

Birkes Barker

PTO Newsletter
October 12, 2020

Birkes Elementary
Stacie Everson, Principal

Team Birkes **Stronger Together!**



2020-2021 PTO Board

Alison Jefferies	President
Roiann Baskin	1st VP Membership
Tamie Okpara	2nd VP Academic Enrichment
OPEN	3rd VP Major Fundraising
Kehnon Glenn	3rd VP Minor Fundraising
Cindy Hogue	3rd VP Spirit Shop
OPEN	VIPS
OPEN	VIPS
Ariane Walden	Treasurer
Kelly Bay	Secretary
Amy Hayes	Hospitality
Charlene Tucker	Yearbook

Upcoming Events

Oct 19 – Yearbook Cover Submission Deadline

Nov 2 – TX Roadhouse Spirit Night (5-8pm)

Yearbook

Let's have a Cover Contest for the Yearbook! Our Theme is "Team Birkes - Stronger Together". I can't wait to see your art! The winners are chosen by our Birkes staff. Please email me your submissions by Monday, October 19th - ctuckeryearbook2021@gmail.com

We have a new way to upload Photos this year! Just follow these simple instructions. If you have any issues, that's ok! Just email me your photos and I will make sure they get uploaded. I want to see all your First Day of School Photos and any other school-related photos, both Face to Face and Virtual!

Follow these simple steps:

1. Choose the photo/s you'd like to submit for consideration in the yearbook.
2. Click on this link - <https://images.jostens.com/415468563>
3. Upload your photo.
4. Fill in your child's name and enter important information in the description. (grade and which activity or event)

THAT'S IT! You are all done.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me by email.

Charleine Tucker, Yearbook Advisor
cmaisonneuve@sbcglobal.net

President's Corner

2020.

It says so much already. We all know that we are in unprecedented times and this school year is no different. As last year's PTO activity ended abruptly, learning at home ramped up. Teachers scrambled to figure out how to connect with the students they love, wanting them to succeed and finish the year strong. Parents shared the duty of teaching, while juggling their jobs and other responsibilities, walking the tightrope between parent and teacher. We began this year, looking ahead into the unknown. I have been so proud of our teachers and administrators for their dedication to our students and their safety. At the same time, they maintain Birkes' high level of excellence through an evolving system of teaching and technology.

The CFISD theme for volunteers this year is "Be the Bright Side". Our PTO Board is working on creative ways to support our school, while doing our volunteering outside of the school and virtually. Due to Covid-19 and the financial struggles of many in our community, we will not be holding our fall major fundraiser. Therefore, our PTO membership drive and restaurant spirit nights are vitally important for the success of our PTO. Please watch for emails from the school, so that you can mark your calendar for those dates. If your family is not affected by job loss and you would like to make a donation, we would be extremely grateful. You can make a donation when you register for PTO, by sending a check to the school written to Birkes Elementary PTO or signing up for a corporate/family sponsorship.

In past years, we have had homeroom parents who helped their student's teacher plan two class parties and field day. We are putting these positions on hold until events are scheduled and that volunteers are allowed at school.

Please sign up for PTO by making a \$10 donation per family. This does not require you to volunteer but will keep you in the loop with information pertaining to spirit nights, fundraisers, teacher appreciation and everything else PTO. We appreciate all of our PTO volunteers and we still have some openings for board members and chairpersons (see list on page 2). Please contact any of the board members or me if you would like to get involved.

Alison Jefferies, President
alison.birkespto@gmail.com

Academic Enrichment

We are excited to welcome back our amazing Birkes Bulldogs to another school year! Although this year will be somewhat different from previous years, we still aim to have some exciting events planned in hopes to get more parents involved in their children's education and academic enrichment. A special thanks to all of our volunteers from last year and for those who will be involved this school year. We truly appreciate your hard work and dedication. If you would be interested in volunteering for events such as Colonial Day, science demonstrations, author visitations, etc., please contact Tamie Okpara at tamiexsmith@gmail.com.

*The writing on the board is clear.... we're going to have an A+ year!
Thank you so much for all that you do.... our school could not succeed without you!*

Tamie Okpara, VP Academic Enrichment
tamiexsmith@gmail.com

OPEN POSITIONS

We have several positions available. Some will not be needed until we can go back to in person volunteering, but it's a great year to get your feet wet with a PTO Board or Chair position. Email alison.birkespto@gmail.com

Board

Major Fundraising
(2) VIPS (Volunteer Coordinator)

Chairpersons

Major Fundraising
Yearbook
(2) SRC
Art/Music



Hospitality

We have lots of exciting monthly luncheons and events planned for our amazing staff and faculty this year. But, we can't do it without your generous donations! Please make sure to check the PTO Newsletter or Birkes Elementary PTO/VIPS Facebook page for updates.

This month we will be hosting a SPOOKTACULAR event for our teachers and staff. Please see the link below to sign up for donations. We are requesting all candy bars be turned in by October 23. A container/box will be placed at the front door of Birkes for you to drop off your donations.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D45AAA92BA0F94-candy>

As always, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Amy Hayes, Hospitality
amy.hayes@cfisd.net

Minor Fundraising

Spirit Nights - Our next Texas Roadhouse night will be on Monday, November 2 at the Hwy 6 & 290 location! Remember, every dollar counts. PTO loves enhancing our children's academic experience with the funds raised!

Be sure to look for an upcoming email with more information about our TX Roadhouse Rolls fundraiser!

Amazon Smile and Kroger - If you shop Amazon Prime, you can go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and look for our Birkes Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization in the drop down list to support our school. Your Kroger shopping card can also be linked to Birkes PTO to give back a portion of your grocery bill.

Box Tops Contest - Box tops has changed their way to redeem. We will continue to accept the ones you continue to find on foods, but will begin to implement the new way to redeem effective immediately. Please follow the link for an instructional video - <https://youtu.be/Hh94b2BvFK4>

Kehnon Glenn, VP Minor Fundraising
kehnonglenn@yahoo.com

PTO Membership

By joining and participating in PTO, you help us make Birkes awesome! A huge "THANK YOU" to the Bulldog parents who have already joined! We have so many families and staff members that are connected to improve our school. Remember, it's not too late to join PTO. You can log on to our website: <http://www.birkespto.com> and select "log in/register". Your membership dues are one of the few ways this year that we are able to collect funds to continue supporting our Bulldogs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Roiann Baskin, Membership
roiannf@yahoo.com

Major Fundraising

Hello to all our Bulldogs out there! The fall and spring major fundraisers are vital events at Birkes for the benefit of both the school and the students. This year we hope to have at least one major fundraiser, even if that means it is virtual. We would still plan on having prizes and making the process as easy and fun as possible.

More information to come.

Major Fundraising

VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools)

Volunteer opportunities in person at the school are currently on hold. Please check your emails and look for more information in upcoming newsletters for ways you can still volunteer and help support our wonderful Birkes staff, teachers and students! We hope to see some familiar faces soon, along with meeting new volunteers. We appreciate you!

VIPS Coordinators



Spirit Shop

Welcome back Bulldogs! Much like everything else this school year, Spirit Cart will look different too. We are looking into the possibility of a holiday market, even if it's virtual, to give the students the opportunity to shop for their loved ones. More information to come.

Cindy Hogue, Spirit Shop
cindymariend@yahoo.com