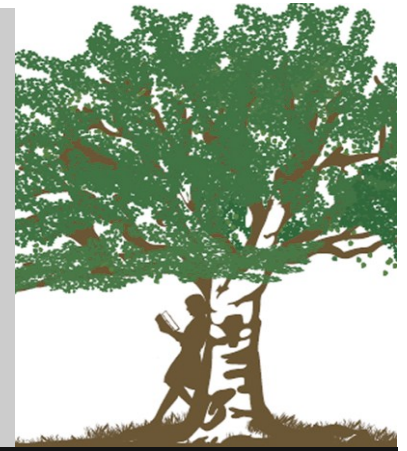


Birchtree Friday Update

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



Nov 22, 2013

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A Note From Our Principal

Dear Parents,

The school year is moving at a quick pace! The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas break is always busy with concerts, class plays, and parent meetings. We are trying to keep the after school activities to a minimal amount in order for families to have time together. The staff and I are very thankful for the support of the families during this school year.

I would like to address a possible calendar change that would begin in January. During the past two months the school has had two Waldorf consultants visit the school. Both have strongly recommended that the school return to a weekly early release day like last year. George Hoffecker and Prairie Adams explained that meeting once per week is the norm in both private Waldorf schools and public Waldorf charter schools. During the weekly meetings staff will be able to deepen their group understanding of the needs of the children, share successful practices, and study practical and philosophical aspects of Waldorf education.

Birchtree staff would like to change the calendar for the second semester beginning in January. The new calendar would have a weekly Friday early release time of 1:30. The school is working to offer parents some after school choices. This would be only for parents who would have difficulty picking up their child every Friday.

The State of Alaska requires that students are in school for at least 900 instructional hours annually. Birchtree, with the early release change, exceeds the requirement. The students at Birchtree attend 957 instructional hours annually.

The APC will be considering this request at the December 4th meeting. Please plan on attending if you have concerns or questions about the early release day.

Warmly,

Cathy Busbey, Principal

Visit Us On Facebook!

Volunteers Needed

BPG would appreciate assistance with the upcoming **Colony Holiday Bazaar**, Nov. 30th from 10– 5pm. We are looking for volunteers to transport stock, help set up our table, and sell items. Call or sign up in the front office for the time slot that works best for you!



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.

November/ December

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

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Girls basketball game at the AT&T center with Fingerlake APC Social time starts @ 5:30, meeting starts at 6:00pm	Battle of the Books	BPG meeting @ 3:45 with a Summer Art Camp meeting to follow @ 5:15	Chess Club	Fall Auction at the Eagle Hotel in Palmer, 7-10pm	Girls basketball jamboree @ Teeland, see attached schedule for times.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Mrs. Tran's 4th grade Thanksgiving Feast 12:30- 3:00 Battle of the Books		NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	Colony Holiday Bazaar at Colony High School 10-5:00
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Gardening group meets after school, contact Jill Farris with any questions. cjillfarris@aol.com	Battle Of the Books		Chess Club 2nd grade parent night in Ms. Albina's room 6-7pm.	Pastries for parents. 1st grade family night, Home-made Holiday 3:30-5:30pm	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
					Winter Concert for 4th through 8th grades at the Wasilla Bible Church. Students should arrive at 6:00 dressed neatly.	Christmas Nativity Concert for 4th graders @ the LDS chapel in palmer, arrive at 4:00pm, concert begins @ 4:30pm.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					No School-work day for teachers	Winter Break School starts back on Jan. 6th.

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.

Colony Holiday Bazaar

Birchtree Parent Guild will be hosting a table at the Colony Holiday Bazaar, **November 30th** from **10:00am to 5:00pm**. Students and parent volunteers will be selling beautiful handmade items. We encourage you to come explore the many different locally crafted exhibits and support our very own "Birchtree grown" artists.

If you are interested in lending a helping hand with transporting materials to Colony, creating hand-crafted items to sell, or manning the booth, please call the front desk (745-1831) or contact Ms. Sharrer at Amy.Sharrer@matsuk12.us

Concert News

WINTER CONCERT

This Christmas season the fourth through eighth graders will perform in the school wide orchestra concert on **Friday, Dec. 13th** at 6:30 pm. Children will need to arrive at the Wasilla Bible Church (1651 W. Nicola Ave.) **at 6:00 pm**, dressed neatly.

This will be a wonderful chance for our string players to demonstrate their developing skills.

Please contact Mrs. Kristin Fry at Kristen.Fry@matsuk12.us or 745-1831 if you have any questions.

A Note from Mrs. Jones

As our cold weather persists I have noticed that the thin cotton stretch gloves do not provide adequate insulation from the elements. The cotton 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

Expressions of Gratitude

Thank you to all the parents who have been helping in class! Thanks for making copies...Mrs. Robertson & Mrs. Twitchell. Thanks for the copies and laminating, Mr. Talley. Thank you for grading tests, Mrs. Brookman. Thank you for cleaning our room...Mr. & Mrs. Houser. Thank you Mrs. Robertson also for helping with the salmon dissection! As always, Mrs. Unger, thanks for doing our class laundry. Our classroom runs more smoothly with the help of parents! Mr. Hetrick and Mrs. Twitchell thanks for organizing the 8th grade basket auction. Thank you parents for contributing to the 8th grade basket auction!! Mrs. Tran

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).

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 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! Please contact Noel Croweley at noelbell@gmail.com with any questions or comments.

◇ Kindergarten would like to thank Christy Marvin for donating some much need knives! And thank you to Heather Asslein for providing us with glasses for all our students!

◇ Thank you to our Birchtree community for coming together and sending food , cards , flowers and well wishes to Ms. Faye ! She takes such good care of us it's nice to return the favor!