



Byrom Buzz

The Byrom Newsletter

September 16, 2010

21800 SW 91st Street, Tualatin, Oregon 97062 ~~ (503) 431-4300 ~~ (503) 431-4310 FAX ~~ www.ttsd.k12.or.us/byrom-elementary

If your child should be absent or late, please call our ATTENDANCE LINE (503) 431-4320

Dear Byrom Families:

The school year is off to a wonderful start. There are many topics to share with you, but the one most on my mind at the moment is our goal to improve the appearance and functioning of our playground.

Last year, we began thinking about ways to improve our playground for all of our students. We knew that we did not have the funds to build a 'brand-new' playground (that would cost \$50,000 or more), but we did believe that we could make our playground a better place for our students to play.

Parents donated over \$9000 at our spring Auction to get this work off the ground, and our PSO also contributed funds to this effort. Our work, however, was delayed because we first had to figure out how to deal with the drainage problem that left large pools of water on our playground during and after every rainfall. If we had started our improvements before fixing our drainage problem, we would have been wasting all of this donated money, and we just could not do that to our families or students. Fortunately, we are starting to make progress on our playground improvement, including the following achievements:

- 1) **Drainage Ditch:** In late August, our district – using district funds, put in a \$14,000 drainage system, designed to lessen the impact that rainfall has on our playground. We still need to see if the 'ditch' does the job, so we will watch what happens after the first rains come our way.
- 2) **Slurry Coat:** In early September, our district – using district funds, put on a \$3000 layer of slurry to most of the hard surface area of our playground. They left one area untouched, mainly because it was the area most impacted by earlier drainage problems. If the drainage system does work, our district will finish the slurry coat on the final part of our playground. With the new slurry coat, we can now begin to design and paint new games onto our hard surface area.
- 3) **Peaceful Playgrounds Curriculum:** We have ordered this playground curriculum (Auction Funds purchased this curriculum and related materials), and expect everything to arrive in the next week or two. Peaceful Playgrounds is an approach used across the country, whose goal is to maximize 'play and exercise' for all students during recess time. We anticipate implementing the Peaceful Playground curriculum during the months of October-December of this school year.
- 4) **Playground Committee:** Russ Alvarez, Byrom's PE teacher, is leading a committee whose work is designed to do the following:
 - a. Use Peaceful Playground ideas, and committee member input, to design our playground to maximize student play and exercise.
 - b. Organize a community 'work party', to paint our new games onto the slurry surface, and do some general clean-up and improvement of our playground area.
 - c. Decide what 'brand-new' playground structure we should add to our existing playground equipment. Originally, we did not think we'd have enough money to purchase and install a new piece of equipment. However, because our district picked-up the cost of the drainage and slurry work, we do have the ability to start thinking about adding a new piece of equipment to our play area. We are hopeful that our Jog-A-Thon will raise more funds towards the purchase of a new piece of playground equipment. The more we raise, the 'better' the piece of equipment we can purchase and install.
 - d. Continue to work on other areas of improvement (e.g. replacing our baskets in the undercover play area; etc.).

If you are interested in being on our playground improvement committee, please contact Mr. Alvarez at (503) 431-4313.

Summary: I have heard that some families are frustrated that our playground improvements were not ready for the start of this school year. I share those frustrations, but I also am willing to be patient and persistent in pursuit of this worthy goal.

I think it is important to remember that Byrom's playground problems are many decades in the making. The problems that took 20-30 or more years to create, **will not** be solved in one school year. Also, we do not have the funds to build a new playground. Instead, we are improving (renewing) the playground we already have at this time.

But we have begun the improvement process, and we will make **progress** in the 2010-11 school year.

We will be sharing our progress with you throughout the school year, and asking for your patience and support as this progress slowly, but surely, becomes a reality.

Mr. Fraisse

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 John Wirfs, Hagen's new store manager, for donating \$100.00 worth of supplies for this event. John also went above and beyond to get Nabisco to donate all of the Oreo cookies! Kudos to staff members Bev Farnsworth, Edie Fisk, Tom Marshall and our new night monitor for always being willing to lend a hand. A HUGE thank you to the tireless efforts of parent volunteers Vicki Born, Sue Wise, Chris Gordin, Tanya Peebles, Leigh Anne Hadley, Melissa Burton, Jodie Krivens, Amy and Mike Steele, Jill Borris, Becky Chamseddine, Nikki Smith, Shelle Garlock, Tricia Bennett, Mary Pat DeGroot, Windi Martin, Teresa Beam, Julie Welborn, Brenna White, Carmen Cruz, Jennifer Ulberg, Beth Roach, and all the students at Byrom and Hazelbrook that helped with setting up the topping stations. This event isn't possible without all of you! If any of you are interested in co-chairing this event with me next year, please let me know.

With a scoopful of THANKS!

Kim DeMarchi, Chair

2010 Jog-A-Thon

We are well underway in planning Byrom's 2010 Jog-A-Thon. This year's event will be held on Friday, October 1. Pledge sheets will be coming home soon and we're looking for volunteers to help. If you're interested or have questions or concerns, please contact Lesley Clanton at 971-219-0276 or at luvmygoldens0818@mac.com.

Thank you!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 28th – Back to School Night Grades K-2nd 7:00 p.m.
Sept 29th – Back to School Night Grades 3rd-5th 7:00 p.m.
Sept 29th – Picture Day/Vision Screening
Oct 1st – **JOG-A-THON**

The Tigard-Tualatin School District is committed to offer healthy and nutritious meals every school day.

The following are the costs for meals:

Breakfast: \$1.50

Lunch: \$2.50

Milk: \$0.55

Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. You can pick up and turn in an application at the school office or you can apply online at the District's website at: www.ttsd.k12.or.us/district/food-services. For any questions regarding this program, please contact Cathy Clark in the Food Services Office at (503) 431-4103. These applications need to be returned to Food Services Office or at the Byrom Office **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** Thank you!

Important Notice!!!!

Anytime you enter the school, PLEASE stop in the office and sign in. You must check in with the secretaries and wear a **VISITOR** badge...for the safety of **ALL** of our students and staff. *Thank you for your cooperation!!!*

