

# Birchtree Friday Update

Birchtree Charter School 7107 E. Palmer Wasilla Hwy. Palmer, Ak 99645



Nov 27, 2013

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## Fairy wands and much, much more-

Support our young Birchtree crafters at the Colony Holiday Bazaar at Colony High School November 30th from 10am – 5:00pm. Peruse the local craft exhibits and be sure to follow the handprint signs to our very own Birchtree booth where our young artists will be selling their handmade creations. It's not too late to pitch in– If you would like to volunteer to work at the craft booth please call or sign up in the front office for the time slot that works best for you!



## Fall Auction– A Great Success!

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade would like to thank everyone in our amazing community for all of their support at the auction. Thanks to all of the parents, teachers, students, and business owners for making the event such a success. With your help we raised over \$10,000 dollars toward our end of the year trip to Washington D.C. and other historical sites. We also want to give a special thanks to Stephanie Larousse, Joanna Stokinger, and Tiffany Kent for all of their efforts in organizing the event. We appreciate all that we have been given.



## Yearbook News-

Yearbooks are for sale online. Please see attached flyer! The price is \$15, but there is a 5% discount if you order online before November 30th. This price includes 2 custom pages. To purchase and customize your yearbook please go to: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate) and use Birchtree passcode: 1013468155713247

## High School initiative

Attention Birchtree families, if you are interested in helping create a Waldorf inspired high school please join our High School Initiative! Contact Noel Crowley at [noelbell@gmail.com](mailto:noelbell@gmail.com) with any questions or comments.

## Volunteers Needed

*Mr. P's wish list*

Mr. Probasco requests donations of wooden pallets for the outside storage shed. If you or anyone you know has pallets that you would like to donate please contact Mr. Probasco at 745-1831.

*Frau Rogers*

Frau Rogers is in need of a lead parent to organize the upcoming German baking projects and other fun creative endeavors.

*Expressions of Gratitude*

Mrs. Folsom would like to thank Angela Gregorio, Laura Sampson, Kris Owen and Inna Lye for helping us make apple tarts this week. Also thank you Shannon Minder for organizing our class basket for the auction. Lastly, I extend deep gratitude for all my class parents and the support they continue to offer.

Mrs. Andrist would like to extend a big thanks to Mary Groth and Jason Collins for the many volunteer hours they put into coaching boys and girls basketball.

# November/ December

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

| <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|           |  | Mrs. Tran's 4th grade Thanksgiving Feast<br>12:30- 3:00<br><br>Battle of the Books |  | NO SCHOOL  | NO SCHOOL  | Colony Holiday Bazaar at Colony High School<br>10-5:00   |
| <b>1</b>  | Gardening group meets after school, contact Jill Farris with any questions.<br>cjillfarris@aol.com | Battle Of the Books  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br><br>Chess Club<br><br>2nd grade parent night in Ms. Albina's room 6-7pm. | <b>6</b><br><br>1st grade family night, Homemade Holiday 3:30-5:30pm   | <b>7</b><br><br>Girls Basketball Jamboree @ Teeland Middle School  |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br><br>6th grade Art Club meets after school to 4:15 | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b><br><br>Winter Concert for 4th through 8th grades at the Wasilla Bible Church. Students should arrive at 6:00 dressed neatly. | <b>14</b><br><br>Christmas Nativity Concert for 4th graders @ the LDS chapel in palmer, arrive at 4:00pm, concert begins @ |
| <b>15</b> | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br><br><b>No School</b><br><br>work day for teachers   | <b>21</b><br><br><b>Winter Break</b><br><br>School starts back on Jan. 6th.  |
| <b>22</b> | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>  |

## News From BPG

Hello My Fellow Birchtree Families,

The monthly Parents' Guild meeting was held last Wednesday. I volunteered to give you all a short summary of some of the things that were discussed.

- **Summer Camp:** Preparations are underway for arts camp this summer. There will be another meeting before the end of the semester and we will then have a good idea of what will be offered and who will be teaching. If you are interested in teaching at Summer Camp or would like to help, contact Heather Lee or Mrs. Folsom.

- **Helping Hands:** BPG discussed creating a food program designed to assist families in a bind.

- **Square1 Art:** Did you like the square 1 art opportunity? Please tell Gena at the front desk what you thought of it.

- **Annual Elections:** As you know, the annual elections took place early this month. The current Parent Guild board members include: Heather Lee, Chair; Laura Sampson, Vice Chair; Nancy Black, Secretary; Jo Terwilliger, Treasurer; Anna Folsom, APC Liaison; Amy Sharer, teacher member; Kristi Shea, member; Paula Werner, member; Jennifer Budde, member.

You are all very welcome to any of the Parents' Guild meetings. Many things are discussed and we have fun. Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month. They will show up on the school calendar. The agenda is posted on the Birchtree website at least the day before. You can also always ask Gena or a board member.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend.

Warmly,

Jennifer Budde

## Notes from the APC

Hello BTC parents and teachers.

The Academic Policy Council board is working hard to improve communication and create a healthy inclusive culture here at school. That's why we decided to make sure everyone knew about APC meetings and agenda items so you could provide input on issues that you care about. This addition to the Friday update will be included after each APC meeting and is hopefully one of several ways you will hear from us and feel connected to the decisions we need to make on behalf of the entire school.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual APC Elections! In our meeting on Nov. 18th we were so excited to welcome several board members back to the table and introduce a brand new one to the team. With the addition of two other new board members who came on by application last month, we are now almost full with 9 total volunteers working to represent the best interests of Birchtree.

Your current board members are: Jamey Duhamel (Chair), Lori Berrigan (Vice-Chair), Abigail Sheldon (Secretary), Rob Catlett (Treasurer), Deb McKimmey, Kirsten Gerrish, Brandt Bowen, Anna Folsom, and Dave Ralph. We said goodbye to board member Sarah Stewart who served her term and we thank her very much for her wonderful service on the APC.

On Nov 18th we mostly discussed the upcoming principal evaluation and decided to have one completed by the Spring of 2014. We also wrapped up our evaluation of the revised attendance policy and at the advice of the Pedagogical Council, decided to leave it alone. Principal Busbey was happy to inform us that the new policy has decreased absenteeism by a large number! Thanks to all the parents who are adjusting their routines to make sure their students get more consistency in the classroom. Finally, Principal Busbey informed us of the proposed calendar that includes early release every Friday. Please keep in mind this calendar change is still in the discussion stage. That being said- we agree that carving out time for teachers to mentor each other on a regular basis is key to creating a healthy, supportive, and educational environment here at school. We hope that all parents will also support the change and recognize the benefits it will ultimately bring to your students. Principal Busbey is well aware this may create some scheduling conflicts for working parents and is looking into ways to make it work for everyone. Hang in there and we appreciate your patience!

Our APC meetings are always scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month from 6pm -8pm. Our next meeting is December 4th and we will be discussing the BPG suggested fundraising policy as well as getting updates from the Pedagogical Council, BPG, and the school expansion committee. We will also be introducing a standing agenda item about improving the culture in the school so please let us know if you have ideas we can explore! The full agenda for the next meeting and notes from the last meeting will be sent out to you via email by Monday Dec. 2nd. Please read them both to get all the details we didn't mention here. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Principal Busbey at Birchtree or Jamey at [jameycasa@hotmail.com](mailto:jameycasa@hotmail.com).

We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Jamey, APC Chair

**Please stop by our next meeting, December 4th from 6-8pm to voice your thoughts.**

## Attention 4th– 8th Grade Parents-

### Winter Concert Rehearsal Information

Our 4th through 8th graders will be performing in the school wide orchestra concert on Friday, December 13th at 6:30 pm Students will arrive at Wasilla Bible Church (1651 W. Nicola Ave.) at 6:00pm dressed neatly.



Because this is a large concert we would like to provide our students an opportunity to rehearse at the church on December 13th. Mrs. Fry and Mrs. Eddings have recently sent home a field trip packet that needs to be signed and delivered by **December 2nd** in order for you student to participate in this rehearsal time.

Students will be bussed to Wasilla Bible Church on Friday, December 13th at 11:45 for the “field trip rehearsal”. Parents will need to pick up their student (s) at 1:15pm at Wasilla Bible Church.

Please contact Mrs. Kristin Fry at [Kristen.Fry@matsuk12.us](mailto:Kristen.Fry@matsuk12.us) or 745-1831 if you have any questions.

## Recess News

### Warm, Water Proof Gloves

Now that winter has officially arrived its time to think about warm clothes. We have noticed not all gloves are created equal. The thin cotton and fleece gloves do not provide adequate insulation from the elements. The cotton and fleece gloves quickly become saturated with water from the snow and become useless for protection. Please send a pair of thick gloves to school for outside use. Outdoor recess is far more enjoyable with warm dry hands!



### Virtue of the week

“My life is an influence on every life mine touches. Whether I realize it or not, I am responsible and accountable for that influence.” Ron Baron

## Federal Impact Aid

### Survey

The Mat-Su School District is pursuing Federal impact aid Revenue. The process for securing Federal Impact Aid requires those families who are employed as military personnel or civilians working on military installations to complete a Federal Impact Survey. MSBSD has identified qualifying families through the enrollment process and has sent out the survey to be returned by **December 6th**. The information supplied in the survey will remain in strict confidence. Thank you for your participation.

## Green Thumbs

### Garden group

Attention green thumbs! You are invited to join our gardening group on Monday, **December 2nd** after school to create and assign tasks for the installation and preparation of several small raised beds frames. Recently moved to the gardens sunny new location, the beds will need some TLC to thrive. If you have any questions please contact Jill Farris at Birchtree (745-1831).

## Holiday news

### Special Santa

Birchtree will be participating in the Special Santa Program this holiday season. This is a wonderful opportunity to share with families who may need an extra hand this season. A Christmas tree will be placed at the top of the ramp ( by Ms. Levesque’s and Mrs. Tran’s classrooms). On the tree will be ornaments (paper). Any adult staff or community member can take one of the ornaments and purchase the item(s) on the paper. Please bring the gift back to the front office at school.

