

Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, January 6, 2012

Welcome Back!

Dear Birchtree Parents:

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful and joyful break. We are excited to have your children filling the halls and classrooms again.

We are looking forward to all the exciting activities and events that second half of the year will bring.

We want to thank you once again for all of your contributions to our school and our community.

Virtue of the Month – Tolerance

People are being tolerant when they are able to accept differences in other people.

For example, you don't expect others to think, look, speak, or act just like you. You are free of prejudice, knowing that all people have feelings, needs, hopes, and dreams. Tolerance is also accepting things you wish were different with patience and flexibility.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Thursday, January 12th: APC Board meeting at 3:30 at the school.
- Thursday, January 12th: Playscape presentation at the APC meeting.
- Monday, January 16th: No school. Observance of Martin Luther King Day.
- Wednesday, February 1st: BPG Board meeting at 3:30 at the school.

Please note that the following date is different from the rest of the district:

- Tuesday, January 17th: Students **do** have school at Birchtree.

School Fees

For parents who decided to pay their school fees in two payments, the second payment is due by the end of January. In addition, any parent who has not paid their fees for this school year is asked to do so at this time. The fee is \$100.00 for school supplies.

Thank-you 😊

Playscape Update

Leon Smith, from Planet Playscape has been designing the playscape based on input from students, parents and staff. He has a tentative plan to present the community 😊.

On Thursday, January 12th during the APC meeting there will be a presentation of the playscape proposal. The presentation will be from 3:30-4:30. The Birchtree community is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be additional opportunities for public input prior to approval of the playscape plan if a person cannot attend this meeting.

Pizza Fundraiser Continues in January

Pizza for lunch will continue in January on Fridays only. A new order form is attached to the update. Also, we would like to remind parents that when students do order pizza for lunch they receive the slice(s) of pizza and a juice box only.

Please keep reading the Friday updates for more 8th grade fundraising events that will be offered during the second semester.

The 8th graders appreciate your support!

Cell Phone Usage

Cell phones are not permitted for student use during the school day. Also, students should not be using their cell phones at the end of the day while waiting for pick-up.

Parents, please remember for safety reasons not to use cell phones (including texting) in the pick-up and drop-off area or traffic line.

Extra-curricular Continues

We have had many different types of extra-curricular activities at Birchtree the first semester. Some of the activities are year long, while other activities ended at the semester.

For second semester, chess club (on Wednesday), karate club (Wednesday), and lego club (Monday), will continue with the same students.

3rd grade art club will meet for the next three Thursdays.

Middle school art club will focus on acrylic painting and will begin next Thursday. Space is limited to 12 students. Permission slips with more information will be sent home soon.

Library Update

We have received the library computer and installed the Integrated Library System software. Our library volunteers have completed their first training in order to start cataloging all of our current materials.

Also, the library bond money is now available to us and we are finalizing our lists of books to purchase. We are looking forward to having a library up and running by the start of next year.

Thank you again to our library volunteers!

School Connectedness Survey

The Mat-Su School District is requesting that students in grades 5 -8, along with certified and non-certified staff complete the School Connectedness Survey.

The survey is anonymous. The students in grades 5-8 will be taking the survey on Friday, February 3rd at Birchtree.

Attached to the update is the survey for parents to review. Also, attached to the update is a letter from the Mat-Su Borough School District, Office of Instruction that explains exactly why the survey is beneficial for the schools in the Mat-Su District.

For Birchtree the survey would help us by allowing us to know the perception of the school by the students.

Parents can opt out their child from taking the survey. In order to opt out please fill out the attached form and email the form to ella.trammell@matsuk12.us or bring the signed form to the front office by Wednesday, January 25th.