

# THE PAW PRINT

Mrs. Stacie Everson, Principal

October 4, 2021 [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net)



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Birkes Families,

We have 957 students learning face-to-face at Birkes and only 62 students learning online. While this is a small number, every single student at Birkes means something to our staff. We want our children to experience the many opportunities that we can provide here, and we want our kids back as soon as they can return. If you have chosen the virtual learning for your child thus far, please be sure you are carefully monitoring your child's assignments and progress. Parents have to be 100% committed to this virtual option and involved in keeping up with their child's assignments for their child to be successful.

Our students in grades 1-5 received their first progress report of the year on September 23. You are able to access that information through the Home Access Center (HAC). Our students and their academic progress is important to the staff at Birkes Elementary. If you have not had the opportunity to take a look at your child's progress report, please be sure to do so to ensure your child is making the academic gains for their grade level.

Did you know you can set up notifications in the Home Access Center (HAC) so that you receive updates on your child's grades automatically? This is a great feature that I recommend you take advantage of each year. Here is how to set up the notifications.

### **To Set HAC Alerts for Course and Assignment Averages**

Go to browser and to CFISD.net

Click Green Home Access Center button on top toolbar

Click blue Parent Portal icon (login direction and resetting password directions are on this page if needed)

Click Home Access Center icon

Login

Click Classes icon in toolbar

Click the Classwork tab

Put a checkmark in the email and push notification boxes

Add number grade to the "alert me if student receives..." boxes

These settings will save automatically

Thank you to all of the parents who have helped us in our effort to free up staff parking spots and keep our students safe. As shared, all parents will need to plan to get in the car rider line or have their child ride the bus. The car rider line is much longer this year, so please plan accordingly to ensure your child is seated in their classroom no later than the 8:40 start time.

As promised, we have been keeping a close watch on our number of positive Covid-19 cases and are fortunately seeing a decline in our numbers. We will begin allowing lunch visitors on campus the second nine weeks of school, which begins Monday, October 25. We will continue our practice of "no lunch drop offs" however, you are welcome to take lunch to your child in the cafeteria beginning October 25. In addition, please limit lunch visits to your child to only one time a week. It is important for your child to socialize with their peers during this time.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to partner with you to grow our Bulldog students each day. Have a wonderful October!

### CHARACTER TRAIT

Our Character Trait for October is "Individuality."  
Discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.

### INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY

Parents, please mark your calendar. Wednesday, **October 6<sup>th</sup>** is individual picture day. All pictures must be pre-paid. Please make checks payable to Lifetouch or order before picture day on mylifetouch.com using your Student's School ID or Picture Day ID: EVTN8PQ23. Money for pictures will not be accepted after the start of school at **8:40 a.m.**

### DISTRICT'S NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

**SchoolMessenger**, the district's mass notification system, will keep you informed about district and school activities, attendance, transportation and food services and, most importantly, accurate, real-time information during an emergency situation. This system is designed to send phone calls, emails and text messages, allowing you to select how you prefer to be contacted. **Please update your contact information to ensure that we have the most current information on file.**

If you have not signed up for the district's notification system, please go to [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net) to sign up for SchoolMessenger.

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Children learn more from what we do than from what we say. Model behaviors you want to see in your child. Let your children hear you speak to others the way you want to hear them talking.

### WHO TO CALL

The **teacher** is always the best first contact.

Others to contact:

- Front Office – 281-345-3300
- Clinic – 281-345-3304
- Media Specialist/Librarian – Diane Flood
- Cafeteria – Carrie Ann Boehm
- Registrar – Schelli Moyer (Enrollment, Attendance, Withdrawal)
- Secretary - Linda Ellison
- Counselors –
  - Denise Patrick – grades 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Romicka Johnson – PPCD, PreK, K, 1<sup>st</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>
- Asst. Principals –
  - Kristi Bruns – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Lauree Johnson - PPCD, PK, K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>
- Principal – Stacie Everson

### IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFO

You will be notified through **School Messenger** when our newsletters have been posted to our website. Our newsletter, The Paw Print and the PTO newsletter, "The Barker" will be posted the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month. There may be some variation due to the school schedule or holidays.

Please follow the link below to access our website:  
<http://www.cfisd.net/Birkes>

### BIRKES' WEBSITE

Please remember to visit our school website by going to:

[www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net)

- Our District
- Our Schools & Facilities
- Elementary School
- Scroll down to Birkes
- Newsletters

Our newsletters and monthly calendar will be posted on our website.

### GT NOMINATION WINDOW

- Parents of 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students who would like to nominate their child for testing for the Horizons Gifted and Talented program may do so from now until November 30, 2021. To nominate your child, parents must complete and return a *Parent Survey and Permission to Test* form by the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. This form is available from the campus front desk or can be requested through your child's teacher or counselor. Testing will be in January or February 2022. All enrolled Kindergarten students will participate in screening. No parent referral is required. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected from their classrooms. For those students who qualify in Kindergarten, services will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. For those students who qualify in grades 1-5, services will begin in the 2022-2023 school year. For more information about the Horizons program and the referral process, please refer to the following link:

<https://www.cfisd.net/en/parents-students/academics/gifted-talented>

## RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week will be October 25 – October 29 . Students will be given bracelets during this week and each day will have a theme.

- Monday, October 25 – *Proud to be drug free! Wear red to kick off Red Ribbon Week.*
- Tuesday, October 26 – *We are crazy about being drug free!* – All students wear crazy bright clothes, crazy socks, crazy hair.
- Wednesday, October 27 – *Team up against Drugs!* – All students wear team attire.
- Thursday, October 28 – *Black Out Drugs!* – All students wear black.
- Friday, October 29 – *Our School Chooses To Be Drug Free. Wear spirit shirt or school colors.*

Please take a moment to discuss these activities with your child/children. The reason we celebrate Red Ribbon Week is to emphasize the dangers and consequences of drug and alcohol abuse.

***Birkes staff and students  
are joining the fight  
against drugs!***



## HISTORY OF RED RIBBON WEEK

The National Family Partnership (NFP) began Red Ribbon Week in 1988 to commemorate the life and death of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, an agent of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, who died in the fight against drugs. NFP, an organization devoted to helping families and communities live healthy, drug-free lives, asked youth and adults to wear and display red ribbons during the last week of October to demonstrate their commitment to a drug-free lifestyle and to remember Agent Camarena. The U.S. Congress quickly rallied to this cause, and, with Nancy Reagan as the first honorary chairperson, designated the last week of October as National Red Ribbon Week.

Since 1988, communities throughout the country have embraced Red Ribbon Week and have sponsored many different activities that promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles. When schools plan events and activities that celebrate Red Ribbon Week, they pay tribute to a brave DEA agent by bringing people together to give our youth a priceless gift- a drug-free community.

## LABEL PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please label your child's mask, water bottles, jackets, sweaters, lunch kits, and backpacks with first and last name.

## CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION AND CHECKING YOUR CHILD OUT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

### Transportation

If you need to change your child's transportation during the school day, please email the request for change to your child's teacher and [Birkes@cfisd.net](mailto:birkes@cfisd.net).

**Changes requested after 3:00 p.m. can only be made in extreme emergencies. Please call the school if a change in transportation request is after 3:00 p.m.** Our goal is to have each child reach their destination correctly and safely, by the proper mode of transportation. We can ensure your child will get home correctly only if you change transportation prior to 3:00 p.m.

### Buses

The school district buses will only transport your child to his/her own address. Students cannot ride another bus to a friend's house. If you have questions, please call transportation at 281-897-4572.

Our goal is to have each child reach their destination correctly and safely, by the proper mode of transportation. We can ensure your child will get home correctly only if you change transportation prior to 3:00 p.m. No child can be checked out through the front office past 3:45.





**Attention,  
CURRENT CFISD STUDENTS**

**Gifted and Talented Screening  
Referrals**

**due by Nov. 30, 2021**

**for the mid-year testing cycle**

This opportunity applies only to students who have not participated in screening this school year.



**Visit Elementary Campus Counselor or  
Secondary Director of Instruction  
for more details.**



# BIRKES BARKER

## OCTOBER 4, 2021 PTO NEWSLETTER



**PTO WEBSITE:** [WWW.BIRKESPTO.COM](http://WWW.BIRKESPTO.COM)

**PTO FACEBOOK:** BIRKES ELEMENTARY PTO/VIPs

### Fall Fundraiser Kickoff - October 6th

This year, we will be selling coupon apps for our fall fundraiser. The coupon app contains thousands of coupons for restaurants, entertainment, shopping, and services around the U.S. All fundraising will be done online, through each student's personal fundraising website. An email will be sent out on **October 6th** with details on how to register and begin fundraising. Most importantly, it'll include details on all the fun prizes available to students!

Source: Jessica Angsomwine, PTO Board Director of Fundraising

### Minor Fundraising

**Mon 10/4 Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night 4-10 pm** and they give back 15% back if you mention Birkes!

There will also be a Texas Roadhouse rolls and gift cards fundraiser both for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. These are orders made for their delicious rolls and cinnamon butter and/or physical or digital emailed gift cards. The rolls will be picked up in the week of these holidays. The sales and order forms will be done electronically this year with each student having a sales link. Look for more info to be announced as the Thanksgiving sale starts soon on Oct. 11th.

Please continue to link your Amazon Smile and Kroger accounts to Birkes PTO! Every donation helps our kids!

Contact Tammi Rainwater with minor fundraising with any questions!

### Membership

By supporting and donating \$10 to PTO, you help make Birkes awesome. A huge *THANK YOU* to the Bulldog parents who have already donated. We have so many families and staff members that are connected to improve our school. Remember, it's not too late to support PTO. You can log on to our website: <http://www.birkespto.com> and select "log in/register". The annual dues are easy way that we are able to collect funds to continue supporting our Bulldogs. Remember you are *not* obligated to do anything, volunteer, or attend meetings. Your donation goes directly to events for students and staff.

Here's the link to the remind me group as well so you can get notifications of important events at Birkes Elementary!

[remind.com/join/gbkkbh](http://remind.com/join/gbkkbh)

Source: Roiann Baskin, PTO Board Director of PTO Membership

### Homeroom Activities

We are currently working to make homeroom activities run more efficiently and effectively. Stay tuned for more information about homeroom activities in next month's newsletter!

Source: Kimberlly Caraveo, PTO Board Director of Homeroom Activities

### VIPS

#### **You're Invited to the Annual VIPS Breakfast!**

Date: 10-15-21

Time: 9:30 am

Where: Birkes Elementary Cafeteria

Find out how YOU can help Birkes Bulldogs be out of this world with exciting volunteer opportunities! Come enjoy FREE breakfast and get to know your PTO Board Members as well chairpersons and other volunteers. Make a difference at Birkes Elementary by joining the PTO so you can have front-row seats to all the fun events that are happening this school year!

Source: Adriana Osorio, PTO Board Director of VIPS

## **BIRKES ELEMENTARY 2021-2022 YEARBOOK INFORMATION**

### **Order a yearbook**

1. Visit: [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) or call 1-877-767-5217.
2. Click "Order now."
3. Enter "Birkes" and click "Search."
4. Click on "Birkes Elementary School."
5. Click on "Order my yearbook" or "Order yearbook package."
6. Fill in your child's information, then continue making selections and add to cart.
7. Checkout as a guest, log in, or create an account.

Order by October 22, 2021 and get 4 free icons when you name and personalize your cover.

**Order by October 31, 2021 at the price of \$30.00.** After that, the price will go up to \$35.00!

Deadline to order a yearbook is

**March 1, 2022.**

### **Order 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition ad**

1. Follow the same instructions to log in to or create an account at [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com).
2. Select from the following ad options:
  - o 1/2 page: \$50.00
  - o 1/4 page: \$25.00
  - o 1/8 page: \$15.00
3. Templates and instructions are provided for you to design your personalized recognition ad for your 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

Deadline to order your 5th grader's ad is **February 1, 2022.**

### **Upload your photos**

1. Visit <https://images.jostens.com/416265964> to access the ReplayIt site. You may need to create an account.
2. Click on "Choose Files" (you can select multiple photos by holding CTRL + clicking on each photo).
3. Complete the Contact Information with your information AND your kiddos' information for each photo. Good resolution is important!
4. Also, important to add a "Description"! This helps us know who they are, which grade, and what event. If you have +1 kiddos, just enter the eldest and add your others in the "Description." For example, Laura Smith, 2nd grade, First day of school.

We want to feature everyone!

Source: Stephanie Coleman, PTO Board Director of Yearbook

## PTO Board 2021-2022

President – Cindy Hogue – [birkespresident@gmail.com](mailto:birkespresident@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> VP Membership/Website – Roiann Baskin – [roiannf@yahoo.com](mailto:roiannf@yahoo.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Homeroom Activities – Kimberly Caraveo – [kimberly.caraveo@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.caraveo@gmail.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Major Fundraising – Jessica Ansgomwine – [jesslm1003@hotmail.com](mailto:jesslm1003@hotmail.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Minor Fundraising – Tammi Rainwater – [chiokorean@yahoo.com](mailto:chiokorean@yahoo.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Spirit Shop – Laura Carr – [tinytyogamom@gmail.com](mailto:tinytyogamom@gmail.com)

VIPS – Adriana Osorio – [aperez1279@yahoo.com](mailto:aperez1279@yahoo.com)

VIPS – Kristin Martinez – [birkesvips21@gmail.com](mailto:birkesvips21@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Ariane Walden – [arianetr@yahoo.com](mailto:arianetr@yahoo.com)

Secretary – Sudjai Montgomery – [Williams.su777@gmail.com](mailto:Williams.su777@gmail.com)

Hospitality – Dawn Paulson – [dawnepaulson@gmail.com](mailto:dawnepaulson@gmail.com)

Yearbook – Stephanie Coleman – [stephpcoleman@gmail.com](mailto:stephpcoleman@gmail.com)

Parliamentarian – Jennifer Roberts – [jennaroberts24@yahoo.com](mailto:jennaroberts24@yahoo.com)

### Science Resource Center Trainings and other important dates

If you are interested in bringing science-based activities into Birkes, please consider getting trained. Dates of the trainings can be found below. No RSVP necessary. Just show up with a smile. All trainings are held at 11206 Telge Road from 9:30-11:30. Once trained, you will be able to coordinate with that specific grade level on a time and day, then present your demo to that specific grade level. You can get trained on as many as you would like, and we would love to have you.

Oct-1 Pre-K/PPCD Opossum SRC Training 9:30-11:30 @ SRC

Oct-4 Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night

Oct-6 Fall Fundraiser Kick Off (Entertainment Coupon App)

Oct-6 Fall Picture Day

Oct-7 5th Grade Mammal Skulls SRC Training 9:30-11:30 @SRC

Oct-8 Spirit Cart

Oct-11 Texas Roadhouse Rolls Online Ordering Begins

Oct-15 VIPS Breakfast at 9:30 in Cafeteria

Oct-15 1st Grade Eggs and Nests SRC Training 9:30-11:30 @SRC

Oct-20 Fall Fundraiser Closes

Oct-21 MOD Pizza Spirit Day (All day) Towne Lake

Oct-21 5th Grade Bird Study Skins SRC Training 9:30-11:30 @SRC

Oct-22 Teacher Workday - No School

Oct-25-29 Red Ribbon Week

Oct-26 4th Grade Galveston Bay Ecology SRC Training 9:30-11:30 @SRC

Oct-29 PTO Meeting 9:30

Oct-31 Last Day to Order Yearbooks for \$30