

Birch Street Elementary School



Students Today ■ Leaders Tomorrow



Notes from your principal...

Volunteers: In an effort to help alleviate parking congestion in the morning, we are asking for volunteers to help with escorting students from the parking lot to the building. We are looking for someone to coordinate the volunteers and set up a schedule. If we can get five volunteers from 7:40 to 8:10 to help get students into the building, this may help with the traffic problems.

We are also looking for help with our Reading Club in the morning. Erin Lantzer is presently volunteering, but she needs help. We would like to see the Reading Club open by 7:30 in the morning. If interested in helping, please contact the office.

No Early Dismissals: We are asking that students not be picked up for early dismissals. Please respect your children's education and their school day. Dismissal instructions are given to the students at 2:50 in the afternoon. If it is after 2:45, we are asking that you wait until the regular dismissal at 3:05 to pick up your child unless there is an emergency.

Cell Phones and Electronic Toys: Students at Monday Morning Meeting this week were given a lesson on cell phones. The school has had a few incidents in which students brought cell phones to school and then called 9-1-1. Sometimes children believe they are phones that can't make phone calls and are just playing games with them. Most can actually still call 9-1-1. We ask that students do not bring cell phones, electronic toys or other things that can be stolen and/or lost.

Rik Ponstein, Principal



December 2011

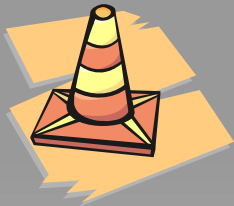
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BIRCH STREET MISSION STATEMENT

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: Ms. Bridson – 2nd grade
- WEEK 2: Ms. Sexton – 2nd grade
- WEEK 3: Mrs. Sutton – Kdg.
- WEEK 4: Ms. Rodes – Kdg.
- WEEK 5: Mrs. Wodehouse – 1st grd.
- WEEK 6: Mrs. VanAlstine – Kdg.
- WEEK 7: Mrs. Reust – 2nd grade
- WEEK 8: Mr. Burkam – 1st grade
- WEEK 9: Mrs. Sutton – Kdg.

*Denotes three time winner

**Denotes four time winner



A BIG THANK YOU...

to the **PTO** for an awesome Halloween Spooktacular and for a great SECRET SANTA workshop!

to **McDonald's** for donating all the food for the FUNd RUN.

to **Aaron Popa, Susie Hogerheide, and Angela Brake** for helping with school pictures. And **Missy Steiner** for helping with retakes.

to **students and families** for donating candy to the troops.

*WE LOVE OUR PARENT VOLUNTEERS!
Please let us know if you can help.*

Counselor's Corner

Brrrrrr...it's getting cold out there right now. With Old Man Winter knocking on our door, please take this time to remember that not all of our students have the resources to keep themselves warm this winter. **We are in need of winter boots, snow pants, and coats.** If you feel that your child has outgrown their winter apparel and would like to donate it, please feel free to drop it off at the Birch Street Elementary office. If you have any questions regarding donations or you are in need of winter apparel, please contact Matt Price (231) 258-8629.



Newsletters

Due to the high number of students at Birch Street, we are no longer sending home the school newsletter. Please look for it at www.kpschools.com!

Click on Birch Street Elementary (on the left) and then on newsletters.

Thanks!

Meet our SUPER STAR parent volunteer...



Aaron Popa

Thank you Aaron for the countless hours you volunteer at Birch Street! From helping with the school dentist and school pictures, to helping in the classroom and recycling for the school, your work here is always appreciated! Thanks!

Blazer News...



It's Christmas Time at Birch Street!

Yes, it's that time of the year again! All second and third grade students at Birch Street Elementary are busy learning melodies and memorizing words to Christmas songs you know and enjoy. The concert, "Symbols of Christmas," directed by Ginny Yost, begins at **6:30 pm** in the school's gymnasium. The students hope you will mark your calendar and invite family and friends to join us on Tuesday, **December 13th**, to "kick off" the Christmas season at Birch Street. See you there! (Students, please meet your teacher in your room at 6:15 pm)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 7th

Coffee & Donuts w/Mr. Ponstein
8:10am - 9:00am

December 12th

PTO meeting 3:30pm

December 13th

Trash for Cash collection
Christmas Concert 6:30pm

December 13, 14, & 15

PreK Literacy Workshops 2:00-3:00

December 20th

Science Family Workshop 1st, 2nd,
& 3rd grades 3:30-4:30

December 23rd

No School - Winter Break begins

January 3rd

School resumes

High Lights from events at Birch St..



FUND RUN



Halloween Parade



Health & Nutrition



**Family
Game Board
Making**

**Thank you to families who
participated and helped make
our events a success!**

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

Kindergarten

Jenn Hill
Andrea Otto
Julie Rodes
Angela Sutton
Stephanie VanAlstine

First Grade

Carrie Anderson
Tom Burkam
Becky Haughn
Lisa Sutton
Kelly Wodehouse

Second Grade

Greg Beach
Ali Bridson
Heather Reust
Amanda Sexton

Third Grade

Danielle Isenhardt
Jeremy Gustafson
Samantha Krause
Kevin Malbouef

Special Teachers

Deanna Hixson – PE
Betsy Neely – Library
Ginny Yost – Music
Pat Smolinski – Art

Title I Teachers

Vicki Bartholomew
Marie Strong

Instructional Coaches

Laura Kwekel

Special Education Teachers

Shelley Torres
Michelle Keeder = makeeder

Community News...



Donuts with Dads and Krispy Kreme order forms are coming soon! PTO will be sending home information and order forms on December 22nd, so keep an eye out for this delicious event!

Come and see Santa at the Kalkaska County Library on Dec. 17, 10am-12pm and make your own Christmas card! Decorate the library Christmas tree with gingerbread men on Dec. 7 at 4pm.



DON'T FORGET!



CASH 4 TRASH COLLECTION ON DECEMBER 13TH!

**Kalkaska Winterfest
January 14 & 15**

Come have breakfast, check out the craft show, and participate in the children's games!

www.kalkaskawinterfest.com

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Lunch Price: \$1.60
Red. Lunch: \$.40
Menu Subject to Change

**DECEMBER 2011
KALKASKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MENU**



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
NOV. 28	CHEESEBURGER ON A BUN PICKLES, LETTUCE, TOMATO CORN Diced PEACHES MILK	CHICKEN NUGGETS SWEET POTATO FRIES WHOLE GRAIN ROLL CINNAMON APPLE SLICES MILK	MACARONI & CHEESE GREEN BEANS PINEAPPLE TIDBITS OATMEAL COOKIE MILK	HAM & CHEESE BUN OVEN FRIES FRESH FRUIT CUP SALAD W/ PEPPERS MILK	HOT DOGS ON A BUN FRESH VEGGIES HARVEST CHEDDAR CHIPS FRUIT COCKTAIL MILK
NOV. 29	LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA GARDEN PEAS Diced PEARS WATERMELON SLICES MILK	BAKED CHICKEN RICE PILAF BROCCOLI W/ CHEESE Diced PEACHES MILK	SPAGHETTI W/ MEAT SAUCE SALAD W/ PEPPERS APPLESAUCE WHOLE GRAIN ROLL MILK	FISH SHAPES BAKED BEANS GOLDISH CRACKERS BANANA MILK	EGG CHEESE OMELET BAKED TATER TOTS FRUIT COCKTAIL WHOLE GRAIN MUFFIN MILK
NOV. 30	TWO CHEESE, MAX. STIK W/ MARINARA SAUCE CORN ORANGE WEDGES MILK	BBQ BEEF BITES BUTTERED NOODLES GREEN BEANS FRESH GRAPES MILK	TURKEY AND GRAVY MASHED POTATOES FRESH FRUIT CUP WHOLE GRAIN ROLL MILK	SOFT SHELL TACOS LETTUCE & CHEESE REFRIED BEANS CHIPS & SALSA FRUIT COCKTAIL, MILK	MINI CORN DOG NUGGETS FRESH VEGGIE STICKS Diced PEARS PUMPKIN BREAD MILK
NOV. 30	FRENCH TOAST STICKS TURKEY SAUSAGE BAKED POTATO TRIANGLES CINNAMON APPLESAUCE MILK	CHEESE PIZZA SALAD W/ CUKES GLAZED CARROTS PEARS MILK	SLOPPY JOES ON A BUN SMILE POTATOES FRESH FRUIT CUP MILK	PIG SANDWICH SUNFLOWER SEEDS VEGETABLE FRUIT MILK	WINTER BREAK 



Breakfast Price: \$1.25
Red. Breakfast: \$.30

Breakfast available every day at all KPS buildings 30 minutes before the school day begins.

Grain choices are all reduced sugar and whole grain cereals and breads, or warm oatmeal. Protein choices may be cheese, yogurt, sunflower seeds, scrambled eggs or hardboiled eggs.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FRUIT AND/OR FRUIT JUICE PANCAKE, OIL & STICK OR ONE GRAIN CHOICE and ONE PROTEIN CHOICE 1% MILK	FRUIT AND/OR FRUIT JUICE SCRAMBLED EGG W/ BUTTER OR ONE GRAIN CHOICE and ONE PROTEIN CHOICE 1% MILK	FRUIT AND/OR FRUIT JUICE FRENCH TOAST STICKS OR ONE GRAIN CHOICE and ONE PROTEIN CHOICE 1% MILK	FRUIT AND/OR FRUIT JUICE BREAKFAST PIZZA OR ONE GRAIN CHOICE and ONE PROTEIN CHOICE 1% MILK	FRUIT AND/OR FRUIT JUICE CHEESE OMELET OR ONE GRAIN CHOICE and ONE PROTEIN CHOICE 1% MILK

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