

Birchtree Friday Update

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



April 18, 2014

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Nonviolent Communication Seminar-

Birchtree Charter School in conjunction with Heritage Birth Center is proud to present: Nonviolent communication. **This three day seminar, April 25, 26, and 27, will meet at the Palmer Senior Center from 9am—5pm .** The cost of the seminar is \$35 for one day and \$75 for all three days. All community members are welcome! District employees, attending the event for one and a half days will earn 1 credit (be sure to sign up on "my learning plan")

Agenda:

Friday, April 25th Instructor Sarah Peyton will discuss communication in healthcare and communicating with people experiencing trauma. Saturday, April 26th discussion will revolve around communicating in conflict and difficult situations (adult conversations). Sunday, April 27th the seminar will cover communicating with children and learning to hear the heart of our children's souls in their words.

Spring Concert— Monday, April 28th-

Our Spring Concert for grades 4-8 is just around the corner! It will be held on April 28th at the Wasilla Bible Church (1651 Nicola Ave. Wasilla) at 6:30 PM . Please encourage your child (ren) to practice their music! Arrive neatly dressed for the concert at 6:00 Pm, allowing for enough time to make any last minute preparations.

Mrs. Fry and Mrs. Eddings have scheduled an afternoon rehearsal the day of the concert, Monday, April 28th. Students will arrive at Wasilla Bible church at 1:00 PM and return to Birchtree at 2:45 PM. Please be on the lookout for a permission slip allowing your chil(ren) to participate in the rehearsal.



Virtue of the Week-

Excellence:

Excellence is giving our very best to any task we do and any relationship we have. Within us are many possibilities. Excellence hones our talents and turns them into gifts for the world. Excellence requires us to practice humility by learning from mistakes. Each time we do something, we seek to improve it, to keep raising the bar. Excellence is effort guided by a noble purpose. It is ongoing mastery. It flows when we are doing what we love. The perfection of a seed is the fruit that grows from it. Excellence in our lives brings our gifts to fruition.

Spring Pictures-

Erin Cross of Cross Light Photography has been working tirelessly uploading the class and individual pictures on her private, secure web site. She has graciously extended the order due date. You can now order your student(s) pictures until April 25th. The link to Cross Light Photography is available on our web site, birchtreechar-terschool.org. (spring picture).

Expressions of Gratitude-

* Mrs. Jones would like to thank Vanessa Campbell for teaching the 7th and 8th grade Hip Hop over a week's time. We had fun learning to Krump. Thank you, Vanessa. Thanks to Jennifer Milavec and Farrah Krueger for their help with the archery tournament two weeks ago. I couldn't have done it without you, and thank you to all the parents for allowing their children to be a part of the first Birchtree Archery Club

* Thank you all 4th grade Parents for coming to our parent night and sharing snacks and finger foods. Thank you parents who regularly come and help each week: Mrs. Houser for laundry, Mrs. Sikes for vacuuming, and Mrs. Davidson for making copies and helping with anything that needs to be done. Thank you also to Mrs. Fry for organizing the Honor Choir; the children had a great experience!

* Thank you so much to Jo Terwilliger, Kara Lang, Sansa Brown, Mary Mueller, Jennifer Milavec and Leslie Bush for their help in the tunic sewing party! Many hands make light work, and we will be working on finishing the tunics every day after school for anyone who wishes to attend. Thank you to all the 5th grade parents for attending the pentathlon meeting. Thank you to Jennifer Milavec and "Peperoni" Levi Minder for your feedback on our play practice.

* A wonderful thank you to Mrs. Fry for organizing the violin making event for the Third graders. Also the two parents, Michael Davidson and Stan Davis, for cutting out the cardboard pieces.

Ms. Sharrer would like to thank all the helpful parents at our school. There happen to be so many she cannot list them all. She notices each day rooms getting cleaned, hallways being organized, and events being planned. The staff could not do their job to the best of their ability without each and every one of you. Thank you volunteers we are very grateful!

Next Years Early Release part 3-

Aside from the impact on schedules, attendance, and rhythm with an early release day, there are much wider implications for Birchtree's moving this day from Friday to Thursday next year. When our school was founded, we instantly became members of a larger community of Waldorf Charter Schools. In the United States, the Association of Public Waldorf Schools acts as the umbrella organization for schools such as ours. Scores of schools worldwide serve their communities in similar ways as Birchtree does for the Mat-Su Borough. All of these schools have similar missions to ours, which is to "nurture and promote the development of healthy, responsible, and creative human beings through the holistic approach of Waldorf Education."

To accomplish this mission, Waldorf education's founder, Rudolf Steiner, prescribed that class teachers devote their mornings to teaching main lesson. Afternoons were to be spent honing the next day's lesson, following some time for reflection. One afternoon each week was set aside for a meeting of teachers, during which they not only shared their work with one another, but also conducted research to test ideas. Every Waldorf school I have visited within the United States, approximately 20, holds its faculty meeting on Thursday afternoon. Among other things, this allows for collaboration between schools. With a Thursday early release, Birchtree will share the same meeting rhythm as Alaska's other Waldorf schools, as well as much of the nation's. Next week, I will explain why.

-Donna Levesque

8th grade graduation-

Our 8th grade class of 2014 will bid adieu to Birchtree, Friday, May 16th at 6:00 PM. We are proud of our 8th graders; they have grown into fine young ladies and gentlemen ready to take on the challenges of high school and the world.

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats

Summer Art Camp-

Birchtree Parent Guild is proud to offer students the opportunity to have fun with friends in a creative educational environment this summer. Visit birchtreecharterschool.org for the link to find out more about the classes available and register your student for this great summer camp. <http://budgetauthenticity.org/summercamp/>

May Faire-

May Faire, Saturday, May 3rd is a wonderful time for students and parents alike to welcome the ever increasing daylight of spring and awaken our senses to the beauty around us. Birchtree students welcome spring with our annual May Faire. This most anticipated event includes such long standing traditions as the May Pole dance and the trading of "gems".

Ms. Sharrer has dedicated many hours to the preparation and organization of this fun event. Volunteers are needed to assist in the set up and cleanup for the faire. In addition, Ms. Sharrer is accepting craft vendor applications . If you are a crafter or artist interested in participating in the faire please pick up an application in the front office. Contact Mrs. Sharrer at: amysharre@matsuk12.us if you have any questions.



Box Tops



Please help us organize our **box tops**! This is a great activity you can do from home to help earn some extra money for our school. Contact Karie Raynovic at mkraynovic@gmail.com for more information.

Pentathlon-

Birchtree 5th graders , will participate in our 4th annual **Pentathlon** held at the Sherrod Soccer Fields in Palmer, Thursday, May 8th. Typically hosted by Anchorage Waldorf schools, this year, Birchtree has the great honor of hosting this fantastic event. It is 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)

April/May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13	14 May Faire parent meeting in Ms. Sharrer's room	15 Spring Picture re-takes 5th grade honor choir at P.H.S. 7PM Track : 3:20-4:40	16 BPG meeting 3:45 Lottery 7 PM 3rd grade paper violin project 5:30-7 PM	17 School Assembly At AT&T 8:30-10:3AM 4th grade parent night 5-6:30 PM 5th grade parent	18 Early release Friday (last opportunity to participate in Mernard after school activities)	19 District Chess tournament
20	21	22 8th grade parent night @ 6:30	23 Mrs. Albina's parent night 5:30-7:30 PM	24 Mrs. Hill's 5th grade class play at Colony High School Theater	25 Picture orders due. Menard activities canceled Early release Friday Nonviolent communication seminar 9-5	26 Nonviolent communication seminar 9-5 at Palmer senior Center
27 N. C. seminar 9-5	28 Spring concert 6:30-8 PM	29	30	1 Ms. Albina's 2nd grade field trip to North Bowl	2 Pastries for Parents 8:30AM Sleepover with Ms. Sharrer	3 May Faire 11-4
4 8th grade D.C trip	5	6	7 APC Meeting 6-8 PM	8 5th grade pentathlon TBA	9 Professional development (No School)	10 District track meet TBA
11	12	13 Mrs. Tran's 4th grade class play rehearsal	14 BPG Meeting at 3:45 PM Mrs. Tran's 4th grade play 1:30-3:00	15 7th grade class play 6-8 PM	16 8th grade graduation at the Palmer Depot 6:00 PM	17