



# BIRCHVIEW BULLETIN

FOR THE PARENTS OF BIRCHVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 2014

*From the desk of Sam*

## **The Role of the Principal**

When you think of the role of the principal, what is your first thought?

When you, as a parent, get a call from the principal, what is your reaction?

If you were asked what a principal does, how would you answer?

As the principal of Birchview, I would like students, staff and parents to think of me as the coach of a world-class team.

The “game” of school happens in the classrooms. The players are the teachers, students, custodians, nurses, paraprofessionals and all the other specialized roles we have at school. My job is to coach them to be the best players of the game.

When you watch a football game, very little camera time is given to the coaches. Why? Because the most important part of the team, the reason people tune in to the game, is to watch the players. In essence, the coach is the least important member of the team. A coach figures out how best to utilize and refine each players’ skills and then steps out of the way so the game can happen. You will also notice that coaches do not spend any time in their office during a game. They are out there watching the players play.

One of the goals of the front office is to get me out into classrooms coaching on a regular basis. This means that I often will not be



available for drop in conversations. If you want to speak with me, great! I welcome the opportunity for you to advocate for your child. However, you may need to set up an appointment with Cathy or Jodie. This isn’t to snub anybody, but to ensure that our teachers and students are getting regular coaching.

At some point you may receive a call from a principal. Since I have made many of these calls, and received a few as well, I can speak from experience. Every parent gets nervous. This is a natural reaction. But let me give you a different perspective. If I’m given the opportunity to work with your child, it is a good thing. It means they are getting coaching in an area where they can grow and be more successful. I’m not out to “punish” children as much as to teach them life lessons on how to get along with others and manage themselves.

I’m sure each parent reading this letter is still thinking, “Man, I hope I don’t get a call from the principal.” And that’s OK. Just remember this, coaches don’t work with failures. Coaches work with people who have potential. Each and every child in this school has remarkable potential. Part of the joy of my work is to coach them into it.

Hoping to talk to you soon,

Sam Fredrickson,  
Principal

**To: Birchview Families**  
**From Birchview Referendum Information Committee**  
**Date December 12, 2013**  
**Re: General Information on upcoming Referendum Vote**

Greetings to all Birchview Families. This memo is intended to bring all families and neighbors of Birchview up to date and to give a brief snap shot of information on the upcoming Referendum Vote scheduled for February 25, 2014. It is our privilege to serve as liaisons to assist our community in helping find answers to any questions you may have regarding the referendum. By law, it is the district's responsibility to inform and educate its residents as to the purpose of any proposed referendum. We will be available to answer any questions and/or direct you to the appropriate channels in order to provide you accurate information. Please look for more in depth communications coming from us in the weeks leading up to the vote. The members of the committee and contact info are listed at the end of the memo. We thank you for your support and we look forward to serving the Birchview community in this capacity.

### **Why is a referendum needed at this time?**

The district's K-12 resident student enrollment is anticipated to increase twice as fast in the next 10 years as it has in the past decade. Additional space is especially needed at the elementary and high school level, resulting in proposals for a new elementary school and an addition to the high school receiving the most attention.

More housing—1,200 new homes have been built in the district over the past four years and at least another 1,600 new homes are expected to be built in the next four years within the district boundaries.

The State recently funding all-day Kindergarten starting in the fall of 2014, which means an additional 14-16 classrooms will be needed. While the State is providing funding for all-day Kindergarten programming, the funding amount does not include money to address increased facility needs.

### **What questions will be placed before voters?**

- **Question one:** Request to approve \$109.645 million in bond funding to expand Wayzata High School, build a new elementary school and upgrade safety, security and technology district wide.
- **Question two:** Request to renew the existing technology levy, which funds technology equipment, support and training district wide with approximately \$2.7 million annually

### **How will these proposals impact my property taxes?**

If voters approve the ballot questions, the tax impact on the average Wayzata homeowner (\$333,900 value home) would be approximately \$10/month for the bond issue. There would be no tax increase for the technology levy renewal.

### **When is the election and where do I vote?**

The special election will be held on February 25, 2014. To find your polling location, visit <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

### **Where do I find more information regarding the referendum and district growth?**

More information can be found by visiting the Wayzata Public schools home page at [www.wayzata.k12.mn.us](http://www.wayzata.k12.mn.us) / and clicking on the featured link titled "More Students, More Needs."



## *Congratulations Marianne Brinda!*

### **Wayzata Public Schools Employee of the Month (December):**



Birchview Elementary School is proud to announce second grade teacher, Marianne Brinda, as the December 2013 Wayzata Public Schools Employee of the Month. Ms. Brinda is the epitome of a world-class elementary educator. She exemplifies the Birchview core values of Commitment, Community, Compassion and Curiosity while also providing excellence for each and every child.

**Commitment:** Ms. Brinda shows commitment to learning at all levels. She holds her students and herself to a high standard. She pushes her students to learn beyond where they think they can go and does it with care and with their dignity in mind. She also is a leader in staff development and donates her time as a guest speaker in the University of St. Thomas graduate program.

**Community:** The Birchview community is a driving force in Ms. Brinda's work. She is a member of the Building Leadership Team. She also helps organize a year-end food drive to stock shelves for Birchview families. Ms. Brinda can also be counted on to remember and acknowledge the happy and sad events that happen to us along the way.

**Compassion:** Ms. Brinda knows her students and deeply cares for them. Because of the strong relationships she builds, many of her former students come back to visit her and keep in touch with her over the years. This compassion is also evident in the many relationships she has built with parents and staff members.

**Curiosity:** The staff of Birchview fully acknowledges and appreciates the curiosity and devotion Ms. Brinda brings to the table. This has allowed her to amass an amazing repertoire of innovative ideas that she readily shares with her peers. Her curiosity also enables her to look at issues in a different light than others. In turn, this brings about unique solutions to seemingly complex problems.

Through a combination of these core values, Ms. Brinda has become a natural leader. She has been a trusted negotiator of WEA, union representative and mentor. She is also the first person to pause a conversation to ask for clarity and to share concerns about how it may impact the many aspects of our community. We, the community members of Birchview, are honored to serve alongside her.

Congratulations, Marianne, educator extraordinaire!



## PTA PAGES

### *A Message from The PTA President...*

It's hard to believe that December is already upon us and we're getting ready for the busy holiday season. My family will be going back to England for a couple of weeks. Hopefully all our bags will make it out of Minnesota this time. A couple of years ago, one bag didn't leave the country and that was before I was a savvy packer – all the girls' clothes were in it. Note to self – spread everyone's belongings amongst all suitcases!

I hope you had a chance to take a look at the Thanksgiving display in the entry way made by Cub Scout Troop 481. The boys, along with some siblings and parents, were asked to write notes to the Birchview staff. They ranged from sensible to amusing and heartfelt. My favorite (written to one of the paraprofessionals): 'You are a good para to \_\_\_\_\_. He must like you. Thank you for all you do'. And, as if we didn't already know how popular Mr. Fredrickson is: 'Dear Mr. Fredrickson. You are a great principal. We all love you'.

Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Miss Brinda, for being awarded the Wayzata Employee of the Month award. My current fourth grader was in Miss Brinda's class and still talks fondly of her. She has so much energy and is such a dedicated teacher.

Thank you to Heather Nemer for taking care of the PTA membership forms and money, and to all of you who became PTA members.

Thank you to Anne Oswald, Jen Nordstrom-

Pearson and Diana Osberg for organizing the Barnes and Noble and Champps fundraisers. I know a lot of time and effort was put into this evening and we thank these ladies for adding to their work load at this busy time of year.

We have a few events coming up next year, beginning with a family night of Bingo on January 16<sup>th</sup>. This is always a fun school get together with cool prizes and great camaraderie. On January 21<sup>st</sup> Andrea Hayft from Uncomplicated Living will talk on Developing Efficiency Habits at our Family Forum. I just heard her talk on a different topic for another group and I highly recommend her workshops. She's full of good advice!

Happy holidays to the Birchview community: staff, students and parents. Enjoy the winter break and we look forward to a great start to the new year.

Nichola Schoenfelder, PTA President 2013-14  
[nichola\\_s@yahoo.com](mailto:nichola_s@yahoo.com)  
763-432-3113



## PTA PAGES



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the 5th Grade Breakfast and chaperoned the limo ride and the Barnes and Noble book fundraiser!

A big thank you to the co-chairs of the breakfast committee, Katie Vandecar and Chris Gerber for another successful breakfast!

Also to Diana Osberg for setting up the Champps fundraiser!

And to Jen Nordstrom-Pearson for the Barnes and Noble Night!

### New & Improved Lost & Found

Thanks to a great suggestion by Mrs. Nafsted, our media Para and some PTA funds, we have purchased some new storage



drawers. If your child loses something, point them in the direction of the lost and found area near the small computer room and hopefully it can be retrieved. The drawers are organized by items so it should be easier for students to find their lost possessions. Please mark all items of clothing that could potentially end up here; it's more likely to find its way back to its rightful owner!

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
BOOKSELLERS

A big thank you to **Champps Ridgedale**, **Barnes & Noble Ridgedale** and all the **Birchview families** who came out December 10<sup>th</sup> to support our school.

**Barnes & Noble** and **Champps** both donated a portion of their sales that evening to us.

Such a great show of support for the community!

*We appreciate the generosity!*





## PTA PAGES



**1st Grade Breakfast**  
**Friday, January 10th,**  
**8:15 – 9 a.m.**

**Come join your classmates, their families and teachers for a grade level breakfast! A fun and tasty way to start your Friday morning!**

**Don't miss out on the fun!**



## **Family Bingo Night!**

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:00– 7:30,  
Birchview Cafeteria and Gym

Bring your family to a fun filled evening with friends and the Birchview community!

Pizza will be served from 5 pm, Bingo starts at 6.

Guest callers, great prizes, great night!



Watch for sign up genius coming in the Thursday folder for the First Grade Breakfast on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 and Bingo Night January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00!



## PTA PAGES

The Birchview PTA invites you to a

Family Forum

### ***Uncomplicated Living; Developing Efficiency Habits***

with Andrea Hayft

Tuesday, January 21

6:30pm, Birchview Music Room




***If you had an extra hour a day, how would you spend it?***

For over 7 years, Andrea has been helping busy families and individuals who want to simplify their lifestyles and households so they have less stress, save money, and have more time for what's most important to them. As a Household Management Specialist, she focuses on implementing organization and simple systems into her clients' lives so they are more efficient and can find time for their priorities and goals.

***Start the new year off right!***

***Get some great tips to having your life more efficient!***

Free school age childcare provided.



Don't forget about the  
Wayzata High School  
Night, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-  
8:00. Childcare is  
provided for elementary  
children.



# PTA PAGES

## JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 ←	30	31	1	2 School Resumes	3	4
WINTER BREAK						
5	5	7	8 PTA Committee Meeting, 9:30	9	10 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Breakfast  8:15-9am	11
12	13 Wayzata HS Night, 630- 8pm	14	15	16 Bingo Night! 5 - 7:30 pm	17 School Assembly 10:20 pm	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, <b>No School</b>	21 Family Forum, 6:30 pm	22	23 Choir Concert, 7 pm	24 <b>No School</b>	25
26	27	28	29	30 Kindergarten Night, 6:30 pm	31	1

