

Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, October 28, 2011

Waldorf Education Article in the New York Times

In this past Sunday's New York Times, an article highlighted Waldorf Schools in Silicon Valley and the informed choices being made by parents who eschew technology-driven instruction for that emphasizing problem solving and creativity. Be sure to look at the photos. You'll see some familiar images. The article can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/23/technology/at-waldorf-school-in-silicon-valley-technology-can-wait.html>

BPG Auction Update

There will be an auction planning meeting on Tuesday, November 8th at 8:30 AM. Parents are needed to help plan and organize the event. If you cannot make the meeting, there are still a variety of ways to participate. Interested parents should contact Ruthann Baker at 746-4888 or drbaker@gci.net.

Vielen Dank!

Birchtree would like to recognize the following people who have helped out this past week:

Ruthann Baker, Kathy Griffiths, and Jo Terwillinger for providing lunch for the staff on Monday!

Danny France for helping to build the storage sheds!

Mrs. Flowerdew for providing brownies and cornbread for the staff last Wednesday!

Richalyn Smith and Arienne Smith for their work on the library!

APC and BPG Meetings

The next APC board meeting will on Thursday, November 17th at 3:15 at the school. The next BPG board meeting will be on Thursday, November 17th at 5:30 at the school. All parents are welcome to attend either meeting or both meeting

Recycling and Volunteering

Are you passionate about recycling? Then we have a great job for you! The staff at Birchtree wants to instill in our students the importance of recycling and caring for our planet. The volunteer(s), if more than one parent is interested, would visit each classroom and give a short lesson on proper recycling practices. Part of this lesson would cover how to sort and recycle the items at school.

The parent volunteer would also help us keep our recycling area looking clean and orderly. This would be especially beneficial for the person who picks up our recycling every week.

If you are interested, then please contact Sharon McEntee at school.

Girl Scout Information

All Birchtree girls interested in joining Girl Scouts should have a parent email their name, grade, teacher's name and parent contact information to Diana JobinVig@upnorthmountainrunner@yahoo.com

Also, if any parent is interested in being trained to be a Girl Scout Leader, then please indicate it on the form. The Mat-Su Girl Scout Coordinator will be contacting me soon with possible dates for an evening informational meeting. She is currently out of state and will be returning by November 1st.

Bus Transportation

The busses are dropping-off and picking-up our students. The pick-up locations are Wasilla Target (at 7:20 AM) and the old Carr's parking lot (at 8:10-8:15 AM). Students are being dropped off at Wasilla Target (at 3:30-3:35 PM) and AT&T center (at 3:45 PM). If you are interested in having your son/daughter ride the bus, then contact the school.

Volunteer Hours are important!

Did you know that all volunteer time is important? From the mom who walks with the kindergarten class, to the dad working on projects at home, to the parents serving on our boards, each and every volunteer hour is important and should be recorded in the office. Why?

- volunteers make our school run smoothly
- when applying for grants, our volunteer hours speak volumes about the dedication of our families to the school
- when we believe in our school and philosophy, it encourages others to believe in us, too

So please stop by the office and record your hours 😊

Picture Re-take Day

It is time to smile again! 😊

Picture re-take day will be on Wednesday, November 9th at the school.

If parents would like to order pictures online, then parents can login at mylifetouch.com. The ID for Birchtree is AK211492Y1.

Pastries for Parents

Next Friday, November 4th the BPG will be offering Pastries for Parents right after drop-off. During the November 4th event, Ruthann Baker will be discussing the auction fundraiser. This fundraiser will happen later this year, and help is needed.

Lego Club

The response for the Lego club was overwhelming! We are looking at the possibility of running several groups. We do have additional parental support. The club is for students in grades 1-3. The club will meet from 3:00-4:00. Additional information will be sent home prior to Monday, November 7th.

Grant Writing Committee Members are needed

The next grant writing committee meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, November 1st. The meeting will take place at Birchtree. The committee will be looking at the specifics for the Mat-Su Health Foundation grant that is due in early January, as well as discussing other grant opportunities.

If you are interested in being on the grant writing committee please contact the school.