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# Birch Grove School For the Arts

## PTO News

### Upcoming Important Dates:

**May 20th, 2008**

**Birch Grove Ice Cream Social and more.....**

#### Ice cream social

5:00 to 6:00 outside by the playground. (In the gym if raining)

#### PTO Meeting

6:00 to 7:00 in the Media Center. Supervision for children provided in playground area.

#### Arts Troupe Performances

7:00 to 8:00 in the gym



### **Agenda for Tuesday, May 20th**

#### **PTO Business Meeting**

- Special Guests: Kindergarten teachers
- Approval of April Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- PTO Officer Elections
- New business

NOTE TO PARENTS: All parents are invited and encouraged to attend the PTO meetings. If you are unable to attend, your thoughts, concerns and any additional agenda items may be submitted in writing to the office (in care of PTO), or by email to BirchGrovePTO@yahoo.com.

## **Don't let this year's school carnival be the last!**

Did you have a fun time with your family at this year's school carnival? I know that my family had a great time. My daughters' hair suddenly grew about a foot higher than normal and developed unusual shades of green, pink, orange and possibly blue (Thanks, Mr. Ken!). Once the attire for the evening was settled, they set out with tickets in hand to conquer the many games in the gym. From the fish pond, to the pop bottle ring toss, the kisses booth and the newly resurrected Plinko game, the fun didn't stop until the clock struck 8:30 (or the tickets ran out). After collecting many tokens at various games, the kids had lots of great choices to "buy" a larger prize. Who can beat a night like this topped off with some sticky pink cotton candy?

I would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to all of the people that volunteered at this year's school carnival. An event like this takes about 100 volunteers to staff the games, hair salon, concessions, ticket sales,

and prize tables. Special thanks to all of the great Park Center Honor students that helped.

Thanks would not be complete without a big THANK YOU to the Carnival planning committee. First THANKS to Liisa Durkot, the Carnival queen who had things perfectly organized so that set up for all of the games went very smoothly. Lori Swedeen is another parent that put in countless hours during preparation for Carnival (not to mention, she was also co-chairing the Read-a-thon fundraiser during this time as well. - I think Lori didn't sleep for a week!). Did you get a chance to check out the Silent Auction during the Carnival? There was a great variety of baskets to bid on throughout the evening. Dana Trough is the parent that has earned a well-deserved THANK YOU for his several years of handling this fundraiser during Carnival. Last but not least, THANKS ALSO to Dana Castonguay, who chaired the raffle portion of the Carnival event, with help from Lori

Noland and Sharon Margiotta.

After 5 years of her involvement with planning for the school carnival, Liisa Durkot is relinquishing her crown as Carnival Queen. The PTO Board is starting to plan for our budget next year. We would really like to keep the great tradition of hosting a school carnival fundraising event; however, we will not be able to conduct this event if at least 5 parents do not take the initiative to join the planning committee. We need people that will be committed to this event for the year. Liisa has developed good instructions on what needs to be done and when to do it and the PTO Board will offer lots of support so don't be afraid about not having any direction or help. Are you ready to help make a difference in your child's school? If you have questions or wish to take on a planning role for Carnival, please email LeAnne Tieman, the PTO President, at [birchgrovePTO@yahoo.com](mailto:birchgrovePTO@yahoo.com) or call 763-493-5183.

### **Want to have more input on how the PTO supports the school?**

PTO Officer elections will be conducted at the May 20th PTO Business Meeting at 6:00 in the Media Center.

PTO Chairpersons are also needed during the 2008-2009 school year for planning fundraising events such as the bookfairs, carnival, Read-a-thon, new fundraisers, etc.

If you are interested in being on the PTO Board or planning fundraising events for next year, please contact LeAnne Tieman, PTO President, at [birchgrovePTO@yahoo.com](mailto:birchgrovePTO@yahoo.com) or call 763-493-5183.

## Budget Summary

This is just a brief picture of the PTO's financial picture. Our fundraising efforts have fallen short of our expectations by about \$8,500. The PTO Board is recommending drastic cuts from the budget next year as you will see in the chart below. We have started discussions about fundraisers for next year, but we need new parents to get involved. We would like to have small teams of parents to work on each fundraiser. Many hands make lighter work for all! Please contact us to join a fundraising effort for next year.

### Birch Grove PTO 2007-2008 Budget (Actual amounts shown as of 4/25/08)

<b>Fundraiser Income</b>	<b>Goal to raise in dollars</b>	<b>Actual raised</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Pending Receipts</b>
Scholastic bookfairs	1,600	963	-637	
Box Tops	1,000	120	-880	YES
Burger King	500	438	-62	YES
Carnival	7,000	5,885	-1,115	
Cartridges for Kids	50	113	63	
Cash Donations	100	20	-80	
Food Perspectives	1,000	460	-540	
Geckler (Gift Wrap, etc.)	10,000	6,404	-3,596	
Gold C/Entertainment Books	2,800	2,356	-444	
Interest from bank account	20	2	-18	
Kemps/Land O'Lakes Milk Caps	500	295	-205	
Read-a-thon	4,000	3,641	-359	
Shop for School (school supplies)	100	39	-61	
Turkey Bingo	2,000	1,419	-581	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30,670</b>	<b>22155</b>	<b>-8,515</b>	

<b>PTO Expenses</b>	<b>Budget Estimate</b>	<b>Actual Spent</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Pending Expenses</b>	<b>Projected 2008-2009</b>
6th Grade Recognition (\$4 per student)	400	0	-400	YES	400
Activity Night (Peer Mediators)	150	150	0		75
Administration Costs for PTO	150	27	-123	UNKNOWN	150
Behavior Recognition	2,500	1,250	-1,250	YES	2,000
Field Trips (\$5.75 per student)	3,450	540	-2,910	YES	1,500
Hudy (Read 180 Dog)	2,000	1,080	-920	YES	0
Hospitality	600	569	-31	YES	600
Ice Cream Social	100	0	-100	YES	100
Instructional Supplies (\$40 per FTE)	1,700	850	-850	UNKNOWN	0
Legionville (school patrols)	260	0	-260		0
New Budget Requests	1,000	900	-100		100
Playground Maintenance	150	75	-75	UNKNOWN	150
Popcorn	300	150	-150		200
Room Parties (\$1.50 per student)	900	420	-480	UNKNOWN	900
Sam's Club Membership	35	0	-35		350
SEM Enrichment Salary	8,300	4,650	-3,650	YES	5,533
SEM Enrichment Supplies	200	100	-100	YES	100
Sunshine Expense	150	0	-150	UNKNOWN	150
Valleyfair (Patrols, peer mediators)	1,700	0	-1,700	YES	850
Volunteer Coordinator Salary	5,150	2,575	-2,575	YES	5,150
Volunteer Coordinator Supplies	200	200	0		150
Wastebasket Revue Donation	40	0	-40		0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29,435</b>	<b>13,536</b>	<b>-15,899</b>		<b>18458</b>