

Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, October 14th, 2011

Virtue of the Month - Respect

Inspired by The Virtues Project, our school has elected to celebrate one virtue of character each month beginning this October. In each class, teachers will discuss this virtue with their students and may complete activities related to the virtue. In the Friday Update, we will let you know of the month's virtue, and provide you with a definition and examples. Please reinforce this virtue at home in ways that compliment your family's routines.

This month's virtue is **Respect**. Respect is an attitude of caring about people and treating them well. We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. When we are respectful, we treat others as we would like to be treated. Respect includes following the rules of our family and our school which makes life more peaceful and orderly. Respect is knowing that everyone, including you, deserves to be treated well.

Parent Volunteer Survey

The Parents' Guild is considering how best to connect the many talents of our parents with the many opportunities and needs of our school. Please take a few minutes to complete the volunteer survey at the following link:

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

Wow! – We got the grant!

The Birchtree Parents' Guild was recently awarded the U.S. Department of Education Charter School Grant which supports new charter schools during their first 3 years. We will receive \$360,000 over the next two years, much of which will support the costs for our teaching staff to obtain Waldorf Teacher Certificates through Rudolph Steiner College in Sacramento, California.

A huge thank you to the following individuals who spent countless hours in July and August writing our grant application: Cathy Lee, Jennifer Budde, Heather Lee, Bob Griffiths, Greg Stuckey. The Birchtree staff is incredibly grateful for your hard work on our behalf!

Cards for Sale

As a culmination of their recent Economics Block, the Birchtree 7th grade students are selling beautiful, hand-made cards at the front office. They are a high quality, hand printed, blank cards that 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. There is a limited supply so act fast 😊

Parents Conferences on Monday & Tuesday, October 24 & 25.

There is no school for students on these days. Conference appointments will be communicated to parents by classroom teachers. See you then 😊

Library Update

The development of Birchtree's library is picking up steam! Thank you to all who have helped to get the library project underway! The walls have been painted and the bookshelves will be arranged next week. It is looking great!

The hardware, software, and book processing materials have been ordered and we are anxiously awaiting their arrival. We are still working with a library vendor to develop a list of books to purchase for the library. Thank you again to all our volunteers in the library!

Health Alert

There are reported cases of Hand-Foot-Mouth disease in the Valley. This is a highly contagious virus. Some of the symptoms are: low grade fever, small painful ulcers inside the mouth, but not on the gums, also a rash of small red blisters on the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet. If you notice any of these symptoms, please keep your child home until the fever subsides and the child is comfortable enough to return to school.

Health Screenings

On another health note, we will continue the hearing and vision screenings required by Alaska statute for public school students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, and 7. Since we didn't conduct these last year, we are screening all students this year with the support of a school nurse in our District. Please let Mrs. Busbey or Dr. McCauley know if you have any concerns.

Basketball Update

4th and 5th grade basketball started on Monday, October 10th. The girls will practice on Monday & Wednesday, and the boys will practice on Tuesday & Thursday. All practices will be from 3:30 -5:00 at the AT & T center and parents need to transport their child to the center. Thank you to Birchtree parents Mr. Vig and Mr. Embler for coaching these young athletes!

Late Arrivals & Attendance

If your children arrive late to school, please walk them into the school and sign them in on the "Student Sign-In" log. We want to be sure that a child who arrives late is doing so with parent knowledge and your walking your children in is our best assurance of this. Also, please know that per District policy, students who arrive after 9 a.m., are considered absent for a half day.

3rd Grade Wish List

The third graders are starting a math block next week learning about measurement. We are looking for an hour glass and a sun dial to either borrow or have donated. We would also gladly accept any donations of scales, tape measures and yard sticks. Any items loaned should be labeled and sent to either Ms. Hill or Ms. Levesque. Thank you in advance for your help with this "Wish List".