

# Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, February 3, 2012

## Gratitude

Birchtree would like to recognize the following parents for their help during the past few weeks:

Mrs. Jirik for setting up the 8<sup>th</sup> grade book fair!

All other 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents who have volunteered their time to help with the book fair!

Colleen Carter, Richalyn Smith, Jack Horner, Angelina Goguen and Bre Hansen for their tireless efforts to organize the library!

## School Fees and online payments

For parents who decided to pay their school fees in two payments, the second payment is due now. Also, 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.

## Valentine's Day Request

*If you child wishes to bring Valentine cards to school for his/her classmates, we request that they be home-made, rather than mass-produced commercial cards. Both the hand-made beauty and personal effort of a home-made card help to reinforce the values of our educational program.*

## Upcoming Important Dates

- **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>:** APC Board meeting at 3:30 in Mr. Klauder's room.
- **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>:** MSBSD Budget presentation for Charter Schools at Birchtree. The presentation begins at 6:30. Please read the attached flyer. There will be babysitting available during the meeting. Also, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be holding a bake sale.
- **Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Lead Parent Valentine's Tea (see info below)
- **Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Middle school social from 3:00-5:00.
- **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>:** Wet-on-wet watercolor how to. (see info below)

**The following dates are different from the rest of the school district: Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>:** No school for students. Professional development days for staff.

## Virtue of the Month - Kindness

Kindness is showing we care, doing some good to make life better for others.

Kindness is showing love and compassion to someone who is sad or needs our help.

Kindness is when we treat ourselves and others gently. We can be kind to ourselves, other people, animals, and to the earth.

## Girl Scout Troop is asking for old cell phones

A community service project for the Girl Scout troop involves collecting used non- working cell phones.

The troop collects the phones and turns them in to AT&T. In return AT & T gives our deployed soldiers free cell minutes per every recycled phone donated.

There will be a collection box in the office for phones.

## Conflict Resolution Guidelines

The Birchtree Family Guide provides the following guidelines for how to seek resolution to concerns or complaints so that our school community is a healthy, responsible environment for all of its members.

### Chain of Communication for Parent Concerns -

Addressing parent concerns is a high priority at Birchtree and all concerns will receive prompt and thoughtful attention. The health and harmony of our school community depends on all parties taking a responsible and constructive approach to raising and resolving concerns. When raising a concern, it is essential to speak directly to the person or people involved. Speaking directly may be difficult but it is the most effective way to resolve a concern. When you go directly to the person involved and let them know of your concern you can work together to find a solution.

**Chain of communication for concerns regarding classroom issues** - Speak directly to your child's teacher and try to find resolution at this level. If you are unable to find resolution after speaking to the teacher, speak to the principal. All approaches to resolving concerns and conflicts including mediation, will be considered, if needed.

**Chain of communication for concerns regarding school operations and policies** - It is best to contact the principal directly.

## Electronic Devices

According to the Birchtree Family Guide:

"Please keep electronic games and personal music devices at home. Cell phones or pagers are permitted on school property for safety purposes, but should be turned off and stored in students' backpacks during the school day."

During the school day if a student is using an electronic device, the student will be asked to give the device to the teacher and a parent will be asked to pick the device up from the office.

If, after the end of the school day, a student needs to call or text their parents or if the parents need to contact their child it would be permitted for the student to use and/or answer their phone for this purpose.

## We are here to serve you!

### Academic Policy Committee

Lori Berrigan	<a href="mailto:berrigan@mtaonline.net">berrigan@mtaonline.net</a>
Cathy Lee	<a href="mailto:cathymccauleylee@yahoo.com">cathymccauleylee@yahoo.com</a>
Cara Horvath	<a href="mailto:carahorvath@gmail.com">carahorvath@gmail.com</a>
Kirsten Gerrish	<a href="mailto:kirstengerrish@gmail.com">kirstengerrish@gmail.com</a>
Pete Houston	<a href="mailto:houstons@mtaonline.net">houstons@mtaonline.net</a>
Dan Klauder	<a href="mailto:dan.klauder@matsuk12.us">dan.klauder@matsuk12.us</a>
Donna Levesque	<a href="mailto:donna.levesque@matsuk12.us">donna.levesque@matsuk12.us</a>
Brooke Loudon	<a href="mailto:brooke.loudon@matsugov.us">brooke.loudon@matsugov.us</a>

### Birchtree Parents Guild

Ruthann Baker	<a href="mailto:drbaker@gci.net">drbaker@gci.net</a>
Jennifer Budde	<a href="mailto:jbuddentp@gmail.com">jbuddentp@gmail.com</a>
Greg Stuckey	<a href="mailto:gregmstuckey@gmail.com">gregmstuckey@gmail.com</a>
Jo Terwilliger	<a href="mailto:iotwig@ak.net">iotwig@ak.net</a>
Lora Mahoney	<a href="mailto:lora.mahoney@matsuk12.us">lora.mahoney@matsuk12.us</a>
Amy Sharrer	<a href="mailto:amy.adams@matsuk12.us">amy.adams@matsuk12.us</a>
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Lori Berrigan	<a href="mailto:berrigan@mtaonline.net">berrigan@mtaonline.net</a>

Please feel free to e-mail us at any time.

## Partnership with our Parents!

### Talk to Tisha

Tisha Jones joined the Birchtree team this week as the Parent Partnership Coordinator. Over the next few months, she hopes to get to know all of our parents. If you would like to get in touch with her, here's how: [Meet with Tish](#) – Wednesday from 1 – 5 or Friday from 8:30 – 1:00

[Call or E-mail Tish](#) - with questions, ideas, or to set up an appointment 745-2895 or [jonestish@hotmail.com](mailto:jonestish@hotmail.com)

[Drop a note in the Thought Box](#) – this will be set up soon at the end of the counter in the office. Tish will read and respond to your questions, concerns, and ideas 😊

### Social Events & Meetings

#### Wet-on-Wet Watercolor How-To

Would you like to learn about a calm, inexpensive, beautiful activity that you can do with your child? **On February 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:45**, Anna Folsom will be teaching parents how to do wet-on-wet watercolor painting with their children. With simple techniques and materials, you can easily incorporate this activity into your life at home. Hope to see you there.

#### Lead Parents' Valentine's Tea

We would like to invite each classes' Lead Parent to a Valentine's Tea on **February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30**. Tisha will be reviewing upcoming events including the May Faire and creative brainstorming and planning will begin.

#### Academic Policy Committee Meeting Q & A

On Monday, February 6, the APC will hold two question and answer sessions at their meeting: one at 3:30 and one at 5:30. We invite you to come for this open time of discussion.

### We Need You!

#### Thank-You Committee

The Parent Guild is forming a Thank-You committee to form ideas and ways to thank the many parents who go above and beyond to help our school. Teacher Amy Sharrer will chair the committee. If you would be willing to serve on this committee, e-mail Tisha.

#### Home-Made Baked Goods

During next week's Budget Open House (see attached flyer), the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have a bake sale as a fund raiser for their trip to D.C. If you would be willing to bake something for this, please e-mail or call Tisha. Baked goods could be brought to the school Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

#### Calling On Our Artists

We would like to set up a Birchtree Story display on the wall near the office. It would include photos of the staff and board members, as well as information about our mission and philosophy. If you would be willing to design or work on this, please e-mail or call Tisha.

### Nutrition Know-How

Our Family Guide requests that children bring a well-balanced lunch focusing on whole and healthful foods, such as whole grains, protein, fruits and vegetables. Each week we will try to provide parents with some ideas or resources to make this just a little bit easier. This week, we noticed the following items on sale at the Fred Meyer's in Palmer:

- Salted or unsalted cashews for \$5.99 a pound instead of \$12.99. In the bulk food section near produce.
- Organic Braeburn or Cameo apples for \$1.78 a pound.
- Fred Meyer Greek Yoghurt 10 for \$10. Twice the protein, 30% less sugar.