

# Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, December 9, 2011

## Advent Spiral

Palmer Lifeways is hosting a Community Advent (or winter) Spiral on Friday December 16 at the River Park in Palmer at 4:30. This is a great outdoor holiday event for families with children k to grade 3 or anyone who likes snow, candles & Christmas songs.

This is open to everyone. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Lifeways at 746-0077.

## Virtue of the Month – Forgiveness

Please share and discuss the following affirmation with your child: I am forgiving of others and myself. I am willing to give and receive amends. I learn from my mistakes. I have the power to keep changing for the better.

Also, there is an excellent website for parents that address issues that affect pre-teens and teens. The website is [www.empoweringparents.com](http://www.empoweringparents.com).

## Upcoming Important Dates

- **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**: Middle school social from 3:30-5:30. The social is only for students in grades 6, 7, and 8 who attend Birchtree.
- **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**: Holiday Sing-a-long at the Pioneer home. See attached flyer. The sing-a-long will begin at 6:00 PM and the entire family is welcome to attend.

**Please note that the following dates are different from the rest of the district:**

- **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**: Last day of school for students before holiday break.
- **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**: No school for students.
- **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**: School resumes for Birchtree students.

## Holiday Gift Ideas

As the holidays approach and everyone is thinking about gifts we would invite you to remember the Waldorf philosophy. The following links offer many gifts that compliment the Waldorf inspired philosophy of Birchtree Charter School.

<http://www.mywoodentoys.com.au/>

<http://www.hazelnutkids.com/cgi-bin/category.cgi?category=0> <http://www.forsmallhands.com/>

<http://sarahssilks.com>

<https://www.threesisterstoys.com>

[www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)

<http://www.bellalunatoys.com/>

## Babysitting and Pizza Fundraisers!

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is raising money for their class field trip to Washington, D.C. Tonight (December 9th), the students are offering a babysitting service from 5:00-10:00 PM. Also, the class is selling pizza for lunch on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Pizza for lunch will continue in January on Fridays only. A new order form is attached to the update. Also, a reminder that when students do order pizza for lunch they receive the slice(s) of pizza and a juice box. If your child needs more to eat please send in additional food with them to school.

## Dress Code

Recently, there have been some questions about the school dress code. Mat-Su School Board policy does recognize that students have the right to make individual choices about clothing, but also recognizes that those choices should not be a distraction that would interfere with the educational process. At Birchtree we would ask that clothing choices are appropriate for school (in terms of dress/skirt length and neckline), and to keep in mind the Waldorf philosophy of no media images.

## Lost and Found

The lost and found will be donated to a local charity on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by the office and look through all of the items. Your child's missing gloves, hats, or mittens may be there!

On another note the school does need snowpants for students in grades 1-3. If you have any snowpants that your child has outgrown and would like to donate them to the school, then please bring the snowpants to the front office.

Thank-you ☺

## Girl Scout Meeting

First Birchtree Girl Scout meeting will be Thursday, January 5 from 3:15-4:30 in Mr. Bowen's Room. Any questions or to register contact Stephanie Bowen [bbowensc@yahoo.com](mailto:bbowensc@yahoo.com), 315-2175.

## Sports and Clubs

Birchtree is considering different clubs and sports to offer students the second semester. There have been suggestions for a middle school girl's volleyball team, a chess club for younger students, a cross-country ski club, and a German/international club. Please contact Mrs. Busbey at the school or email her at [cathy.busbey@matusk12.us](mailto:cathy.busbey@matusk12.us) if your son or daughter has an interest in any of these clubs or sports.

## Help Needed ☺

Frau Rogers is asking for a volunteer who can come on a regular basis. The volunteer(s) can talk with Frau Rogers about the days and times of volunteering. Frau Rogers would like to have a person helping in German class starting January 10.

## Picture Re-takes

Picture re-takes are at the school. Parents can stop by the front office and pick them up or they will be sent home with the students on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

There are CD's left of Alani Reynolds's music. To listen to some of Alani's music go to [www.alaniciaire.com](http://www.alaniciaire.com) for more information. The CD's are on sale at the front office for \$10.00.