

Birch Street Elementary School



Students Today ■ Leaders Tomorrow

Notes from your principal...

This year is off to great start! Thank you students and families for your patience as we raced to get our brand new rooms ready for the school year. Our new wings look awesome and will provide children with a safer environment, less classroom interruptions, and the latest technology to improve classroom instruction and learning. The library is close to being finished just needing the computer lab assembled. Our next step will be entering Phase 3 of the construction and finishing up parking lot needs. I was able to discuss this project with almost 20 parents at "Coffee and Donuts with Mr. Ponstein." WOW! Thank you for those who attended and I appreciate your comments and questions. If you were unable to make it, our next coffee and donuts will be in early December. More information will be sent home with your child as the date nears.

Parents, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. Each and every student is important to us here at Birch Street and our goal is to make their school experience a great one!

Rik Ponstein, Principal



New lockers!



Coffee & Donuts



1st grade classroom

October 2011

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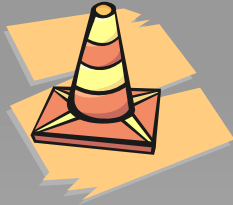
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BIRCH STREET MISSION STATEMENT

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.

*Denotes three time winner

**Denotes four time winner



A BIG THANK YOU...

to **Kristi Swikowski** for her help in the office the first week of school.

to **Aaron Popa** for committing to helping with recycling this year.

to **Erin & Ryan Moore and Amy & Aaron Popa** for their help moving our teachers into their new classrooms.

to **Lynn Energy, Mr. & Mrs. Slick, and Huntington Bank** for their donations of backpacks and school supplies for our students.

*WE LOVE OUR PARENT
VOLUNTEERS!*

Please let us know if you can help.

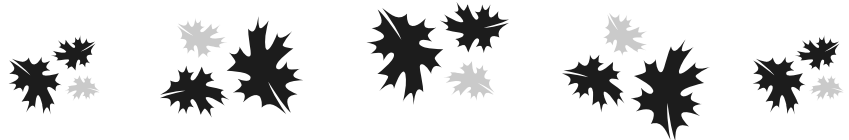
Parking and Patience

The procedure for dropping off and picking up students is an area of concern for many of you as well as for us. We are asking that you continue to be patient and work with us to make the process as safe and convenient as possible.

The north side of the circle drive is only for dropping off and picking up students. Better signage and road striping are coming soon. If you prefer to walk your child into the building, please park in the front lot. The circle drive in front of the building is a fire lane and “no parking” zone. I know it may be an inconvenience, but it is necessary for the safety of our students.

We also have an additional aide for playground supervision before school. After you drop off your child, they can go right to the playground nearest their classroom door, or come inside to do one of two things. One, they can go to the cafeteria for breakfast and then onto the playground. Two, we have a Reading Club that students may go to, but we are asking for volunteers to help with this. Please contact the office if you are interested. If the weather is inclement, all students come inside and we have a walking club in the gym.

We are hoping that Phase III of the construction plan will include more parking for Birch Street. I want to thank all of you for your patience and help in this matter.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Birch Street staff would like to welcome parents to our Fall Parent/Teacher conferences on Thursday, November 10th. This is a half-day for students (dismissal at 11:30). Conferences will be held from 12:30pm – 4:00pm and 5:00pm – 8:00pm. Please look for sign-up times with your child’s teacher. Friday is also a half day with no parent/teacher conferences.

Don’t forget to check out the Scholastic Book Fair!

Blazer News...

Red Wings School Assembly

Birch Street Elementary participated in the Detroit Red Wings School Assembly Program. This program was interactive and designed to provide a positive message for students about the importance of education and healthy lifestyle. A full set of street hockey equipment was donated to the school courtesy of the Red Wings! Students and teachers suited up to give the equipment a try.



FIRE SAFETY

The Kalkaska Township Fire Department visited Birch Street this month to talk about what to do in case of a fire. Students watched as a fireman dressed in his gear, they learned about the equipment, and later watched the water hoses make a rainbow in the parking lot.

Talk about a fire safety plan at home with your family!



DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 24th
PTO meeting 3:30

October 28th
Fund Run 5:00-5:45
Dinner 5:30-6:15
Halloween Spooktacular 6:00-8:00

November 7th
NO SCHOOL

November 10th
½ day school (dismissal 11:30)
Parent/Teacher Conferences
12:30-4:00 and 5:00-8:00
Please sign up with your teacher

November 11th
½ day school (dismissal 11:30)

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

November 8th: 8am-3pm
November 9th: 8am-3pm
November 10th: 8am-8pm
November 11th: 8am-12noon

Reminder!
School breakfast is \$1.25 and lunch is \$1.60. Students can pay ahead on their accounts. Letters are sent home every Friday if their account is in the negative. Please fill out a free/reduced application, available in the office.

Thank you, Birch Street Food Service Dept.

Community News...

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 Neelly – Library
Ginny Yost – Music
Pat Smolinski – Art

Title I Teachers

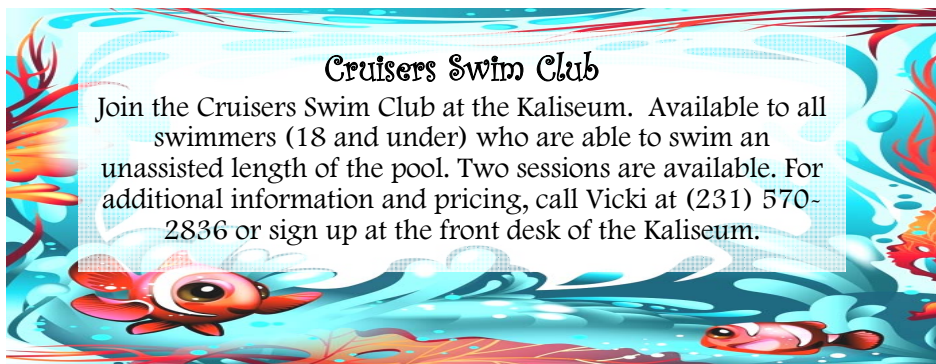
Vicki Bartholomew
Marie Strong

Instructional Coaches

Laura Kwekel


Special Education Teachers

Shelley Torres
Michelle Keeder = makeeder



Cruisers Swim Club


Join the Cruisers Swim Club at the Kaliseum. Available to all swimmers (18 and under) who are able to swim an unassisted length of the pool. Two sessions are available. For additional information and pricing, call Vicki at (231) 570-2836 or sign up at the front desk of the Kaliseum.



Birch Street Elementary is again participating in Glen's Market Cash for Class program to earn money for our school. During the weeks of Oct. 2nd, Oct. 30th, and Nov. 20th, purchases you make with your YES card will automatically be credited to our school account if you link your card to our school code. Here's how to link:

- Visit www.myyesrewards.com
- Set up an on-line account, click on "First time to site" and follow the steps provided
- Use code 88158 to link our school

At the end of the school year, we will receive a rebate check based on the percentage of your purchases!



Before Johnny Came Marching Home

The Kalkaska County Library will host Bob Zaetta, "Old Sarge," on Wednesday October 26th at 6:00pm for a Civil War presentation. Light refreshments at 5:30. Library phone: 258-9411

Kalkaska Blazer Spirit Shirts

PTO is ordering again!
Order forms were sent home and are due by Oct. 28th - \$10.00 each
Checks payable to KEPTO

Reading Club will begin in November!

Reading club is a before school program for students who are dropped off early. It is typically held in the music room from 7:45am until the bell rings. The "reading club book cart" is wheeled down from the library so students can read at their own leisure. We are looking for volunteers to help out a day or two a week and to possibly start even sooner (at 7:30) for our early birds! Please let us know if you can lend a hand.