



# Birch Elementary Newsletter

The vision for Birch Elementary is to create a diverse and welcoming neighborhood school-community, anchored by professionals, who meet all students' social, emotional, and academic needs in a safe and supportive environment.

Birch Elementary School 720-561-8800

[Birch Elementary School Website](#)

October 15, 2021

## **Birchoir**

*Hey 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Students and Families! To continue with keeping students and everyone healthy and safe, Mrs. Hohensee's plan is to begin Birchoir second semester; mid to late January 2022. Birchoir will be open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Look for more information beginning in January 2022, when we return from winter break! Thank you for your patience and understanding - Mrs. Hohensee*

## **Important Dates:**

- **No School** - Monday, October 18th - Professional Development Day
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:**
  - Tuesday, October 19th from 3:00 - 7:00 pm
  - Thursday, October 21st from 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- **Picture Retake Day** - Thursday, October 28th - Please bring your original pictures to turn into the photographer if you would like to have picture retakes

## **HALLOWEEN:**

This year Halloween falls on a Sunday!

We will be allowing students an opportunity to wear their costumes to school, if they wish, on the morning of Friday, October 29th. If your student does choose to wear a costume, please have them bring a change of clothes, or wear their clothes under their costume! Here are our "school-friendly" costume guidelines:

- No vulgar, gory or violent themes.
- Costume Masks may be worn, but must be worn backwards so we can recognize our students!
- No real or fake weapons of any type including knives, guns, swords, etc...

We will be doing a fun, "spooky" Halloween themed craft in classrooms as well!

## **CU Wizards**

For 2021-2022 schedule & ZOOM LINK TO SHOW, please visit:

[www.colorado.edu/cuwizards](http://www.colorado.edu/cuwizards)

CU Wizards shows are **FREE**.

## **Parent Donation Request:**

For our Wednesday morning early start we are looking for:

- Board Games: (some ideas)
  - Trouble
  - Connect 4
  - Guess Who
- Jenga
- Cards

## **Battle of the Books**

Battle of the Books is a Quiz Bowl Style Competition for students in grades 3-12. Yes, it is a competition, but the purpose is to foster a love of reading! The goal of Battle of the Books is to teach students how to work together in a group for a common goal, expose them to award-winning pieces of literature, and encourage a high volume of reading inside and outside of the classroom.

**Who:** Students in Grade 3-12 (Birch can send 1 team per grade level.)

- Legos
- Duplo blocks
- Crayons

Please drop off at the front office!!

**WEATHER AND BLUE FLAG DAYS:**

As you know, the weather in Colorado can turn from mild to very chilly in just a few hours, please remember to dress your child appropriately with labeled clothing (i.e., coat, hat, and gloves).

As a general rule, when weather is below 20 degrees and/or too wet to be outside, a blue flag will be hung to denote early access into the building. If you see the blue flag flying on the flagpole and across the fence on the SE corner of the school, students will not line up outside. They will come directly into their designated doors starting at 7:35 AM. Preschool doors will be unlocked at 7:45 AM on blue flag days. If the weather warms up during the day, to above 20 degrees, we will go outside for recess. If it remains colder than 20 degrees, we will have indoor recess.

**What:** Battle of the Books-Students will read 10 books from the following list:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mjGxcEP5k4JUcxvKGettrQHqiXpKd6d8EI8P2YM4K5A/edit?usp=sharing>

**When:** District Competition is Saturday April 30th. Students will need to read all 10 books by the end of January.

**How:** If your student is interested in participating please complete the google form: <https://forms.gle/CW81bbjTjQxqg7Q38>

You may purchase the books for the appropriate grade level or you can look at the local libraries. I suggest looking at libraries in Jeffco, Westminster, and/or Denver. The libraries located within BVSD will likely have longer waitlists.

If you have any questions please contact:

Heather McGilvray-

Birch Gifted and Talented Advisor

[heather.mcgilvray@bvsd.org](mailto:heather.mcgilvray@bvsd.org)

**CAPL (Latino Parent Advisory Council): Please join us for a fresh start with CAPL and have your voice heard**

BVSD is committed to engaging with our Latino parents to collaborate in improving the experience of Latino students in our schools. We are excited to announce that the first CAPL (Latino Parents Council) meeting of the school year will be Monday, October 25, 2021 5:45-7:45 PM at Platt Middle School. The event will be hybrid so that people can attend in person or virtually. Dr. Bianca Gallegos will serve as the District Representative to CAPL. Dr. Gallegos is the principal at Columbine Elementary, is fully bilingual, and is a longtime resident of Boulder County. BVSD is encouraging every school to send at least one representative so that the perspectives of Latino families throughout our district can be heard. At the October meeting, we will share the new mission, vision, and structure for CAPL that was created by parents over the summer. We will also ask attending parents to elect five officers who will co-plan future meetings with Dr. Gallegos. Please join us and consider putting your name forward to be an elected CAPL leader. Dinner will be served. The event will be facilitated in Spanish, with interpretation available for those who need it. Anyone who identifies as a Latino parent, guardian or family member of a BVSD student is encouraged to attend.