

# Birkes Barker

PTO Newsletter  
September 4, 2018

Birkes Elementary  
Stacie Everson, Principal

## Upcoming Events [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com)

Sept. 6 Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night  
Sept. 6 Hearing and Vision Screening Training 8:30am-Vision 1pm-Hearing  
Sept. 11 Curriculum Night (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>), 6 pm  
Sept. 13 Chick fil A Spirit Night  
Sept. 14 Spirit Shop  
Sept. 18 Curriculum Night: Pre-K and Kinder-5 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6 pm  
Sept. 19 Nature Trails Volunteer Training (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Sept. 21 VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) Breakfast, 9:30 am  
Homeroom Parent Meeting, 9 am  
Sept. 25 Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) Kick Off Evening, 6:30pm  
Sept. 25 Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Pick Up, 5pm-7pm  
Sept. 28 Membership Contest Ends for Cookie Party qualification

## President's Corner

Birkes Families,

Say Yes to new Adventures!

I hope everyone has had a fantastic start to the school year! Meet the Teacher was so much fun for us!! We hope you enjoyed it as well! It was so wonderful to see so many new faces at the Boo Hoo Breakfast. It is such a special day and we thank you for taking the time to share it with us.

Our membership drive contest ends on September 28<sup>th</sup>. There is still time for each child in your family to receive a ticket to the "Cookie Celebration" to be held during a lunch in October for those families who sign up. Be sure to go to [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com) to register online and sign up for volunteer opportunities. A huge appreciation goes out to everyone who has taken the time to sign up already. All the membership dues go directly back to the students to fund fun, educational events and activities throughout the year. Your support is GREATLY appreciated.

Your donation, participation and support help make so many things happen for our students: author visits, planetarium, field trips, Little Beakers, Colonial Day, Mother Goose, new technology equipment and so much more.

Not only were we able to support Birkes in these ways, but we are also able to fulfill our teachers' wish list for \$24,000.00 dollars and all of that goes right back into the classrooms!

Be sure to keep a look out for all our volunteering opportunities! We need many volunteers to do things like bring food and drinks to our teachers at the monthly PTO-sponsored appreciation lunches to our monthly Spirit Shop and other special events throughout the year. Daily help is always needed in the workroom and library. Each and every volunteer is what helps make our school so special.

Please keep reading to find out all the wonderful things Birkes PTO has planned for the near future. Thank you again for all your support to our school!

Vicky Spurgin, PTO President

## 2018-2019 PTO Board

Vicky Spurgin President  
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Vicky Spurgin Yearbook  
[birkesbulldogyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:birkesbulldogyearbook@gmail.com)

Birkes volunteers are the best!  
Thank you for your hard work every day!

Please note, this year cars parked in fire lanes may be ticketed. If you come in to volunteer, please be sure to park in a parking spot.

The workroom and library  
could use your help any day  
you have some time.

## VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools)

We are thrilled to help Birkes make our students' academic lives more enjoyable.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding volunteering, we're here to help you! Simply reach out to us and we'll gladly assist you.

Please plan to attend our fall **VIPS Breakfast** to find out about all the things the PTO does and see how you can plug in. It will be held **Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30-10:30**. Our **homeroom parent meeting** will be the same day from **9:00 am-9:30 am**, for those who are homeroom parents.

Please take note of our upcoming VIPS September and October events and training classes. We hope to see you there. Keep in touch via the "Birkes Elementary PTO/VIPs" Facebook Page. If you prefer emails, let us know!

Want to know what other volunteer opportunities are available? Check out our VIPS page on the **Birkes PTO website!!** The Birkes PTO website is a great way to be "in-the-know" on what is happening at

Birkes: <https://birkespto.membershiptoolkit.com/home>

We'd like to especially emphasize the need for volunteers during our **Hearing and Vision Screening days**. Your help is essential in getting ALL Pre-K, K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade students screened!! Therefore, if you could spend a shift (or even tag-team a shift with someone else), please sign up via the link indicated in the section below.

Please check out the Academic Enrichment section of the newsletter to find out more about volunteering with the CFISD SRC (Science Resource Center).

Do you have 30 minutes to spare? We can certainly use your help!! Both the **workroom** and the **library** would greatly benefit from your assistance. All teachers, students, and staff would definitely appreciate your time.

As always, we request that you **log your service hours** into the Volunteer **Raptor System**. Since for some it is not a user-friendly interface, we ask that you also **log your hours** in a VIPS binder at the front desk. This ensures both you AND Birkes get the credit for those hours and that Birkes does not lose hundreds of hours (equating to school grant money) due to system issues. Let us know if you have system login problems...we'll help get it resolved!!

Once again, we're raring to go and want you along for the ride...our Birkes Adventure Awaits!! Look out for your chance to help the school and please contact us with questions. Thank you!!

Brenda and Serena, VIPS Coordinators

## Sign Up Genius

Sign Up Genius is a website used to organize volunteers for our events. Please click on the link (from the electronic newsletter) to view the sign up sheets. The links will also be posted on the Facebook page, **Birkes Elementary PTO/VIPS**, and the website [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com).

### **Hearing and Vision Screening**

Sept. 6 Training available at Arnold Middle School RSVP to [norma.painter@cfisd.net](mailto:norma.painter@cfisd.net) (Some positions require training).

Oct. 24 (Wed), 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

Oct. 24 (Wed), 12:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Oct. 25 (Thurs), 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

Oct. 25 (Thurs), 12:45 pm - 3:45 pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f44a4ac23a1fd0-hearing1>

### **Spirit Shop**

Sept. 14 (Fri) 8:30 am-2 pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f44a4ac23a1fd0-monthly>

## Membership

### IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND CONTEST!

Thanks to your generous support of PTO sponsored activities, it is sure to be a successful year - one that couldn't happen without you!

The easiest way to support your Birkes student(s) is by joining the PTO. All that is required is your special donation of \$10 per family! This donation will also add you to the **private online student/parent directory**, if you choose. The more people that join, the better our directory will be. All donations are spent directly on the students, funding activities such as BizTown, Mother Goose reading to the Kindergarten students, guest authors, Little Beakers on campus, and many other wonderful student focused activities.

Go to [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com) and log in or register - update your family and volunteer interest information and pay online. You are not obligated to do anything else by joining - you don't have to volunteer - but if you would like to volunteer, we'd love to have you join in on the fun!!

If your family signs up and pays their \$10 donation by Friday, September 28, each child in your family will receive a ticket to the "Cookie Celebration" held during a lunch in October. So be sure to sign up so your student gets to join in on the fun!!

As always, thank you for your support!

Kelly Bay, Membership

## Academic Enrichment

I am looking forward to a great school year with so many special events planned for our students. Our **Nature Trails field trips** are scheduled for **December 10th and 11th** for both **3rd and 5th grades**. Your child's teacher will let you know which day your student's class is assigned.

**Nature Trails training** and field trips are held at **Cy-Fair Nature Trails - 13500 Shaft Dr. Cypress, TX 77429** - behind Millsap Elementary.

Please do not bring small children and come dressed appropriately for walking in the woods.

**3rd grade: 4 VIPS** per day needed to assist teacher presenters

**5th grade: 2-3 VIPS** per day needed to present at stations, **2 VIPS** needed as chaperones

**Training - Sept 19 - 3rd grade parents: 10-11:30 am**

**5th grade parents: 12:30-2 pm**

You will find an attached flyer with SRC Demo Training Days for volunteers to do animal demos for classes at Birkes. All SRC Demo Training Classes take place at 11206 Telge Rd. (unless otherwise noted), 281-897-4004 (for adults only...just show up for the training class and sign-in)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for supporting our school and PTO.

Joanna Detwiler, Academic Enrichment

### **Recording Volunteer Hours**

You will need to set up Volunteer Portal Account if this is your first year to record hours. Approval takes a few days from the district.

<https://www.cfisd.net/en/parents-students/parent-involvement/volunteer/>

Once your account is set up, you can log hours here.

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Volunteer/Login/MzYxOIZvbHVudGVlcjplb1VUw==>

### Major and Minor Fundraising

Ready to raise some money for Birkes?! We are selling yummy chocolate through Believe Kids Fundraising this fall to raise money for Birkes. This will be in place of our regular fall fundraiser where we have sold candles, wrapping paper and cookie dough in the past. Be on the lookout for more information coming home in your child's backpack. All you do is pick up a case of chocolate, sell to friends and family, turn in your money and get another case to sell. Just sell one case and your child gets treated to Bahama Bucks! First day to pick up chocolate will be during the Watch Dogs meeting on September 25th. See you there!

Upcoming Spirit Nights. Dine at participating restaurants and money comes back to Birkes. Please mention Birkes or we don't get paid back!

Sept 6th - Texas Roadhouse on FM1960, 15% and Kids eat free, 4 pm-close

Sept 13th - Chick-Fil-A Copperfield, 20%, 5pm-8pm

Cindy Hogue, Major Fundraising and Tammi Rainwater, Minor Fundraising



### Homeroom Activities

Please consider becoming your student's homeroom parent or homeroom helper. We depend on volunteers like you to make our holiday parties, field day and end of year parties a success. Are you ready for the adventure that awaits?

Kim Dearing  
Homeroom Activities

### Spirit Shop

Spirit Shop is sponsored by the PTO and run by our volunteers. It is the second Friday of each month. We will set up on the stage in the cafeteria with school spirit items, as well as different types of fun little items. Students will be allowed to purchase during their lunch time. Please consider volunteering. We will have a sign up genius each month. Look for the link each month on the Facebook page, "Birkes Elementary PTO/VIPs" or [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com).

Jennifer Roberts, Spirit Shop

### Hospitality

Each month, Hospitality treats the staff and faculty to a delicious and exciting themed luncheon. But, we can't do it without the support of our awesome bulldog parents. It's a great way to volunteer. You can even send items with your child on the bus or in car line. Look for the link each month on the Facebook page, "Birkes Elementary PTO/VIPs" or [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com).

September 21<sup>st</sup> - Tailgating Hot Dog Bar  
October 26<sup>th</sup> - Halloween Candy Bar

### Yearbook

Each year, Birkes PTO produces an awesome yearbook for the students. Please take photos from the first day of school photos to photos anytime you are at the school for an event. Upload your photos to the **ReplayIt app** or **www.replayit.com website**. There are deadlines for each event, as we put the yearbook together over the year. We are in need of helpers for the yearbook. If you would like to take pictures with the yearbook camera during events or want to help put a page together, please contact Vicky Spurgin or let us know at the VIPS Breakfast.

Purchase your yearbook at [www.Jostens.com/yearbook](http://www.Jostens.com/yearbook) search: Birkes. \$25 is the early bird price and \$6 for personalization.

### Fifth Grade

**Paw Print Fundraiser (5<sup>th</sup> grade only)**

Help support the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade End of Year Celebration by purchasing one today.

Your child's name will be displayed on a painted paw print on the sidewalk at the front of the school for the year.

\$25 each

Please make checks payable to Birkes PTO or pay online at [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com)

Contact Tamiko Bennett with any questions through [birkes5thgrade@gmail.com](mailto:birkes5thgrade@gmail.com)

## SRC VIPs Training Calendar 2018-2019

Demo training is at the SRC (11206 Telge Rd. 281-897-4004)

### ADULTS ONLY PLEASE

Parent volunteers attend trainings and then present demos to homeroom classes at Birkes. The children LOVE this! Grab a friend and attend a training! For more information or if you attend a training please contact Joanna Detweiler at [jojobyfez@yuhoo.com](mailto:jojobyfez@yuhoo.com) or Brenda Worng at [bdwong1@gmail.com](mailto:bdwong1@gmail.com)

#### September

- 14 - Pre-K/PPCD Opossums 9:30 - 11:30
- 18 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mammal Skulls 9:30 - 11:30
- 20 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bird Study Skins 9:30 - 11:30
- 26 - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Eggs and Nests 9:30 - 11:30
- 28 - Kindergarten Gaiinea Pigs 9:30 - 11:30

#### October

- 2 - Pre-K/PPCD Opossums 9:30 - 11:30
- 10 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mammal Skulls 9:30 - 11:30
- 16 - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Eggs and Nests 9:30 - 11:30
- 24 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bird Study Skins 9:30 - 11:30
- 26 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Galveston Bay Ecology 9:30 - 11:30



#### November

- 1 - Kindergarten Gaiinea Pigs 9:30 - 11:30
- 9 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Snakes 9:30 - 11:30
- 14 - Pre-K/PPCD Animal Friends 9:30 - 11:30
- 28 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Galveston Bay Ecology 9:30 - 11:30
- 30 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Arthropods 9:30 - 11:30

#### December

- 4 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Snakes 9:30 - 11:30
- 12 - Kindergarten Hedgehogs 9:30 - 11:30
- 14 - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Small Mammals 9:30 - 11:30
- 18 - Pre-K/PPCD Animal Friends 9:30 - 11:30

#### January

- 9 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Arthropods 9:30 - 11:30
- 11 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Aquatic Bird Study Skins 9:30 - 11:30
- 15 - Kindergarten Hedgehogs 9:30 - 11:30
- 17 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Body Coverings 9:30 - 11:30
- 24 - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Small Mammals 9:30 - 11:30
- 29 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Insects 9:30 - 11:30

#### February

- 1 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Body Coverings 9:30 - 11:30
- 6 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Aquatic Bird Study Skins 9:30 - 11:30
- 12 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CSI 9:30 - 11:30
- 21 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reptiles 9:30 - 11:30
- 26 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Amphibians 9:30 - 11:30
- 28 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Insects 9:30 - 11:30



- |              |                                  |              |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>March</b> |                                  |              |
| 6 -          | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reptiles   | 9:30 - 11:30 |
| 19 -         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Amphibians | 9:30 - 11:30 |
| 27 -         | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade CSI        | 9:30 - 11:30 |

### Gulf Mysteries (First) and EcoAdventure (Second)

Teachers present the lessons at each of these field trips. VIPs may assist teachers with crafts, time keeping and movement of student groups.

**No VIPs training is required.** VIPs may request an overview and general instructions for these field trips by contacting Denise Martin ([denise.martin@cfisd.net](mailto:denise.martin@cfisd.net)).



### Nature Trails Trainings (Third and Fifth)

*Scheduled in December - Dates TBA next month!*

Nature Trails training is at Cy-Fair Nature Trails-

13500 Shaft Dr. Cypress, TX 77429--behind Millsap Elementary

**Please do not bring small children and come dressed appropriately for walking in the woods.**

3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 4 VIPs needed to assist teacher presenters

5<sup>th</sup> grade: 2-3 VIPs needed to present at stations, 2 VIPs needed as chaperones

#### **Training Dates are:**

- |                      |                       |               |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| September 19, 2018 - | 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade | 10:00 - 11:30 |
|                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> grade | 12:30 - 2:00  |
| November 7, 2017 -   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade | 10:00 - 11:30 |
|                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> grade | 12:30 - 2:00  |
| January 30, 2019 -   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade | 10:00 - 11:30 |
|                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> grade | 12:30 - 2:00  |

Science Demonstration Program, AKA Demos

**Opossums:** Pre-K/PPCD (30 minutes) A stuffed opossum is used to demonstrate the special adaptations and characteristics of this Native American marsupial. *Please limit these presentations to fall semester only.*

**Animal Friends:** Pre-K/PPCD (30 minutes) An assortment of live animals (such as a rabbit, bird, turtle, frog, snake or lizard) are used to introduce students to basic animal traits.

**Guinea Pigs:** Kindergarten (30 minutes) A story, *Guinea Pigs Don't Read Books*, is read and discussed. A live guinea pig is shown. (Pig can be handled.) *Please limit these presentations to fall semester only.*

**Hedgehog Demo:** Kindergarten (30 minutes) *The Hat* by Ian Brett is read and discussed and a live hedgehog is shown. (Hedgey can be handled.)

**Small Mammals:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade (45 minutes) A live chinchilla is used to demonstrate its characteristics, behaviors and adaptations to the environment. Then students compare the mammal's adaptations to those of the hamster. (Animals are not handled.)

**Eggs and Nests Demo:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade (45 minutes) Students observe a variety of eggs as they compare and contrast their physical properties. Children explore a bag of objects to discover if and how the items roll to discover why egg shape is important. A variety of bird nests are displayed for observation. *Please limit these presentations to fall semester only.*

**Body Coverings Demo:** 2nd grade (45 minutes) A combination of live animals and teaching aids are used to describe the body coverings of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Featured animals include a lizard, tree frog, dove and hamster. (Animals are handled.) This was designed to go with the Undercover Lab for which materials are available from SRC.

**Snakes:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (45 minutes) Students review characteristics of reptiles and learn the unique adaptations of snakes. They will observe several live, non-venomous specimens and various teaching aids. Featured animals include the Trans Pecos rat snake, gray banded king snake and a coral mimic. (Animals are handled.)

**Insects:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (45 minutes) The insect's place in our ecosystem will be discussed. A sample insect collection will be shown along with live African hissing cockroaches. (Animals may be handled.)

**Amphibians:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (45 minutes) A selection of live amphibians is available for close examination by the students. Various characteristics and interesting behaviors of amphibians are discussed. Featured animals may include the salamander, fire belly newt, gulf coast toad, clawed frog, siren and toad. (Animals are handled.)

Science Demonstration Program, AKA Demos

**Arthropods:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (50 minutes) Live and preserved specimens are used to compare and contrast characteristics of different classes of arthropods. Featured animals may include the millipede, tarantula, hissing cockroach, land hermit, a scorpion and pill bugs. (The millipede and hissing cockroach are handled.)

**Galveston Bay Ecology:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes) Students learn the unique features and importance of Galveston Bay and how the plants and animals that live there are adapted for this ecosystem.

**Aquatic Bird Study Skins:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes) Students observe different aquatic bird skins to discover their adaptations for life in or near the water. Students will participate in an exploratory activity to discover how certain beaks are adapted to eat specific foods. Students need paper and pen or pencil.

**Reptiles:** 4th grade (45 minutes) A selection of live reptiles will be available for close examination by the students with a discussion of their various characteristics and interesting behaviors. Featured animals include the box turtle, soft shell turtle, red-eared slider, lizard and corn snake. (Animals are handled.)

**Bird Study Skins:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes) Study skins will be used to illustrate the many unique characteristics and adaptations of this class of animals. Students need paper and pen or pencil.

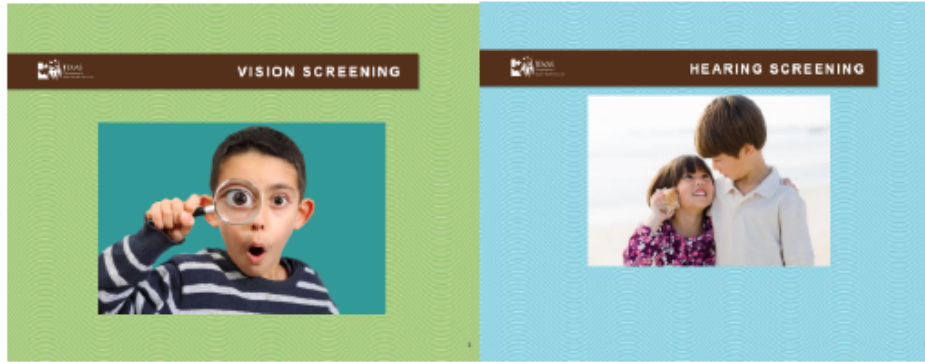
**Mammal Skulls:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes) The volunteer discusses traits such as eye placement and tooth arrangement to provide clues for the students to guess the identity of common skulls. They will then be given the correct answer with a discussion of similarities and differences and identifying characteristics. Students need paper and pen or pencil.

**CSI Cy-Fair:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes) Students solve a "who done it" mystery as they rotate through three station lab investigations analyzing fingerprints, fiber samples and chromatography samples.

**If you attend any of these trainings please contact me or Brenda Wong so that we can coordinate a date/time with the teachers to schedule the demo at the school. Thank you so much!**

Joanna Deltwiler  
Academic Enrichment  
jopdyk@cyfairisd.com

Brenda Wong  
SRC Chairperson  
bwong1@gmail.com



## Parent/Guardian Volunteers

Hearing and Vision Training Class. Once certified, you can assist the CFISD Screen Teams/School Nurses to screen students. Certification is good for 5 years.

### **TRAINING DATE AND TIMES:**

Arnold Middle School  
11111 Telge Road  
Cypress, Texas 77429  
Thursday September 6  
8:30-12:00 Vision  
1:00-3:00 for Hearing

BIRKES SCREENING DATES ARE OCTOBER 24 & 25  
PLEASE RSVP  
[vanessa.montalvo@cfisd.net](mailto:vanessa.montalvo@cfisd.net)