

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL, RIK PONSTEIN

The approaching winter season brings a new concern for our students and an ongoing concern. The ongoing concern is to protect our students, staff and families from the H1N1 flu virus. Students can help by practicing good hygiene habits. Parents can help by keeping sick children at home. Our local health department is offering an immunization clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 17th, from 4:30-7:30 right here at Birch Street. Any child between the ages of 6 months and 24 years, and any pregnant woman may receive a flu shot/mist on that day. If your child has not been immunized yet, we strongly encourage you to plan to attend this free clinic.

The new concern is for the approaching cold weather season. Please check to be sure that your child has warm clothes, boots and mittens/gloves for recess. We know that the snow and cold weather will be here soon and we want every child at Birch Street to be prepared.

I also want to point out a kindergartner who represents a personal and professional milestone for me. Zoe Hilmert is my first *third generation* Kalkaska student! I taught high school math when two of Zoe's grandparents, Amy (Snyder) Lantzer and John Lantzer, and also to her parents, Becca (Lantzer) Hilmert and Will Hilmert were at KHS. Zoe's mom is also one of many of my former Blazer softball players. I enjoy watching all of our Blazer kids grow up, and I share the pride of parents and grandparents in all of our little ones!



Family Fun Night provided fun and food for all!

BOOK FAIR NEWS

Thank you to all the school families who came to our fall Book Fair. Your continued support of the book fair allows our library to purchase new books, technology, and fun stuff for our library. Please stop by the library and check out our new story time rug, purchased with profits from previous fairs.

We would also like to thank PTO President, Debbie Ball-Odeh; KPS Instructional Coaches, Arica Swoverland and Marie Strong; and parent volunteer, Terrie Sibole for organizing the Family Fun Event. About 120 people played Book Bingo, created a bookmark to take home, listened to stories and enjoyed pizza and salad.

Congratulations to Mrs. Sutton's first graders, winners of the One for Books Classroom Coin Challenge. They received three new books for their classroom library. Thanks to everyone's generosity, over 100 brand new books will be in the hands of impoverished children.

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

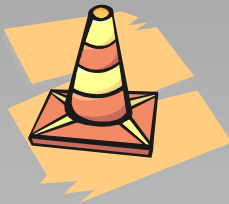


BIRCH STREET MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Birch Street Elementary School to educate all students to their fullest potential. The school staff will use effective instructional techniques, assessments, and appropriate intervention to help each student achieve grade level expectations at their own rate of learning.

Monday Morning Meetings COVETED CONE AWARDS

WEEK 1	Mrs. Wodehouse's 1 st grade
WEEK 2	Mrs. Otto's Kindergarten
WEEK 3	Ms. Krause's 3 rd grade
WEEK 4	Ms. Bridson's 2 nd grade
WEEK 5	Mr. Malbouef's 3 rd grade
WEEK 6	Mr. Malbouef's 3 rd grade
WEEK 7	Mr. Burkam's 1 st grade
WEEK 8	Mr. Gustafson's 3 rd grade



A BIG THANK YOU

Deb Ball-Odeh - *She is our #1 volunteer at Birch Street. She is in the library daily helping Mrs. Neelly as well as organizing the Book Fair twice a year. Her help is invaluable and deeply appreciated. Recently, she planned the Family Fun Night.*

Shelby Warchock, Tammy Warchock, Robin Bolen, Tabitha Carlisle, Casey Bourne, Randy Atwood, and Carrie Luton - *for all their help with the delivery of our fundraiser.*

Deanna Hixson - *for taking the second and third grade students swimming on November 11th. She had 94 students that enjoyed swimming at the Kaliseum.*

CHRISTMAS IN KALKASKA LIBRARY EVENT

Local author, Barry Marsh, discusses and reads from his new book *Good Harbor Bay*. This is an adventure-packed story about a young boy's struggle to overcome tragedy and adapt to a new life in northern Michigan. This event will take place at the Kalkaska County Library on Thursday, December 3, at 3:30 pm. Reservations required, call 231 258-9411.

BIRCH STREET ELEMENTARY PRESENTS:

"Christmas in Concert"

Birch Street Elementary second and third graders will be presenting their annual Christmas program, "Christmas in Concert," at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 15, 2009, in the Birch Street Gym. The students have already been hard at work preparing their songs and they are eager to share them with their friends and family. Both grades are working on a special song that they will sing together! Please plan to have the students arrive at their classroom no earlier than 6:40. Please mark your calendars for an enjoyable celebration of the holiday season. See you then!



WINTER CLOTHING NEEDS

In Michigan, November can only mean one thing, WINTER IS HERE!! With this in mind please be sure that your children come to school with appropriate dress; boots, hats, snow pants, winter jackets, and gloves/mittens. We try to take our children outside to play every day unless it is raining. If you are having trouble obtaining any of these winter items, please let our school counselor know and he can point you in the right direction that may have resources available for a minimal cost or even free. Matt Price (231) 258-8629 ext, 229.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Nov. 17 **H1N1 Flu Clinic**
4:30 to 7:30 at
Birch Street

Nov. 24 **Cash for Trash**

Nov. 26 & 27 **Thanksgiving**
Break

Dec. 4 & 5 **Christmas in**
Kalkaska
Downtown
Kalkaska &
The Kaliseum

Dec. 8-11 **Santa's Secret**
Shop

Dec. 12 **Snow Flake**
Family Dance
2-5 pm

Dec. 15 **Christmas**
Concert
2nd and 3rd
Grades
7:00 pm

Dec. 23 **Winter Break**
Begins

Jan. 4 **School**
Resumes

Jan. 21 & 22 **Half days of**
School for
Students
11:30 dismissal

TO CONTACT STAFF MEMBERS:

By email – First initial of their first name, their last name, and followed by @kpschools.com

Example:

rponstein@kpschools.com

By phone – Please call the office at 231.258.8629

STAFF TEACHERS:

Preschool

Sarah Haveman
Cinda Knight
Lisa Wyzgoski
Julie Diola
Michelle Keeder

Kindergarten

Julie Rodes
Angela Sutton
Stephanie VanAlstine
Andrea Otto
Jennifer LePla

First Grade

Lisa Sutton
Erin Kennedy
Becky Loose
Kelly Wodehouse
Tom Burkam

Second Grade

Heather Reust
Greg Beach
Randy Atwood (rjatwood)
Ali Bridson

Third Grade

Kevin Malbouef
Jeremy Gustafson
Vicki Bartholomew
Samantha Krause

Special Teachers

Deanna Hixson – PE
Betsy Neelly – Library
Ginny Yost – Music
Pat Smolinski – Art
Dave Dalton – PE

Title I Teachers

Sandra Alspaugh
Gay Kasza

Instructional Coaches

Marie Strong
Arica Swoverland

