

# Birchtree Friday Update

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



March 21, 2014

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## School Assembly- Monday, March 25th

Birchtree grades 1-8 will have a school assembly at AT&T Sports Center this Monday, March 24th from 8:30– 10:30 AM. Please be sure to drop your child (ren) off at the AT&T Center between 8:10– 8:15. Teachers will greet students and escort them to their seats. Please take a moment to study the attached flyer for information regarding drop off and parking at the AT&T.

This assembly, in keeping with Waldorf tradition, provides an opportunity for classes to perform for one another fostering camaraderie between grades and a sense of community within the school. Students feel proud demonstrating what they have accomplished and gain insight into what they can expect in the future by watching upper grades perform.

## Spring pictures -

Smile! It's time for spring pictures! Erin Cross, of Cross Light Photography, will take class and individual pictures Tuesday March 25th, Wednesday, March 26th, and Thursday, March 27th. Your child(ren) will be arriving home with picture envelopes this Friday. Each envelope will be labeled with the date and time of your child's picture session. Please take a moment to look it over carefully to insure your student (s) is looking his or her best on the correct day. Erin is an outstanding photographer. We are so thankful to have her back. Her photos are gorgeous and she has a wonderful knack of capturing the spirit of each child in her portraits.



Volunteers are needed to: 1. Organize students in the class photos 2. Comb hair, tuck in shirts, and generally make the kids look spiffy 3. Change the photo backdrops between portraits 4. Escort students from their classrooms to the German room for their photo session.

If you would like to assist with the photography sessions please give the front office a call at 745-1831.

## Virtue of the Week-

### Excellence:

Excellence is doing your best, giving careful attention to every task and every relationship. Excellence is effort guided by a noble purpose. It is a desire for perfection. The perfection of a seed comes in the fruit. When you practice excellence, you bring your gifts to fruition. Excellence is the key to success.

## Survey coming soon-

The APC has approved a school-wide evaluation. Part of this evaluation will include a parent satisfaction survey. This is your opportunity to let the APC and administration know how you feel about Birchtree Charter School and share your joys and thoughts. Early next week, please look for an email with a link to the online survey. If you would like a paper copy, please request one from the front desk. Each family of BTC is welcome to fill out one survey.

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR...  
Birchtree Charter School's

# Spring Portraits!

TUES. MARCH 25-THURS. MARCH 27

PORTRAIT OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- \*Packages beginning at only \$10
- \*Credit card payment available on site
- \*Online Galleries/sales available
- \*10% Family Discount for multiple children (packages)
- \*Classroom Photos
- \*Choice of 3 different backgrounds:  
watercolor | chalkboard | hazelnut wood



MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!

{Retakes will be held April 15, 2014}

## Expressions of Gratitude-

Mrs. Folsom would like to thank Melinda Herrera for cleaning our classrooms, and Laura Sampson for all her work on the Rummage sale.

## Call for Volunteers-

Birchtree's Summer Arts Camp is looking for a few good coordinators. You will be working alongside a fantastic group of individuals dedicated to creating a fun, artistic, and creative summer camp experience for our students.

The volunteers who accept this position will be provided with a template to work from with very specific and doable job duties (You will not be expected to re-invent the wheel). This is a terrific opportunity to meet talented parents and students .



Ms. Sharrer is looking for assistance with jump-rope activities for the month of April. She would also like a few parent volunteers to assist her in organizing May Faire activities. Please contact her at [amy.sharrer@matsuk12.us](mailto:amy.sharrer@matsuk12.us) if you are interested.



## A special thanks to some special visitors-

Kim Snyder-Vine and Bente Goldstien first visited our community in its infancy, before our building was even completed. This week, they returned to an older, wiser Birchtree. Initially, Kim and Bente helped with developing our faculty's speech work, classroom, and with enlivening the Waldorf curriculum. At that time only one of the 14 class teachers was Waldorf trained.

Many of them spent their afternoons learning to play choro flutes, to draw forms, and to knit. Three and one half years later, all 13 remaining teachers have not only received Waldorf certification, but are also working on Master's degrees in Waldorf education.

This past week, Kim has visited each classroom, teaching speech and recitation with expertise that few in the Waldorf movement possess.

Bente, originally from Norway, is a long time Waldorf teacher who runs a farm program for children in Wisconsin. Her expertise encompasses the study of children's drawing, the proprioceptive needs of children, and the benefits of providing students with purposeful work.

Both Kim and Bente have added greatly to the growth of our school, and we wholeheartedly thank them.

## Menard Sports Center-

Birchtree students will not be able to participate in the after school activities at the Menard Sports Center Friday, March 28th. The Menard Center is hosting a 40th community anniversary on March 28th; therefore they will not be able to provide our students with any play space. In addition the Menard Center will be unavailable for our students on Friday, April 25th due to another large event. Thank you for your continued flexibility.

## 2nd Grade News-

Ms. Albina's 2nd graders delighted parents and staff alike with their frog and mouse wedding event. The recitations, songs and dances performed by the 2nd grade class were enchanting.



## Yearbook News-

Thank you for those who shared your photos! We still need more- we have no photos of the following classes:  
1st Horvath, 2nd Danz, 3rd Sharrer, 4th Folsom, 4th Tran, 5th Hill, 6th Klauder, 8th Bowen, Music, All Clubs, Music, Festivals and Events

We have a few photos, but need a few more from: 2nd Albina, 3rd Johndro, 7th Phillips, Movement & German  
Please submit by Wednesday, March 26!  
Thank you, Yearbook Editors

Once again we will use TreeRing to make our yearbooks. They are a web-based organization that plants a tree for every yearbook ordered by our school. Yearbooks are for sale online and include 2 customized pages. Please go to: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate) and use Birchtree passcode: 1013468155713247, The deadline to purchase and customize your yearbook is **April 8**.



## Athletics-Track-

Attention 4th and 5th grade students, are you interested in joining track? Track forms will be available Tuesday, March 25th.

## German Corner

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Riddle:

**Who Will be the first to solve Frau Rogers tricky riddle? Give it a try, you might be the winner!**



Es lebt im Dschungel  
Es springt von Baum zu Baum  
Hat einen langen Schwanz  
Man hoert es kaum

Braunes fell  
Frist gern Bananen  
Schreit grell  
Klettert an Lianen

Was ist es?  
(What Animal is it?)

### 5th grade sentence of the week:

Alaska ist kalt und windig. Alaska ist toll, wundervoll und schoen. Alaska ist ein Bundesstaat.

## Chess Club-

Attention 4th through 8th grade chess club students interested in participating in the district chess tournament- Be sure to attend chess club next week, Thursday, March 27th from 3:30- 4:30 PM in Mr. Klauder's room. Not only will club members receive information regarding the tournament but they will also gain important practice time.



# Birchtree Summer Arts Camp

June 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2014



**A week of hands on creativity!**

## Class Themes

Cake making, woodworking, handwork knitting and needle felting, painting watercolor and acrylic, and an adventure camp complete with sword fighting.

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT BIRCHTREE CHARTER SCHOOL.

Check our website for more information:

[www.birchtreecharterschool.org](http://www.birchtreecharterschool.org)

Registration starts April 1st

# March/ April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9	10 Spring Break No Archery practice	11 Spring Break	12 Spring Break No Archery practice	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break BPG Rummage sale	15 BPG Rummage Sale
9	10 Spring Break No Archery practice	11 Spring Break	12 Spring Break No Archery practice	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break BPG Rummage sale	15 BPG Rummage Sale
23	24	25 Spring Pictures Kindergarten prospective parent meeting 1:30-2:30 1-8 grade prospective parent meeting 6-7 pm	26 Spring Pictures	27 Spring Pictures	28 Pastries for prospective parents and school tour 8:30-10 am After school Menard activities canceled	29
30	30	1 SBA Testing	2 SBA Testing APC Meeting 6-8 PM	3 SBA Testing	4 SBA Testing Intent to return forms due. Pastries for Parents 8:30-10 am	5
6	7	8	9 Intent to enroll forms due.	10	11 Picture orders due.	12