



# Byrom Buzz

The Byrom Newsletter

September 18, 2009

## *From the Principal*

Dear Byrom Families:

We are off to an exceptionally good start to the 2009-10 school year. Below are just a few reminders and clarifications:

- 1) **Morning Arrival:** Last year we all worked hard on this process, and virtually eliminated the long lines of cars that – in previous years - backed up all the way to Blake Street. Key to our success were the following factors:
  - a. Asking our parents who drive students to school to arrive between 8:00am-8:15am. If 275 cars all arrive at 8:15am, there's no way we can avoid long lines, especially when the rains begin.
  - b. Asking parents who drive students to follow the 'drive-thru' and 'drop-off' lines. If you start in one line, please stay in that line. Switching lines to 'get ahead' leads to dangerous situations for our students.
  - c. When dropping off your child, please have them be as 'ready as possible'. Long good-byes, fumbling for backpacks, etc. really slows things up for other cars and students. Also, the drop-off lane is 'two cars' deep.
- 2) **Dismissal:** The most important thing to remember is that all 'pick-ups' occur in the cafeteria. If you are picking up your child, you must first park your car (if driving), and then wait in the cafeteria until your child arrives. This helps in two ways:
  - a. First, it clears the lanes so that teachers can get their students safely and quickly onto the busses;
  - b. We have one location for 'pick-ups': While this is a bit 'chaotic' for about five minutes, it is at least 'contained' chaos. This system worked very well last year, and got better as the school year progressed.
- 3) **Shoes:** A special favor. Please have your child wear 'closed-toed and heel' shoes to school. Flip-flops, and other open-toed shoes are not appropriate for PE activities. In addition, we've had some serious injuries occur on the playground as students 'stub' their toes on a too-often basis: Our office is going to run out of band-aids at this pace ☺. Flip-flops on the beach? Yes! Flip-flops at school? Please, no.
- 4) **Please Keep Dogs/Pets At Home:** This past week I've seen some of the cutest, most loving dogs I've ever seen in my life. That said, pets are not allowed on school grounds, so please keep your wonderful doggies at home (note: There are some exceptions, such as 'Service Dogs', etc.). Animals are allowed at school if they serve an educational purpose and if permission is obtained by the principal prior to the animal coming to school.

### **This year I see at least these priorities emerging:**

- 1) **Renewed Support & Involvement In Our Parent/School/Organization (PSO).** Byrom is fortunate to have energetic, committed, and talented PSO members. We do need, however, to continue to find more parents willing to commit to actively supporting our school. We'll be contacting more and more parents this year, asking for you to think of ways you might become increasingly involved in the success of our school.
- 2) **Continued Focus On Student Academic Achievement.** Byrom students, as a whole, make excellent progress in all academic areas measured by the state of Oregon. Our main priority is helping students become successful readers, writers, and mathematicians. But we also believe in the importance of a well-balanced, comprehensive approach to learning. This approach includes attention to Music, Physical Education, Library, Technology, Science, Art, Social Studies, and Health.
- 3) **Continued Focus On Closing the Achievement Gap.** While we expect all students to make excellent gains in academic achievement, we know that some students must gain at a greater rate if we are to close the 'racial' achievement gap. Our entire district is committed to closing – and eventually eliminating, any achievement gap that involves our 'children of color'. This will not mean that we'll lower our expectations for any child, but rather, we will raise our level of support for students that are falling behind their grade level peers.

You will hear more about closing the achievement gap as this year progresses.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming Back-To-School Nights (Grades K-2, September 22nd. Grades 3-5, September 23rd). Meanwhile, if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please feel comfortable contacting me at school. I always enjoy talking with our wonderful parents and community.

Sincerely,  
Rick Fraisse

**Welcome Back to School!**

**From Your Byrom PSO**

Things are moving along quickly already this school year and it is EXCITING!

The first order of business for our PSO (PTA equivalent) is to have our September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in which we vote on our budget. All meetings are important to come learn and to be heard on the activities at Byrom which relate to the PSO. Please remember that all parents are members of our school's PSO. We would like to see many new faces at any of these meetings.

**6:30 - 8:00PM**

**Byrom Elementary Library .**

**When does the PSO meet?**

The 3rd Wednesday of the month. 6:30 PM in the Byrom Library. Exceptions are if school is not in session at that time. Schedule for this year is: September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16.

**Will I need to pay dues to the PSO to have a vote?**

NO. If you are the parent, guardian or a student at Byrom Elementary you are a member of the PSO.

**Do I have to attend a certain number of meetings?**

NO. You can attend as your schedule allows.

**What if I need to bring my children?**

We have child care for children available in the library.

**What if I am a Spanish speaker?**

We are working on getting an interpreter to attend meetings so we can be sure ALL families are able to participate. If you know someone who would consider volunteering their time to help facilitate this, please contact the office or Cyndy Hillier - 503.692.8510.

If you have questions prior to the meeting, please contact Cyndy Hillier, [goducks00@yahoo.com](mailto:goducks00@yahoo.com) or 503.692.8510. Thank you.

**NO FOOD IN THE LIBRARY  
CLASSROOM OR COMPUTER LAB**

Please keep food items out of the library classroom and computer lab. We are trying to keep both environments as clean as possible. Currently, no one cleans in either space; therefore we're asking that all food be consumed out on the library tables or outside.

**This includes before, during and after school.**

Thank you, Harry and Meg

**Lunch Applications**

**Free and Reduced Applications** are due now. Please get them in as soon as possible.

## A Delicious Helping of Thanks

Thanks to the many wonderful parent volunteers and gracious staff, Byrom's Annual Back-to-School Family Ice Cream Social was a "sweet" success! An event like this for 800 people isn't possible without the dedication of Byrom's extraordinary community. A special thanks to Mike Jones, Haggens store manager, for once again, donating ALL items for this event. Kudos to staff members Bev Farnsworth, Edie Fisk, Tom Marshall and night monitor James Stevens. A HUGE thank you to the tireless efforts of parent volunteers Vicki Born, Stephanie Charters, Megan Patton, Heather Magnuson, Grace Yoon, Ruth Ann Day, Sue and Bob Wise, Chris Gordin, Tanya Peebles, Leigh Anne Hadley, Melissa Burton, Whitney Wisniewski, Karen Stacklie, Tim Divine, Annette King, Linh and Jeff Hegstrom, and Jackie Dannemiller.

With a scoopful of THANKS!

Kim DeMarchi, Chair

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### Room Parents Needed

The following classrooms are in need of Room Parents: \*Pelissier, Phillips, VanVleet, Arnold, Stanaway, Thomas, Bowman, Koss, Eissinger, Johnson, Swan, Constanza, and Wright. \* Hopefully we can have at least two for each teacher. Responsibilities include: Planning and hosting classroom parties: Halloween, Winter Holiday, and Valentines Day, with an optional end of year party. Plan a non-gift way for the children to recognize their teacher's birthday. Recognize the teacher on Staff Appreciation day. Promote PSO events and assist committee chairs with coordinating volunteers for other PSO sponsored events (Carnival, jog-a-thon, etc.). Please contact Jackie Dannemiller, 503-885-2405 or ndannemi@spiritone.com to sign up today!

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### Events help keep swim centers open

Two events are planned this month to raise funds to help keep the Tigard and Tualatin swim centers open.

On Sept. 19, The Garden Corner in Tualatin will be the site of a special event that includes, food and beverages and an Activewear Fashion Show. It begins at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the \$50.00 per couple ticket price will go to SaveTTPools fund.

On Sept. 27, the Tualatin High pool will play host to the Splash and Dash for the SaveTTPools. It starts at 8:30 a.m. with the 500 yard swim + 5K run. At 11:30 a.m., the Kids 12 & under Mini Splash & Dash 200 yard swim +2K run will be held. The "Fit City" Mini Splash & Dash for all ages, 200 yard swim + 2K run will begin at 12:30 p.m.

For more ticket information, on-line sales and race details: [www.savettppools.com](http://www.savettppools.com) or call us at 503 431 5455.

Art in the Burbs

It's that time of year again! The Foundation's Art in the Burbs Art Show & Sale is October 23-25 at Alberta Rider. It gives us great pleasure to donate 20% of the artists proceeds to fund the Arts & Music in ALL 15 Tigard Tualatin schools.

Art in the Burbs  
Fine Art Exhibit & Sale  
Friday, Oct. 23, 3 - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 24, 10-5 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 25, 11 - 5 p.m.

Thank you so much!

**REMEMBER THE LIBRARY**

Please keep the Byrom Library in mind on your children's' birthdays. A birthday book, brought to the classroom for sharing, then donated to the library for all to read, is a great way to honor our kids. The library has a book wish list available, but any book your child loves dearly would also be a great addition to Byrom. Last year we had over 60 books donated in lieu of birthday treats.

**HELP YOUR KIDS TAKE CARE OF BYROM'S BOOKS**

Please help by reminding your children to keep their library books safe indoors and away from food and drink. We do have to charge for damaged or lost books, in order to replace them. Mahalo (Hawaiian for "thank you") for your kokua ("help")!

Thank you also!!  
Harry

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**Byrom's Cub Scout Pack 35 Join Night**

If you are a boy in first grade through fifth grade, you and a parent/guardian are invited to attend Pack 35's Join Night, Thursday, Sept. 24 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the cafeteria. Cub Scouting is the first and biggest of the three Scouting programs (Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing) from the Boys Scouts of America. For over 27 years, Pack 35 has offered numerous activities in the development of character in boys by providing community service stewardship, leadership, citizenship, fitness, outdoor skills and more. Come see the adventure of Cub Scouts!

**Back to School Nights**

Byrom will be hosting two Back to School Nights. Kindergarten -2<sup>nd</sup> grades are welcome on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> and Grades 3-5 are scheduled for Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both events will take place in the cafeteria from 7:00-9:00 p.m. all Parents are welcome, but there will be no babysitting available.