

# Birchtree Charter

## Friday Update, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### Cross-Country

**Middle School:** Middle school cross-country runners ended their season on Thursday at Teeland Middle School. Congratulations to all those who ran and attended practices! Birchtree was represented by some extremely talented runners. Middle school runners are still welcome to practice with the elementary runners through September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Elementary:** The one and only elementary meet will be on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 at Colony High School. There will be no practice on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> because there is an opportunity for the students to practice their running before the meet at the **Beach Trails Running Jamboree Thursday, September 22nd!** This is an optional meet, but this will be great practice for the elementary cross country meet on the 28th. Forms are due by Tuesday, Sept. 22nd to Coach Hill. There are races for K-6. Elementary practice will need to be cancelled that day due to the meet. We will need to leave Birchtree by 4 and will need carpool volunteers. Please let us know if you are willing to carpool or your student would like to go, but needs transportation. Look for forms to come home next week. Contact [Guin.Hill@matsuk12.us](mailto:Guin.Hill@matsuk12.us) for rsvp, volunteering, carpooling, and questions.

4:00-4:30 Drive to Beach Trails  
4:30-5:00 Register  
5:00 Course walk through

### After School Clubs Update

**Art Club for grades 6, 7, and 8:** We will focus on different art styles each quarter. Qtr 1- Drawing, Qtr 2 - Art Books, Qtr 3 - Ceramics/School Mural, Qtr 4- Acrylic painting/beautify school dumpster. Classes will begin on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> for the first quarter (not Tuesday as had been previously announced). There will be a \$15.00 fee charged. Payment needs to be turned in when the permission slip is returned. Permission slips will be sent home soon.

Qtr 1 (October/November) Drawing: We will explore a variety of drawing techniques and materials. Using past artists and each other as inspiration students will learn contour, gesture, cross hatch and shading techniques utilizing graphite, charcoal, ink and chalk pastels.

**Art and Crafts Club for grades 1-5:** There will be an arts and crafts club for students in grades 1-5. The club will also meet on Thursdays. More information and permission slips will be sent home next week.

**Chess Club** will begin on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> for students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Please contact Mr. Klauder for more information. Permission slips

### Absence and Tardy Policy

A full day absence is counted if a student arrives at the school after 11:00 AM or leaves before 12:30 PM. A ½ day absence is recorded if a student arrives between 9:00-11:00 AM or leaves between 12:30-2:30 PM. If a student arrives between 8:30-9:00 they would be marked tardy.

## Basketball Information

Try-outs for middle School basketball (grades 7 and 8) will begin on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that we are combining with Academy Charter for basketball. Practices will be at Academy Charter. Tryouts for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls will be on at 3:00-4:30 on the 20<sup>th</sup> in the gym at Academy Charter School. Students need their own transportation to Academy Charter. Middle school students do need to have a current sports physical to play basketball. There will also be a \$60.00 fee for basketball. The coach will be Mr. Merrill. He can be reached at 227-3579 if you have any more questions. Permission slips, sports physicals, and fees will be due by Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Academy Charter does allow 6<sup>th</sup> graders to try-out for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams. If a 6<sup>th</sup> grader makes the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade team they cannot participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade program.

6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball does not begin until November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Elementary basketball (grades 4 and 5) will begin the first or second week in October.

## Overflowing Lost and Found!

Please help! The lost and found is turning into a mountain. If your child has lost something please ask Faye at the front desk and check out the lost and found pile. If you have extra hangers to donate to the school it would help organize the lost and found. Thank you ☺.

## Playground Committee

We are organizing a playground committee to continue with the planning and development of the playscape. The Birchtree Parent's Guild began the initial phase of the playground and we are now ready to move forward with the next phase. Any person interested in being on the committee can attend the meeting on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:15. If you cannot attend the initial meeting, but have ideas about the playscape or would like to be on the committee please email your name and/or ideas to Cathy Busbey at [cathy.busbey@matsuk12.us](mailto:cathy.busbey@matsuk12.us).

## Kim John Payne Lecture

Kim John Payne, author of *Simplicity Parenting*, will be giving a public lecture on using the extraordinary power of less to raise calmer, happier, and more secure kids. Parents will learn how to simplify toys, books, clothes, meals, bedtimes, schedules, and how to filter out the adult world.

He will be speaking on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the UAA Fine Arts Building. Tickets are still available. For tickets go to the Anchorage Waldorf website, [www.waldorfak.org](http://www.waldorfak.org) and click on the Kim John Payne button.

**Recess Concerns:** Some parents have expressed a concern with the wide range of ages out together at recess, particularly the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have taken these concerns seriously and have adjusted the recess schedule. The new schedule will take effect on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Recess is now divided into three sections: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades; and 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grades.