



Birchtree Charter School

Friday Update

Birchtree Charter School; 907-745-1831; www.birchtreecharterschool.org

May 10, 2010

May Faire— This Saturday

Our annual May Faire is this Saturday, May 18, 11– 3. Lots of great entertainment and activities are planned! We look forward to seeing all of you there! \$10 for 20 gems.

We also need help on Friday, May 17 to get everything set up for the Faire. Please contact Olivia Holland or just show up if you can help us prepare for this special day.

Birchtree Hoodies on Sale at the Office

Have you seen the beautiful Birchtree hoodies that the BPG is selling? Stop by the front office and look at the display! They are on sale now for the following prices:

Youth sizes (small-large) - \$35

Youth XL—\$40

Adult sizes (small- XL) - \$40

Show your school spirit and buy one now while they are still available.

I-Parent Access Codes

If you do not have your access code to I-Parent, please contact Faye at the front office as soon as possible. You must have this access code before school closes for the year. It is necessary to be able to register your child for the next school year during the summer.

Pentathalon Help Needed



This coming week, the fifth grade will be participating in the annual Pentathalon with the fifth grades from Winterberry Charter School and Anchorage Waldorf School. This event allows students to participate in five sports that date back to Ancient Greece— javelin, track, discus, archery and wrestling.

Mrs. Jones is asking for volunteers who do not have fifth graders to come along and help with the events. If you can help, please contact Tisha Jones at tisha.jones@matsuk12.us.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ May 11, **Elementary Track Meet**
- ◆ May 15, **Fourth Grade Seward Trip**
- ◆ May 15, 3:45, **APC Meeting**
- ◆ May 16, **Pentathalon**
- ◆ May 17, **Mrs. Sharrer's Class Overnight**
- ◆ May 18, 11 am - 3 pm, **May Faire**
- ◆ May 21, 1:00 p.m., **Eighth Grade Graduation at the Palmer Depot**
- ◆ May 21, 2:00 pm, **Mrs. Tran's Class Play**
- ◆ May 22, **Third Grade Overnight**
- ◆ May 23, **Last Day of School Field Day and Family Picnic**
- ◆ May 24, **Teacher Work Day**

Expressions of

Gratitude

- ◇ From Tisha Jones– Thank you to Tina Leingang and Cory Jones for helping with archery last week! I could not have done it without you!
- ◇ Ms. Albina would like to thank Melissa Robertson and Cathy Lee for their skills-block support in the classroom and Lori Straub for being such an awesome lead-parent volunteer this year. She would also like to thank Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Jones, and Frau Rogers for joyfully expanding and enhancing the first grader's learning and well-being through music, movement, and German. Hearty thanks also go to Autumn Gohn for being such a terrific lunch-duty. Thanks also to Ms. Jill and Mr. Luce! Lastly, she would like to shout out appreciation to

Ms. Bree for the many different ways she supports our class.

- ◇ Kara Lang would like to thank the seventh grade class and Mr. French for transplanting the trees.



Volunteer Opportunities

- ◇ We need a volunteer to install our weather station on the fence. This will help us to monitor temperature and wind conditions over the winter next year.

High School Committee News.

There is a group of parents from Birchtree interested in starting a Waldorf inspired charter high school in the Valley. There are several people already on a committee, but they need someone to chair the committee and guide the process. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Sonia or David Auld at auldsare@gmail.com.



Virtue of the Month

STRENGTH

Strength is the inner power to withstand whatever comes. It is our capacity to endure in the midst of tests. We grow in strength as we tackle life's challenges with courage and determination.

Library Books

As we approach the end of the year, it is very important that all library books are returned to school. The library team will be sending home overdue notices soon. Please, check your child's backpack over the next week for these notices. This week will be the last week for library time for classes.

Yearbooks on Sale!

The preordered yearbooks will be sent home with students on this Friday and there will be a limited number of yearbooks available for purchase starting Monday, May 13th for \$16.00 at the office. If there are any questions contact Misty Davenport.

BPG Corner

The Birchtree Parents Guild meeting held on Wednesday, May 8 was focused on tying up end of school year details. We are excited about the prospect of bringing Waldorf consultants, George and Donna, to Birchtree in the next school year, for parent, board and staff education. This will be funded in part by the grant that has funded our teacher training for the past two years. The goal is to help our staff and families develop ways of successfully communicating

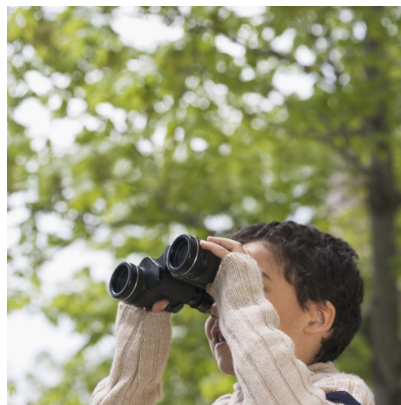
and growing our school. We also explored the idea of hosting a small Summer Arts Camp this summer, in hopes of adding summer camps into our yearly rhythm. Please look for and complete the survey available at the front office and during May Faire on the 18th, as this will help us plan the camps. If you are interested or even passionate about Birchtree Summer Arts Camps, please contact Heather Lee at 232-0660 or

hacski@mtaonline.net so we may involve you in the planning process. Finally, the BPG reviewed a draft of THE BPG-sponsored event timeline for the next school year and began to look at our budget. We plan to complete these two items at the next board meeting in June, date and time TBA. As always, we appreciate your input on ways in which the BPG can support our Birchtree community.

Summer Rhythm

We are at that point in the year where it is time to think about helping our children transition from the rhythm of school to the rhythm of the summer. Our Alaskan summers are so short, we are often tempted to fit as much in as possible while the weather is wonderful. However, children still need the breathing in and breathing out of being very active and then having some down time— or even just time to let their imaginations soar through unstructured play.

The Waldorf blog Rhythm of the Home has some great ideas for summer play that can be found at the following link: <http://rhythmofthehome.com/summer-2012/play-summer-2012/>



Dandelion, Yellow as Gold by Noreen Bath

O Dandelion, yellow as gold,
what do you do all day?

*“I just wait here in the tall,
green grass, till the children
come to play.”*

O Dandelion, yellow as gold,
what do you do all night?

*“I wait and wait, till the cool
dew falls, and my hair grows
long and white.”*

And what do you do when your
hair grows white, and the chil-
dren come to play?

*“They take me in their dimpled
hands, and blow my hair
away!”*

