

Birchtree Charter

Friday Update, February 10, 2012

Gratitude

Birchtree would like to recognize the following parents:

Loni Jirik, Cathy Griffiths, Angelina Goguen, Michelle Colley, and Lori Flowerdew for assisting with the 8th grade book fair!

Joanna Stokinger for taking-on the role of lead volunteer in Mr. Bowen's class.

Tina Dory for enthusiastically asking to be a part of the Thank You Committee.

Kelly Strawn for chairing the Grant and Parent Social Committee.

Pete Houston for helping with morning traffic and eschewing moose from BCS this morning.

All parents who took part in the Pastries for Parents last week and the APC meeting Monday. We hope you found these beneficial!

School Fees and online payments

School fees are now due. If you are uncertain whether you have a balance, please call Kelly Nelius at 745-1831 for assistance.

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, and you will be able to pay their supply fees. Thank you!

Valentine's Day Request

If your 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. Our thanks!!

Upcoming Important Dates

- **Tuesday, February 14th:** Lead Parent Valentine's Tea at 1:30. (see info below)
- **Wednesday, February 15th:** Middle School Social from 3:00-5:00. (see info below)
- **Tuesday, February 21st:** Wet-on-Wet Watercolor How-To at 3:45. (see info below)
- **Thursday, February 23rd:** German Carnival Parade from 1:45-2:45. (see info below)
- **Thursday, February 23rd:** 6th Grade Family Night from 6:00-7:30. (see info below)
- **Wednesday, February 29th:** BPG Meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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

Virtue of the Month - Kindness

We are practicing kindness when we...

- Give tender attention to those who need help
- Do thoughtful things to give others happiness
- Practice habits that help our environment
- Resist the temptation to be cruel
- Accept people who are different

Girl Scout Troop 424 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 decorated collection box in the front office for the recyclable 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.

We are here to serve you!

Academic Policy Committee

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

Birchtree Parents Guild

Ruthann Baker drbaker@gci.net
Jennifer Budde jbuddentp@gmail.com
Greg Stuckey gregmstuckey@gmail.com
Jo Terwilliger jotwig@ak.net
Lora Mahoney lora.mahoney@matsuk12.us
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Heather Lee hacski@mtaonline.net
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Lori Berrigan berrigan@mtaonline.net

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

Talk to Tisha

Let me begin by thanking the entire Birchtree community for welcoming me back to the school. It is certainly an honor to be a part of this extraordinary staff, and I hope that my efforts will bring further growth to BCS. As I evaluate the needs of our school, in regard to communication and parent satisfaction, it is self-evident that this will be a collective effort. It is my wish that we join our hands, heart, and heads together to foster a thriving educational program in which our children and the community at large are the beneficiaries. I look forward to journeying on this path with you!

Call or E-mail Tish - with questions, ideas, or to set up an appointment 745-2895 or 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☺

Partnership with our Parents!

Social Events & Meetings

6th Grade Family Night

Mr. Bowen's class is sharing in a family potluck on **February 23rd at 6:00**. Each family is asked to bring a food item to share. If your last name starts with B-G, please bring a main dish; H-M, salads or bread; and R-V, drinks. Also, if you would like, bring along a board game to share or trade.

German Carnival Parade

All 1st-8th graders will be celebrating in a parade at the end of the day on **February 23rd at 1:45**. Children are to create a unique costume within their designated theme, and Frau Rogers is asking for parental help from the 21st-23rd during the hours of 10:00-3:00. If you can assist with your time, please contact the front office (745-1831). If you are able to bring baking ingredients, as listed on the sheet sent home this week, please bring those labeled by grade to the front office as well.

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 21st 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.

Middle School Social

Grades 6-8 are having an afternoon social/fundraiser **February 15th from 3:00-5:00**. There will be karayoke, dancing, a game room, root beer floats, baked goods, and more. The entry fee will be \$5.00 per student. If you would like to chaperon or donate baked goods, please contact Tisha or Mrs. Phillips.

Lead Parents' Valentine's Tea

We would like to invite each class's Lead Parent to a Valentine's Tea on **February 14th at 1:30**. Tisha will be reviewing upcoming events including the May Faire, and creative brainstorming and planning will begin. Please e-mail Tisha if you can attend.

We Need You!

Committees in Need:

Thank-You committee: The Parent Guild is forming a Thank-You committee for ideas and ways to thank the many parents who go above and beyond to help. Teacher Amy Sharrer will chair the committee.

Grant Committee: The school is actively pursuing grant applications, and our chair, Kelly Strawn, can use your help. We have attained a Federal Grant this winter for the Waldorf training of our teachers and a Schoolyard Habitat Grant, but there are many others for which we would like to apply.

BCS Social Committee: The BPG would like to have a BCS Social for our community's parents at the Palmer Depot April 7th. Would you like to be a part of the planning?

School Supply Committee: As we approach our next APC Budget meeting in March, we need to have solid numbers for our school supply operational costs. Cara Horvath is the committee chair and could use your help in assessing this need.

If you would like to be a part of any of these committees, please contact Tisha (see above).

Calling On Our Artists

If you would like to create an inspirational wall in the front entry of our school, dedicated to our teachers, board, and community, please e-mail or call Tisha.

Nutrition Know-How

This week, in addition to what was posted last week, we noticed the following items on sale at the Fred Meyer's in Palmer:

- Organic Minneola and Naval Oranges for \$1.99/lb.
- Mom's Best *naturals* Cereals are \$1.69/box; normally \$2.89. No artificial flavors, colors, or preservatives. No hydrogenated oil or high fructose corn syrup
- Nature's Path Organic Snack Bars are \$2.99/box; normally \$4.49.

As a reminder, please send your child(ren) to school with a snack on Pizza Friday. Thank you!