

Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, September 30th, 2011

Fall Faire

The Fall Faire is tomorrow, Saturday, October 1st from 12:00-3:00 at the school. Please come and join other Birchtree families for an afternoon of games, activities, and shows. The attached flyer explains all of the different activities for the Faire. Additionally, Leon Smith, from Planet Playscape will be present to discuss ideas for the playscape.

There will also be several tables with lost and found. Make sure to take a few minutes to look over all of the clothes in lost and found. Clothing not claimed will be donated to a charity on Friday, October 7th.

Virtue of the Week

Inspired by The Virtues Project, our school has elected to celebrate one virtue of character each month beginning this October. This monthly celebration will include a school bulletin board with contributions from students, classroom activities and stories, and overtly recognizing students when they exhibit this virtue.

In addition, each week in the Friday Update we will reference the Virtue of the Month with definitions and ways in which we can practice that month's virtue in our school community. We invite you to join us in celebrating these virtues of character with your children at home as we celebrate them with your children here at Birchtree.

Thank you!

After School Clubs Update

Birchtree Songbirds Choir: Permission slips for choir were sent home today, Friday, September 30, 2011. Choir is open to students in grades 4-8. There is a \$30.00 fee to join choir. Choir will be instructed by Mrs. Nicole Reynolds. There is a limit of 22 students for the first session. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

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. 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 October 7th.

Art Club for grades 3-5: 15 students from each grade level (3-5) will have an opportunity to participate. The first session will be from October 13th – November 3rd for 5th graders. The 5th graders will be making paper mache fish. The club will cost \$5.00 for materials. Permission slips will be sent home on October 7th.

Girl Scouts: The Mat-Su Girl Scout troop coordinator will be setting up a Birchtree informational parent night. This will take place in October. The date is to be determined.

Chess Club: Originally it was stated that the chess club was for students in grades 6-8. Chess club is open to students in grades 5-8.

Cards for Sale

The Birchtree 7th grade students are selling cards. They will be available at the front office on Monday, October 3rd.

What are the cards? They are a high quality, hand printed, blank cards. The cards can be used for greetings, birthdays, or as a warm thank-you. The cards were created by the 7th graders so you will not find them anywhere else! The best part is they can be yours for \$4.00 each. We have a limited supply so come fast or they will be gone.

Parent Volunteer Survey

We are asking our parents to take a few minutes and fill out a quick survey for the school. The survey addresses volunteer hours. Click on the link below to access the survey:

<http://www.matsuk12.us/btc/Forms/TakeSurvey.asp?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=33LIm94J5p46M>

Elementary Basketball Update

4th and 5th grade basketball will start on Tuesday, October 4th at Academy Charter from 5:30-7:00. Permission slips will be sent home on Monday. There is a \$5.00 fee and a \$20.00 uniform deposit. Please turn in permission slip and fee to the coach at Academy Charter.

Kim John-Payne

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. He will be speaking on Friday, September 30th 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 and click on the Kim John Payne button.

Playground Committee

Leon Smith from Planet Playscape will be working with Birchtree as we move forward with the next phase of the playscape. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4th from 3:30-6:30. This meeting will be a brainstorming session for actually planning the playscape. Food will be provided and

Leon has been talking with our students, teachers, and will be talking with parents at the Fall Faire to solicit input about the playscape.

Library Update

The development of Birchtree's library is picking up steam!

Birchtree welcomes and appreciates book donations. Please remember that gifts and donations must meet the same established selection criteria applied to new purchases. Birchtree will include materials into the library collection that are:

- Accurate and current
- Relevant to Birchtree's curriculum and objectives
- Appropriate for recommended levels
- Free of bias and stereotype
- Readable and appealing
- Physically durable and in good condition

Picture Day

Picture day is Thursday, October 6th. More information about the packages will be sent home on Monday, October 3rd. The pictures will be taken by Lifetouch.