

Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, January 13, 2012

Geography Bee

Birchtree would like to recognize the following students for their participation in the Geography Bee: Aubrey Hill, Alex Terry, Colleen Haan, Jada Flowerdew, and Madelyn Leingang.

The Geography bee winner for Birchtree is Alexa Leingang. Alexa, and her sister, Madelyn, were the final two students!

Alexa will now take a written test by National Geographic. The results of the written test will determine if Alexa moves onto the next level of the Geography Bee.

Way to Go Geography Bee Participants!

Online School Fee Payment

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.

Additionally, you can now pay your school supply fee online with a credit card. Go to <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/> and click "Get started today" to create an account. Once you have an account, add your children to the account and you will be able to pay their supply fees. Call Kelly Nelius at 745-1831 if you need any assistance.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Saturday, January 14th: Anchorage Waldorf School event, "Discover Your Child, Discover Yourself." Brochure is attached.
- 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.

Virtue of the Month - Tolerance

Practicing tolerance is when you show respect and appreciation for other people's differences, refrain from judging or teasing someone who is different, and show forgiveness when someone makes a mistake. Practicing tolerance does not mean that you are passive and allow others to hurt you. When that happens you can ask them to stop, and ask others for help if they don't. When you are tolerant, you have the patience and flexibility to accept the things you cannot change with good grace.

Playscape Update

Leon Smith, from Planet Playscape explained the tentative playscape plan at the APC Board meeting on Thursday, January 12th. The draft plan will be displayed at the school next week. Community members will be encouraged to offer their input on the plan. There will also be additional opportunities for public input prior to approval of the playscape plan.

Pizza Fundraiser on Fridays

Pizza for lunch will continue in January on Fridays only. An 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.

Also, please have pizza order forms turned in by Wednesday at 3:00. The pizzas need to be placed by Wednesday in order to receive them in time on Friday.

Thank-you!

Event at Anchorage Waldorf School

For interested parents there will be an event on Saturday, January 14th (tomorrow) at the Anchorage Waldorf School. The event is titled, "Discover Your Child, Discover Yourself." The cost is \$25.00. More information is on the attached flyer or at www.waldorfak.org.



Library Update

We now have a substitute librarian hard at work cataloging our existing materials!

While you are welcome to browse, please don't take or move any of the books at this time. This will help to ensure that the cataloging will go smoothly.

If you are interested in helping to process books to get them ready for the shelves, contact Kelly Nelius at kelly.nelius@matsuk12.us or 745-1831.

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.