

Birchtree Friday Update

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



March 28, 2014

t. 907-745-1831

f. 907-745-

Enrollment Dates -

Our enrollment process for the 2014/2015 school year is underway. The Intent to Return and Intent to Enroll forms are online. Please be aware that all current students who wish to enroll for the next school year must have an **Intent to Return** form completed on our web-site, <http://www.birchtreecharterschool.org/> by Friday, April 4th. If the form is not filled out by April 4th, the place will be part of the lottery drawing for new families.

SBA Testing

Every year, all Alaska public school students (grades 3-8) take the Standards Based Assessment tests. **We will conduct testing next week (April 1-4). Friday, April 4th we will have a full day of school (8:30- 3:30).**

We need all parents to help us during testing week in the following ways:

- ◆ Bring your child to school every day on time. (Attendance is crucial to whether or not our scores are counted.)
- ◆ Make sure your child gets a full night's sleep.
- ◆ Serve a healthy, protein rich breakfast to your child.
- ◆ Thank you for helping us during this important week!



Did you know?

96% of Birchtree Families have donated time and materials to help make our school OUTSTANDING!

Virtue of the Week-

The Practice of Kindness

I have empathy for others.

I notice what people need.

I love to be helpful.

I am thoughtful in little ways.

I practice good habits that help the earth.

I am a good caregiver to myself.

Grades 1 & 2 visit AT&T-

Due to SBA (Standards Based Assessment) our 1st and 2nd graders will plan quiet activities to allow grades 3-8 to focus and perform at their best. On Wednesday, April 2nd, Birchtree's 1st and 2nd graders will be walking over to the AT&T Sports Center to spend a few hours playing in their beautiful facility. There is no cost to this activity. We would love to have parent helpers who are willing to walk to the Sports Center and supervise activities. If you would like to join in the fun please contact your child's teacher.

Expressions of Gratitude-

Thank you Erin Cross for sharing your skill and talent with Birchtree. Your attention to detail is what sets your photography apart from the rest. Your organization made the photo sessions a seamless process. Your artistry is appreciated!

Call for Volunteers-

Summer Arts Camp-

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.

Jump Rope-

Ms. Sharrer is looking for assistance with jump-rope activities for the month of April.

May Faire-

Mrs. Sharrer is looking for a few good coordinators to assist with May Faire activities. This is a great opportunity to express your creativity and help us organize for this most anticipated event! Please contact Mrs. Sharrer at:
amysharre@matsuk12.us

Spring Concert-

Birchtree's Spring Concert for grades 4-8 is scheduled for Monday, April 28th at Wasilla Bible Church. We are in need of parent volunteers to assist with set up and clean up for the concert. Please contact Gena at 745-1831 if you would like to help.

Menard Sports Center-

Due to SBA (Standards Based Assessment) we will have a full day of school on Friday, April 4th; therefor Menard after school activities will be canceled for that day. In addition, the Menard Sports Center will be unavailable for Friday, April 25th. Thank you for your continued flexibility.

Athletics- Track-

Attention 4th and 5th grade students, track starts Thursday, April 10th. Practices will be held on Monday's, Tuesday's, Wednesday's, and Thursday's from 3:20- 4:40 PM. Please keep in mind that all practices are held outdoors. We may have a few rainy, cold days ahead, it is recommended that all participants dress appropriately for the weather. The season concludes with on May 17th with a district wide track meet. Pick up your form in the front office today!

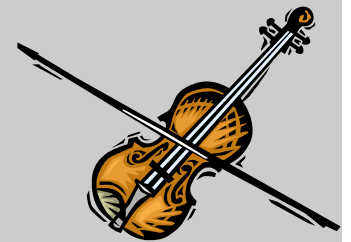


5th Grade Honor Choir-

Mrs. Fry, along with a talented group of 5th graders, will be participating in the honor choir at Palmer High School Tuesday, April 15 from 9:15-3:00.

Spring Concert- Monday, April 28th-

Save the date- Birchtree's Spring Concert is scheduled for Monday, April 28th at the Wasilla Bible Church from 6:30- 8:00 PM. Music teachers Mrs. Fry and Mrs. Eddings request performers arrive at 6:00 PM to prepare for the concert.



May Faire: Saturday, May 3rd-

Mark Your Calendars!

Events, Food, Crafting, Activities, Talent Share, May Pole Dance, and more for the whole family to enjoy!

Contact Ms. Sharrer at:
amy.sharrer@matsuk12.us if you are interested in assisting with this great event.



Birchtree Summer Arts Camp

June 9th-13th, 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

Registration starts April 1st

Yearbook News-

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 and use Birchtree passcode: 1013468155713247, The deadline to purchase and customize your yearbook is **April 8**.



Lost and Found-

The lost and found is bursting at the seams! Take a moment to sift through the mountains of mittens, snow pants, hats, shoes, and socks to find your missing treasures. Take inventory of your winter gear this week to see what arrived home that perhaps belongs to someone else and what is missing.



APC News-

Hello Birchtree families! The APC has been working hard to keep our school moving in the right direction. After attending a recent retreat, we feel re-focused on making sound decisions that come from good principles that create a better educational experience for students.

We recently discussed our intention to streamline meetings and realized that removing all opportunities for parents to directly address the board was against the inclusive culture we strive to promote. Instead, our "persons to be heard" section will remain on every agenda. Please feel free to come to a board meeting and let us know what you think!

Also, we finalized a parent survey that will allow us to gather very important information about how the school is doing and how we can make it better. The surveys are now available electronically or you can get a paper copy from Gena at the front desk. Please use this opportunity to give us valuable insights to enhance or celebrate our school. We will share some of that info with all of you in a future update.

We also approved part of the budget that will allow for a few more staff including a full time assistant principal. Our school is growing rapidly and so are our staffing needs. The second part of the budget will be reviewed at the next meeting as will next year's school calendar. We will be discussing the most effective and productive day for early release as is practiced by most Waldorf schools so if you are interested in learning more about why we make the choices we do, please come hear what we have to say.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 2nd from 6pm to 8pm in Ms. Folsom's room.

Thank you,

Jamey Duhamel
 APC Chair
 982-6828
jameycasa@hotmail.co

German Corner

3rd 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

Frisst gern Bananen

Schreit grell

Klettert an Lianen

Was ist es?

(What Animal is it?)



"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well" (Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games).

For our 5th grade class, this notion will be displayed at our 4th annual Pentathlon held at the Sherrod Soccer Fields in Palmer Thursday, May 8th. The 5th grade class has been learning the art of wrestling, discus, javelin, running, and long jump throughout the entire school year. Moreover, the class has been learning that victory is not necessarily found in strength and speed, but in grace and sportsmanship.

Having been a collegiate athlete and involved with organized sports my whole life, winning has always been the objective. But with maturity, knowledge and life experience, it has become evident that the lasting benefits of an athletic career are not the victories or trophies, but the lasting friendships and the personal strengthening of will and character. It is this perspective that I hope to pass on to the students.

It is also my hope that you *will* want to take part in this one day event with us and share in the joy of this beautiful competition. We are in need of volunteers for the following different areas:

- Lead parents and an enclave of other volunteers for preparation and/or organization of authentic Greek foods for the feast after the event (recipes available at school),
- Pentathlon judges and officials that do not have a child participating in the event (requires a training commitment for one afternoon after school),
- A photographer,
- Several persons who can act as a nurse at the First Aid station,
- Individuals willing to lend a tent canopy for the day,
- Persons for set-up (May 7th after school and early May 8th) and tear-down (immediately after the event),
- 4 individuals to work the registration table,
- And 2 adults to take-on the roles of Zeus and Hera.

If you can help, please contact Gena Chastain at Birchtree (745-1831).

Sincere thanks,

Mrs. Jones

March/ April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24 School Assembly Grades 1-8 8:30- 10:30 AM	25 Spring Pictures Kindergarten prospective parent meeting 1:30-2:30 1-8 grade prospec-	26 Spring Pictures	27 Spring Pictures	28 Pastries for prospective parents and school tour 8:30-10 am	29
30	30	1 SBA Testing	2 SBA Testing Grades 1 & 2 visit the AT&T Center 9:30- 11:30 APC Meeting 6-8 PM	3 SBA Testing	4 SBA Testing Full school day (8:30- 3:15) Intent to return forms due. Pastries for Parents 8:30- 10 am	5
6	7	8	9 Intent to enroll forms due.	10 2nd grade Imaginarium field trip 9 am -3 pm	11 Picture orders due.	12
13	14	15 Spring Picture re-takes 5th grade honor choir at Palmer High School	16 BPG meeting 3:45 Birchtree Lottery 7 PM 3rd grade paper violin project 5:30-7 PM	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Mrs. Albina's parent night 5:30-7:30 PM	25 Menard activities canceled	26