

# Birchwood Elementary School

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome to Birchwood Elementary School. Our mission is to provide a safe, challenging and nurturing environment for our students, families and community.

## Vision

Our vision is to provide students with the skills, knowledge and strategies they will need to become critical thinkers, lifelong learners and productive citizens.



who are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal rules related to teacher qualifications as defined by No Child Left Behind (NCLB). These rules allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' or paraeducators'

training and credentials. All staff at our school are "highly qualified" as defined by NCLB and we are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching; whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived; and what undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration. You will be notified in writing if your child is taught or assigned to be taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet highly qualified status.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. For more information, please visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/NCLB.aspx> or contact our school.

## Title 1

Birchwood has a schoolwide Title I program that receives financial support from the federal government, which provides reading teachers, professional development, parent programs and materials to improve our reading and math programs. This helps ensure that all students have the essential literacy and math skills for future success. Parents or guardians are encouraged to help in the development and assessment of this program.

At Birchwood, we are very proud of our teachers



## Principal's Message

DAVE ADAMS



Birchwood Elementary is a safe and friendly place where staff members work with students to help them achieve their greatest potential,

both socially and academically. We see families as partners and encourage them to become actively involved in their children's education at home and in the classroom. Birchwood's teachers and assistants are well-trained professionals who spend endless hours enhancing their skills to improve student learning. They truly care about all of the children in the school and go out of their way to help them be successful. We are dedicated to helping each student reach and maintain high academic standards as well as accepting responsibility for his or her decision-making.

## Core Beliefs

**We believe that a school needs to be a warm and welcoming place for all.**

**We believe that students need a friendly and safe place to learn.**

**We believe that families and community members are partners in children's learning.**

**We believe in treating each other with respect and integrity.**

**We believe that continuous staff training enhances student learning.**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

**Birchwood**  
Oct. 2009

**Bellingham School District**  
Oct. 2009

### Student characteristics

Total Enrollment	300	10,626
Class Size Average		
Grades K-3	20	22
Grades 4-5	24	26
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	4%	2%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	9%	7%
Black	2%	3%
Hispanic	17%	12%
White	68%	76%
English Language Learners (ELL)	41	594
Highly Capable	0	256
Indian Education	3	77
Title I Reading/LAP/KIDS	143	803
Special Education	38	1,404
<b>2009-10 school year</b>		
Unexcused absences	0.01%	0.1%
Discipline*		
Suspensions	5	
Expulsions	0	
Free and Reduced Meals (May 2010)	69%	44%

\*This data represents the required incidents reported to the state in specific behavioral categories.

Student-to-computer ratio: 4 to 1

### Expenditure per pupil

In 2008-09, the per student expenditure rate was approximately \$9,605. About 72.4% of the district budget was spent on teaching and teaching support, well above the state average of 69%. Funding sources: 64% from state based on enrollment; 20% from local taxes supported by the maintenance and operations levy; 12% from federal; and 4% from other sources such as donations and investment earnings.

2008-09 is the latest year data is available

2009-10

# Highlights of Progress

## Learn

- Completed implementation of a balanced math program in the areas of problem-solving, math facts and daily review.
- Created a variety of student options to enhance the school climate, including Kids on the Run, Kids in the Kitchen, Knitting Club, character assemblies and student leadership.

## Personalize

- Implemented new reading and math programs to support students not yet at standard.
- Provided skill level groups in literacy at all grade levels to meet students' needs.
- Continued monthly grade-level meetings to review student progress in reading and writing.

## Engage

- Began the development of a student garden supported by a wide range of community members.
- Revitalized the school Site Council.
- Implemented a differentiated parent communication plan.
- Worked with PTA on several family fun nights.
- Scheduled several meetings for our families who have a first language other than English.
- Developed schoolwide Professional Learning Communities to enhance student learning.



## Birchwood Programs

- Schoolwide Junior Achievement
- KIDS in the Kitchen
- Sasquatch Reading Club
- All school talent show
- Mountain School
- Fifth Grade Strings Program
- Student Leadership
- Safe Routes
- Kids on the Run
- Computer-assisted instruction
- Game room
- Monthly character education assemblies
- K-5 Garden Club

## BIRCHWOOD'S PRELIMINARY MSP DATA

Percentage meeting or exceeding standards

	Grade 3			Grade 4			Grade 5		
	School 2010	District 2010	State 2010	School 2010	District 2010	State 2010	School 2010	District 2010	State 2010
Reading	65%	74%	*	76%	69%	*	76%	77%	*
Writing	—	—	—	70%	58%	*	—	—	—
Math	55%	62%	*	56%	55%	*	39%	58%	*
Science	—	—	—	—	—	—	33%	47%	*

Washington uses the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP), given to students in grades 3-8, to measure how students in the district and state are progressing in meeting state academic standards. Spring 2010 was the first year for this state test.

\* Not available at the time of printing. Please check the Washington State Report Card Web site at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us> in early fall for this information and updated scores.

## Birchwood's Plan to Improve Learning, 2010-11

- Focus on developing a pyramid of learning interventions for students structured in a personalized delivery model.
- Implement universal screening and progress monitoring assessments to closely monitor student learning.
- Work to establish an assessment and data system based on a response to intervention model.
- Provide meaningful and targeted interventions based on diagnostic data to help students increase achievement.
- Implement Professional Learning Communities at and across grade levels.

## Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Dear Family,  
As part of the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) legislation of 2001, schools and school districts are considered to be making "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) if they meet targets in various categories, including those listed here. Academic progress in reading and math must be measured for: All Students, American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Special Education, Limited English, and Low Income. Missing the target in any one category causes a school or district not to make "Adequate Yearly Progress" overall. Birchwood made AYP in 13 of its 13 required categories, a 100% success rate. In 2008 and 2009, we did not make "adequate yearly progress" on the reading assessment for special education and on the math assessment for special education and low

income. Because of this, and because our school receives federal Title I funding, your child is still eligible to move to a designated school within our district that has not been identified for "School Improvement." AYP transfer forms are available at our school and the district office and must be returned no later than noon Sept. 10, 2010. Transportation will only be provided to the other elementary school for as long as Birchwood remains in AYP improvement status. Your child will attend Shuksan for middle school regardless of any elementary school changes. You may apply for a student transfer to any school through the district's regular transfer process. For details, please call 676-6512.

AYP CONTINUED

The district made AYP in 57 of its 67 required categories. It did not make AYP in elementary for reading and math MSP for low-income and special education students. This is also the third consecutive year that the district overall did not make AYP, which means it is in Step 2 of School Improvement. Sanctions for not making "Adequate Yearly Progress" only affect schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding. For more information about "No Child Left Behind," visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/>



### ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS STATUS

AYP Indicators	Birchwood 2009-2010	Elementary Schools in District 2009-10
Sufficient percentage of elementary students who met state testing standard	<b>In Reading YES</b>	<b>In Reading NO*</b>
	<b>In Math YES</b>	<b>In Math NO*</b>
At least 95% of elementary students participated in state testing	<b>In Reading YES</b>	<b>In Reading YES</b>
	<b>In Math YES</b>	<b>In Math YES</b>
No more than 1% of students' absences were unexcused	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
Met AYP	<b>Overall YES</b>	<b>Overall NO</b>

*\*(Low Income, Special Education)*

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

The annual School Performance Report, required by federal and state law, provides access to information on the educational programs in each school so families and community members can make informed decisions about the schools in their district. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also provides online access to more detailed data required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). District and school report cards can be viewed at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. Select "Bellingham School District" or the name of the school to view further student achievement and demographic information. Printed copies of the reports are available at schools, district offices and the Bellingham Public Library.



Receive phone, e-mail or text notifications by managing your account.

Go to [www.bellinghamschools.org](http://www.bellinghamschools.org)  
See Families, School Messenger

### Birchwood Elementary

3200 Pinewood Ave.

Bellingham, WA 98225

676-6466

<http://birchwood.bellinghamschools.org/>

**Principal:** Dave Adams

**Secretary:** Sandra Asbe

**PTA President 2010-11:**

Robin Baker



## History & Facility Update

Birchwood was built in 1928 and has received additions over time. It is located in a residential neighborhood bordered by Pinewood and Birchwood.



Kèm theo đây là giấy tờ bao gồm các chi tiết quan trọng về nhà trường của con em quý vị. Xin đưa những chi tiết này cho người nào đó có thể giải thích cho quý vị hiểu càng sớm càng tốt. Cảm ơn.

Прилагаемый документ содержит важную информацию из школы ваш его ребенка. Пожалуйста, попросите перевести вам эту информацию как можно скорее. Спасибо.

Adjunto se encuentra un documento que contiene información importante de la escuela de su hijo. Por favor solicite que le traduzcan esta información tan pronto como sea posible. Muchas gracias.

ਨੱਥੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ।  
ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਜਿੰਨੀ ਜਲਦੀ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ ਕਰੋ। ਧੰਨਵਾਦ।



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