson (Wayzata Superintendent) and Steve Root (Birchview Principal) will give updates on the latest District and Birchview initiatives. Bring your questions. On October 15th, Jenn Samec (Birchview Media Specialist) and Linnea Fonnest (Hennepin County Library Children's Librarian) will share websites and tools to help your student complete their homework. On November 12th, David Zukor (WPS technology integration specialist) will present ideas and resources to keep your child safe in

cyberspace. Please note: The Family Forums are for all Birchview parents. The forums are sponsored by the PTA but they are not PTA meetings. Free childcare is available.

Back by popular demand, our fall fundraiser is underway with Innisbrook. In addition to their quality wrapping paper, they offer a variety of other products that make great gifts for yourself or others. Our fall fundraiser is the first of only two fundraisers at Birchview. The money raised through this fall fundraiser benefits our children each and every day with events such as the reading celebration, grade level breakfasts, author visits, kids college, and much more. We sincerely appreciate your support!

Birchview offers several volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Choose to help in your child's classroom, serve breakfast at the grade-level breakfasts, or assist with the book fair. The opportunities are endless! Go to the Birchview homepage to see what interests you. Volunteering is a great way to make a difference at Birchview and a fun way to meet other parents. Give it a try!

Sincerely,
Kerry Maahs, PTA President



Welcome Back!

Welcome Back!

Birchview PTA welcomes everyone back to school for a year filled with new adventures in learning. We know it is a big adjustment to go from sleeping in and lazing by the pool all day, to running out the door to catch the bus! But, we hope the transition has gone smoothly and your children are back in the mode to learn all the exciting lessons the teachers have prepared.

This section of the Birchview Bulletin (PTA Pages) will be the place

to find information about everything PTA. We will keep you updated on the happenings and opportunities to become involved at Birchview. The PTA strives to bring our community together through many fun and educational activities and experiences throughout the year.

Birchview is experiencing some exciting changes. We welcome all of our new staff, especially interim Prin-

cipal, Steve Root. He has graciously taken the reigns of the school for the next year, preparing for a long-term leader next fall. With his many years of experience as principal of Central Middle School, we will surely be in very good hands. We hope you will join the PTA and warmly welcome him to our Birchview Community.

Joy Stroup, Communications

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

- Winston Churchill

2012/2013 PTA Board Members

President

Kerry Maahs

ckmaahs@comcast.net / 763-205-2162

Vice President

Nichola Schoenfelder

nichola_s@yahoo.com / 763-432-3113

Treasurer

Anne Oswald

oswald5@aol.com / 763-208-3960

Communications

Joy Stroup

joynthegang@msn.com / 763-473-1593

Volunteer Coordinator

Jesse Lundquist

lundquist.jesse@gmail.com / 763-208-1935

BIRCHVIEW PRIDE!

Let's join together and show our school spirit! Fridays, or the last day of school in the week, are once again Birchview Pride day.

We are all proud to be part of the Birchview community! Show your commitment to Birchview by wearing school colors, blue and gold, any Birchview shirt or even a Wayzata shirt. It's up to you!

Take pride in who you are and your importance to the Birchview community.

HOORAY BIRCHVIEW!



Volunteer Update

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:



The Fall Fundraiser is in full swing at Birchview! This is our school's biggest source of fundraising all year. Thank you for supporting our school! If you would like to help with tallying or distribution please contact **Leigh Doyle** at leighdoyle12345@yahoo.com.

Our first **Grade Level Breakfast** is happening Friday October 5th for the Kindergarten families! If you can help with set up, serving, or clean up please contact **Ruthie Feinstein** at ruthie.feinstein@gmail.com



Thank You!

■ **The Welcome Back Picnic** was once again a success for our Birchview community. Thank you to the co-chairs, **Joan Pittman, Jen Pearson-Nordstrom, and Kathy Parker**, the parent volunteers, and the staff for all the hard work it took to pull this evening together!

■ A big thank you goes out to our **Health Screening** co-chairs! **Lindsay Merkel, Kate Hofstad**, and incoming chairs **Claire Ingram**, and **Shannon Vekich** coordinated and executed this

very important week. Many thanks go out to all of the parents that gave their time to help!

■ **Picture Day** co-chairs spent time helping our students and staff on this busy day. Thank you to **Carolyn Mirviss, Shannon Vekich**, and **Robyn Ruark**.

■ **Punt, Pass, Kick** had a wonderful comeback thanks to the all parent volunteers and our dedicated PE teachers!

Open PTA Event Chair Positions

- ▶ Conferences/Staff Lunches
- ▶ Punt, Pass, Kick
- ▶ BINGO Night 2013
- ▶ I Love to Read Month 2013
- ▶ 5th Grade Graduation 2013

Visit Birchview's Online Volunteer Sign-up page for more volunteer opportunities or email Jesse Lundquist at lundquist.jesse@gmail.com for more information.

<http://www.wayzata.k12.mn.us/birchview>



Volunteer Update

Grade Level Breakfasts!

The new co-chairs for the Grade Level Breakfasts are **Nissa Manley** and **Ruthie Feinstein**. Let's give them a big thank you for volunteering to coordinate these wonderful Birchview

Community events!



New Bulletin Editor!

Our new Bulletin Editor is **Siva Yang**! If you have articles or advertisements you would like to add to the monthly Birchview Bulletin please submit them by the 15th of the month to Siva Yang at yang.siva@gmail.com

New Community Coordinator!

Our new Community Resource Coordinator is **Diana Osberg**! Thank you Diana for taking on this important role for our school! We look forward to a great year!

If you are experienced in graphic design and would like to volunteer to help Diana in creating some signs, please contact her at dianaosberg@yahoo.com

Safety First

As the school year begins, we would like to remind everyone to be mindful and courteous as you drive along Ranchview Lane en-route to picking up/drop off your students. We are thrilled to see an increase in our pedestrian traffic but with that comes a responsibility from us all to have a heightened awareness of them all.

REMINDERS:

■ **PLEASE STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS** as they are crossing Ranchview Lane or 5th Avenue to Birchview.

■ There is **NO PARKING ANYTIME** on Ranchview Lane from 3rd Ave to 5th Ave. There is **NO PARKING** on 5th Ave on the north side.

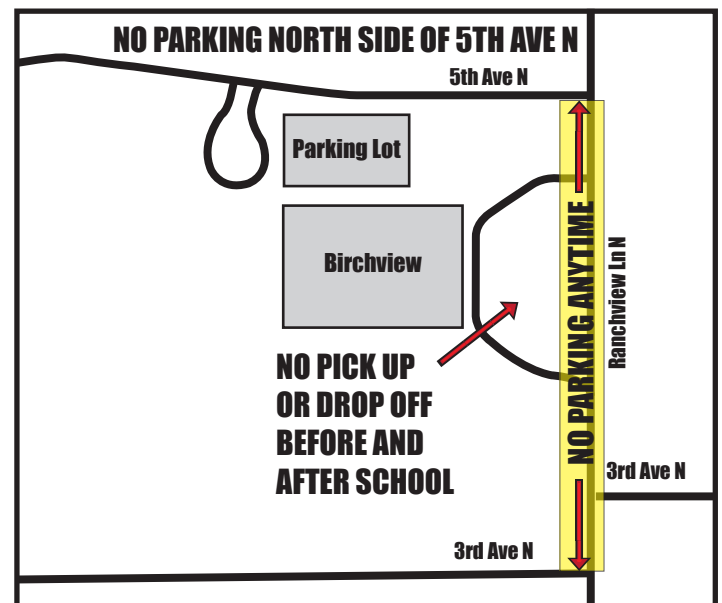
■ Please use the drop off/pick up area west of the back parking lot and **PULL AS FAR FORWARD AS POSSIBLE** when using it.

■ **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE FRONT PARKING LOT** during the times posted on the signs as buses are drop-

ping off/picking up students before and after school. It is a very busy time and it is extremely unsafe to have your child walk between parked buses.

We all want our kids safe and we all need to work together to keep them that way. Thank you in advance for helping keep Birchview safe!

Joy Stroup, Communications



Wayzata School District Continues to Improve Communications with Parents with Text Alerts

Parents and guardians now have the option to receive text messages, in addition to phone calls and email messages, for emergency and other essential school communications. Parents interested in receiving text messages will have to opt-in to accept the charges for which standard text

message rates apply. To sign up to receive text messages:

1. Login to Family Access through the district website, www.wayzata.k12.mn.us. Click on the Family Access button in the upper right hand corner.
2. After you log in, click the Skylert link under the General Information heading.
3. Click the Edit button.
4. Confirm and edit your communications preferences. *(If you opt in to receive text messaging the standard text message rates do apply.)*

5. Check and/or uncheck the boxes next to your numbers and email addresses to choose which kind of notification you would prefer to receive. Additional phone numbers and email addresses are configured based on the secondary contact information located in Family Access.
6. Click Save when complete.

What a great way to be immediately connected with the school alerts.
Source: www.wayzata.k12.mn.us

Joy Stroup, Communications



Volunteering at Birchview

There are so many wonderful ways to help out with your child's experience at Birchview. Life is so busy that it can be difficult to find the time. We challenge you to make at least ONE volunteer commitment

to the Birchview community this year. Volunteering once at school can make a huge difference the your child's experience at school. It shows them that you think Birchview is not just

worth their time; it is worth your time as well. Your child will feel proud to have you helping, and the look on their face is the greatest reward. Thank you!

“The best thing you can do is the right thing; the next best thing you can do is the wrong thing; the worst thing you can do is nothing.”

- Theodore Roosevelt



October Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Birchview Family Forum: State of the District and Birchview	2	3	4	5 8:15 am Kindergarten Breakfast	6
7	8	9	10	11 Innisbrook Fundraiser Orders Due	12	13
14	15 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Birchview Family Forum: Homework Help	16	17	18 No School	19 No School	20
21	22	23	24	25 Picture Retake Day	26	27
28	29	30	31			

(Please note: Kindergarten and 2nd Grade Breakfasts have been switched, 2nd Grade Breakfast will be November 16th.)

BIRCHVIEW FAMILY FORUM HOMEWORK HELPERS

JENNIFER SAMEC,
BIRCHVIEW MEDIA SPECIALIST

LINNEA FONNEST,
PLYMOUTH LIBRARIAN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM - BIRCHVIEW MUSIC ROOM

FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Has your child ever been stuck with homework and you are unsure of how to help? Mrs. Samec, Birchview Media Specialist, and Mrs. Fonnest, Hennepin County Library Children's Librarian, will show you numerous ways your students' teachers and staff use technology. Further, they

will share specific websites that your child can use at home to aid in their homework completion. This will allow your child to feel empowered by accomplishing their tasks independently. Please join us for a VERY informative evening for all parents. Get involved in your student's learning!

Educating yourself as a parent is the greatest gift you can give your child!

Let's help keep families warm again this winter!



The 2012 Winter Gear Drive

With cold temperatures right around the corner, many less fortunate families in our area are in great need of winter gear. The Birchview

PTA will be starting our annual Winter Gear Drive next month. So get ready to clean out your closets and bring in your donations!

We will be collecting winter gear items including:

- Coats
- Snow Pants
- Hats
- Mittens
- Gloves
- Scarves

(all sizes from infant to adult)

October 15 - November 16th

All items will be donated to:

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners in Wayzata

All donated items need to be washed, cleaned and in wearable condition. Donation boxes will be available outside of the main office.

Questions? Please contact Jesse Lundquist at lundquist.jesse@gmail.com



Birchview Elementary School

A Minnesota School of Excellence

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Attendance/Health | 763.745.5315

E-mail | firstname.lastname@wayzata.k12.mn.us

(substitute staff name for italicized section)

The Birchview Bulletin is edited by Siva Yang (yang.siva@gmail.com)
Please submit stories by the 15th of each month for publication for the following month.