



Tolland Public Schools

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Tollard, Connecticut 06084

Birch Grove Primary School
Thomas Swanson, Principal
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November 17, 2020

Dear Families,

We would like to update you with these reminders:

The TEPTO/Scholastic Online [Book Fair](#) begins November 20-December 2. All ordering is done online. Flyers and letters are going home with more information. Click here for information on navigating the [online links](#).

Thanksgiving Break-

There is no school November 25-27 for the Thanksgiving break.

COVID REPORTING- Please review the information in the [Superintendent Bulletin](#)

From the Health Room:

- The Birch Grove nurse's office is requesting that parents send in an extra change of clothing for their child, to keep in the classroom for emergencies.
- Parents/Guardians of Preschool students,

This is a reminder regarding the 2020-2021 School Year Immunization Requirements from the State of Connecticut. It is required that Preschool children (younger than 5 years of age) receive the influenza vaccine. One (1) dose must be administered each year between August 1- December 31. If your child is receiving the vaccine for the first time, two (2) doses must be administered (separated by at least 28 days).

If you have not already done so, please contact your child's pediatrician for an appointment. Once vaccinated, please provide documentation of having received the flu vaccine to the school nurse. Please feel free to contact your healthcare provider or school nurse with questions. Thank you!

- If your child is ill, please call in to the nurse's school line as early as possible in the morning.

- Flu season is upon us once again. Flu symptoms may include fever (not always), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, and possibly vomiting and diarrhea. There are measures that we can all take to help fight the flu.
- **First:** It's not too late to get the flu vaccine. This is the best way to protect against the flu.
- **Second:** Control the spread of germs. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when you sneeze or cough. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. If you are sick, stay home.
- **Third:** If you get the flu, your doctor can prescribe antiviral medication to help make the illness milder and shorten the duration of the flu.
- Please remember that if your child has a fever of 100° F or greater, vomiting, or other contagious disease, he or she must remain home for 24 hours after the fever or illness has subsided without medication, except antibiotics before returning to school..
- Please be sure to send in a healthy and safe snack for your child.
- The children will go out to recess when the temperature and wind chill are above 20°. Please have children dress appropriately for the weather: long pants, cotton leggings, jackets, hats and mittens. All clothing should be labeled with your child's name. If coats, etc. get left behind, the rightful owner can then be found.

School Supplies:

In the coming days we will be sending items home with your child so that students can continue to participate in at home learning if needed in the future.

Adherence to In-Person or Remote Designation:

All students are assigned to one of two designations, either in-person M,T, Th and F or fully remote. Please understand that these designations must not be changed simply for the sake of convenience. Sudden changes to a child's designation often result in a student not having the necessary materials needed to participate in classroom lessons. Keeping a child at home because they are not feeling well and having them work remotely is an appropriate reason to switch a designation in the short term, but abruptly switching a child to remote as a matter of convenience cannot be accommodated.

Recovery of Lost Items:

Lost and found is starting to grow at Birch Grove. In the near future, we will be posting information with pictures of collected items left and unclaimed in the school. If you see an item belonging to your child, or know that you have lost something this school year, please call the office at 860-870-6750.

Virtual Breakfast with the Principal:

The virtual breakfasts with the Principal are on the first Thursday of each month from 9:30am-10:00am on 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6, and 6/3. Please click on this link to join the meeting on December 3.. <https://meet.google.com/omx-orpd-kgc?hs=122&authuser=0>

Bus Information:

IF TRANSPORTATION FROM OR TO ANOTHER LOCATION, I.E. DAYCARE, YOU MUST COMPLETE A SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FORM ONLINE. [Please follow this link.](#)

Parent Pick up Procedures:

- Parents/guardians who are planning to pick up students at the end of the school day are expected to communicate with the office staff, at the latest 1 hour prior to the end of the school day. Parents are expected to communicate one of these ways:
 - send a note in with their child,
 - call the office at 860-870-6750 or
 - send an email to smcdonald-burns@tolland.k12.ct.us, ebarkus@tolland.k12.ct.us

- Please fill out the Google Form for Parent Pickup, [Parent Pickup Google Form](#)
- Please come at your designated time.
 - Pre-k time- 3:00-3:10
 - Kindergarten time-3:10-3:20
 - Grade1-3:20-3:30
 - Grade 2-3:30-3:40

- Please have your card in the window and add your child's first name(s) to the card.
- Have your ID ready.
- Please do not text until you are in a spot.
- When you get to a spot, please text the number that you see with your child's name(s), classroom teacher name(s), and spot number.
- We will move up the line of cars as soon as we can. If you move to a different spot after texting, please text in the new spot number.
- Please do not pass the cars in front of you for the safety of our kids.

Valet Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures:

- Please follow the link to review the procedure for valet drop off and pick up. Each student will be assigned a number that will be placed on their backpack and the parent will receive the matching number card to be placed in the car. Parents are expected to have identification visible to the BGP staff as they enter the pick area. Link: [BGP Drop Off and Pickup Procedures 2020-2021](#) [Traffic Flow Picture](#) [Dismissal Pick up Traffic Picture](#)

BGP Lunch K -2 and Breakfast:

** Free school lunches are available for ALL students until the end of the school year. Both breakfast and lunch at Birch Grove are free to all students. This is an unprecedented move by the USDA that governs our meal programs. We are able to provide these meals at no charge until December 31st or until USDA funding is depleted.

There is nothing special that children need to do. Students will come to the service line with the other children with their mask on and socially distanced. The cafe staff will fill the students' tray with selections, they will take the students' name and the cashier will ring in the transaction

although there will be no charge at this time. Please understand this applies to a “complete” breakfast or lunch meal. If children would like an extra milk or if a student brings lunch from home, that would cost 75 cents.

Here are additional resources for your review:

[Superintendent' Willett's Blog](#)

[Tolland PCLP](#)

Please contact our main office with any questions or concerns at 860-870-6750.

Sincerely,

Tom Swanson

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