

Birchtree Friday Update



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

May 9, 2014

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Drama-

You may have noticed the many dramatic productions each grade has so diligently produced during these final weeks of school. I thought it fitting to take a moment to address why drama is such an important aspect of Waldorf education. The following is an article written by the Washington Waldorf School that illustrates the role drama holds in our curriculum.

Drama has always been an important component of Waldorf education. From early childhood on, the children and students are asked to use their creativity to become what they can imagine themselves to be. Creative play makes use of drama from the earliest years, children becoming kings, queens, animals or more to complete their play. The lower school class plays continue to deepen the social community of the class through working together on the play. Every class in the lower school works on a play during the course of the year. The plays are presented to their parents and other classes. The length and complexity of the class play grows with each year, culminating in the large production of the eighth grade play.

Virtue of the Week-

Trustworthiness:

Trustworthiness is being worthy of the trust others place in us. When we give our word, we stand by it. Others can rely on us with confidence. We demonstrate by our actions that we keep our promises and commitments. There is constancy in the way we love and loyalty in the bonds of our friendships. Trustworthiness is the foundation of our business agreements and our personal covenants. When we are worthy of trust, we attract abundance. We create lasting success.

Happy Mother's day-

Mrs. Tran's 4th grade class created beautiful self portraits for their mom's in honor of mother's day.



Mrs. Basner's and Mrs. Horvath's 1st graders performed "The Root Children" to a packed house on Wednesday, May 7th. We applaud their talent and memorization skills!



Expressions of Gratitude-

- ◆ Mrs. Basner's 1st grade class thanks Chloe Snyder, Carrie Hronkin, and Christy Marvin for making costumes for our class play. Thanks, also, to Joy Matthias for helping the students make props for the play. Many words of appreciation to our lead parent volunteer, Becca Moore, for all that she has done for us through the whole school year, including organizing and manning our May Faire booth. Thank you to all of the parents who have helped us in so many ways-- we greatly appreciate you!
- ◆ Mrs. Horvath would like to thank the parents of her class for coming to see the class play. Additional thanks to Kristen Matthews and Nick Enzweiler for sewing the capes and prop bags. What a fabulous time we had preparing for and performing the play!
- ◆ Ms. Sharrer would like to thank all the families that came to the sleepover. It was a joyous time of playing, dancing, and spending time around the campfire. I would like to give a special thank you to Aina and Duane Werner, Amiee and Joe Beech, Michael Davidson, Bill Kays, Patrick and Sara Stewart, Harry and Cathy McSpaden, Stan Davis, Nick Enzweiler, Deedra Hollowell, and Jill Farris for the extra help organizing the sleepover and Market.
- ◆ Ms. Albina would like to thank Mrs. Lee for her valuable reading group support all year, Mrs. Straub and Mrs. Bowles for help on painting day, Rose Blakely for handwork help, and Mrs. Ralph, Mrs. Larousse, and Mr. Bowles for supporting our class fieldtrips. A HUGE thank you to Miss Autumn Gohn for her love and support to our entire class. Lastly, thank you to all 2nd grade parents for raising such delightful children. Happy Mother's Day!

8th Grade Music Party, May 13th-

When: May 13, 2014 - 3:15-7pm

Where: Music Room/Outside

What: Dessert Potluck and Music Share

8th Grade is invited to spend an afternoon with Mrs. Eddings as a token of appreciation for all your hard work this year. She will provide food and drinks as well as musical activities and games. Please bring a dessert item to share. If you have a favorite board game or music cd, please bring that too. If you have a song you would like to perform for a mini talent share, we would love to hear it! Just a reminder to please keep it school and age appropriate! Students are free to come late or leave early, but there will be festivities until 7pm. Mrs. Eddings is looking forward to a final celebration with this year's graduating class. See you then!

4th Grade Play, May 14th

Mrs. Tran's fourth grade class will perform a Norse Myth play titled, "Thor and the Giant Family" on Wednesday, May 14th from 1:30- 3:00 PM. This play is a humorous and dramatic play of how Thor escapes a plot to slay him.

7th Grade Play, May 15th-

Ms. Phillips seventh grade class will perform on Thursday, May 15th from 6-8:00 PM at the Palmer High School theater.

8th grade graduation, May 16th-

Our 8th grade class of 2014 will bid adieu to Birchtree, Friday, May 16th 6:00 PM at the Palmer Depot. It is an honor to share this important moment in your life. Your graduation from Birchtree Charter school is certainly an achievement, but there's a lot more to come: goals, challenges, and opportunities! Anything is possible when you just believe in yourself.

Track Meet, May 17th-

The 2014 Mat Su Elementary Track meet will be held Saturday, May 17th at Colony High School. Athletes are required to arrive between 8- 8:45 AM. The races will begin at 9:00 AM. Please ensure your athlete arrives prepared with food, water and appropriate clothing (all events will be held outside). Concessions will be available through Colony High School.

Volunteer opportunity:

This year, Birchtree will oversee the shuttle relay. We are requesting three volunteers to assist with his event. If you are interested in helping please call coach Andrist at 707-3014 or the front office at 745-1831. As always we truly appreciate your volunteerism; we simply could not do this without you!

Sportsmanship expectations:

Each athlete is an ambassador of Birchtree Charter School and expected to be an exemplary role model.

Birchtree Potluck Picnic, May 20th 11:30- 1:30-

Each year, Birchtree teachers, students and parents gather for a picnic on the last day of school. It is a time to visit with friends and share the joy of giving.

We respectfully request parents provide the following to share:

1st Grade- Fruit and Vegetables

2nd Grade- Green Salad

3rd Grade- Pasta and Potato Salad

4th Grade- Rolls/ bread

5th Grade- Dessert

6th Grade- Chips/ Snacks

7th Grade- Water

8th Grade- Enjoy the day, you've earned it!

Clean-up : 1:30- 2:30



Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Animal Care-

Opportunity to teach responsibility:

Animal care is a great way to teach or enrich your student's virtues of responsibility and compassion. Mrs. Hill has some animals that are need of care this summer, please contact her if you are interested.

-Low maintenance care:

-tarantula: comes with crickets and habitat

-Four gold fish: with bowl and food

-Medium care level: two guinea pigs that need a home for the summer. This could be a permanent home or a temporary home. They come with a cage and food.

Matanuska River Historical/Cultural Tour -

Mrs. Tran's and Mrs. Folsom's 4th grade classes will embark on a fabulous natural history adventure, Thursday, May 15th, 8:30 - 3:00. **Two to Three chaperones; are needed to accompany them on their fun filed trip.** *The itinerary includes stops at Moose Creek, Yah Ne Dah Ah School, Sutton Library & Alpine Park, and Mat-Su River Park (we will have Angie Wade and Patricia Wade as historical and geological guides and Athabaskan storyteller); at the Park we hope to be hiking down to the Mat-Su River on one of their trails*

Expressions of Gratitude-

- ◆ Thank you so much Lora Sampson, Kelley Shoemake and Shannon Minder for all your work on organizing the May Faire, setting up, and organizing volunteers. It was a wonderful day full of sunshine.



Battle of the Books-

Do you have a child interested in participating in Battle of the Books next year? Get a head start on your Battle Books reading this Summer. The third- fourth, fifth-sixth and middle school reading list is available in the front office.

Summer Art Camp- June 9th - 13th

Birchtree Parent Guild is proud to offer students the opportunity to have fun with friends in a creative educational environment this summer. The duration of each class is one week and costs \$125.00 per class. A few of the classes available include: cake making, woodworking, felting, and adventure camp. Visit birchtreecharterschool.org and click on the Summer Camp link to find out more about the classes available and register your student for this great summer camp. <http://budgetauthenticity.org/summercamp/>



Thank You BPG -

The May Faire was delightful. Thank you for organizing this fun community event in which to gather and welcome a lovey Spring!



BIRCHTREE SUMMMER ARTS CAMP

JUNE 9TH-13TH, 2014



A WEEK OF HANDS ON CREATIVITY!

**CAKE MAKING, WOODWORK, KNITTING,
FELTING, WATERCOLOR AND ACRYLIC
PAINTING, ADVENTURE CAMP, CHOIR, RE-
CORDER ENSEMBLE, AND GUITAR**

Follow the link on our schools homepage to register:

www.birchtreecharterschool.org

Or come register at the school's front office,
1707 East Palmer Wasilla Highway, Palmer, AK

May/ June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 8th grade D.C trip May 4-9	5	6 T.R.I. for a New Direction, high school meeting @ 8:30 in the library Teacher Appreciation Day	7 Both 1st grades will perform their plays @ 2 PM APC Meeting 6-8 PM	8 5th grade pentathlon at the Sherrod soccer field behind Academy Charter. time: TBA	9 Professional development (No School)	10
11	12	13 TRI for a New Di- rection, high school meeting @ 8:30 in the library Mrs. Tran's 4th grade class play rehearsal 1:30- 3:00 PM 8th grade music party in the music room, 3:15-7 PM	14 BPG Meeting at 3:45 PM Mrs. Tran's 4th grade play 1:30-3:00 6th grade play at Colony High 6-8 PM	15 7th grade class play at Palmer High 6-8 PM 4th grade Mat Su River Historical/ Cul- tural Tour 8:30- 3:00	16 8th grade graduation at the Palmer Depot 6:00 PM	17 District track meet at Colony High 9:00 AM
18 Mrs. Hill's class trip to Homer	19 4th grade field trip to the Anchorage zoo 8:30- 3:00	20 Last day of school! School Potluck Picnic 11:30- 1:30 Mrs. Hill's class returns	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7