

Birchtree Friday Update

Birchtree Charter School 7107 E. Palmer Wasilla Hwy. Palmer, AK



April 3, 2015

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Dear Parents, April 3, 2015

Happy Spring! As we head into the last six weeks of school I want to thank Birchtree parents for their dedication and hard work to make their child's education successful at Birchtree. We really could not do it without you!

There are some upcoming events that parents need to be aware of for the last few weeks. Intent to return forms are due today! If you have not turned in your form please call the office and speak with Miss Faye. We do not want anyone to lose their spot because of not turning in the form or speaking with the office. The lottery will be on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 PM at the school. Current students automatically have their spot for next year unless we have not heard from the parents about returning. So please contact the school if you are planning on returning next year☺.

The spring concert will be on Tuesday, April 21st. We have changed the location to the First Baptist Church in Palmer. The concert is for students in grades 4-8, but any family/community member is welcome to attend.

Our 8th graders leave for their Washington, DC trip on Friday, May 1st. The class has worked relentlessly on fundraising for the trip. We wish them a safe, educational, and fun trip! Also, in May is the May Faire sponsored by the BPG. The event is on Saturday, May 2nd. Lastly, the 7th graders will be holding a rummage sale on Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th at the school.

I would also like to encourage people to attend a BPG or an APC meeting. Both of these groups do so much for the school. The BPG organizes school-wide activities and are always willing to listen to other ideas. The next BPG meeting is Wednesday, April 15th. The APC sets policy for the school and develops the strategic plan for the school. The next APC meeting is Wednesday, May 13th.

As always my door and Mr. Bowen's door is open to anyone who needs to speak with us concerning any aspect of the school or your child's education.

Enjoy the warm weather and the sunny days.

Warmly,

Mrs. Busbey, Principal

Save This Date

April 8th: Is the deadline for ordering your student a 2014-15 Birchtree Charter school year book. Each book is \$15.00.

April 10th: Intent to Enroll form due.

April 11th: Middle School Chess tournament See Mr. Klauder for more information.

April 18th: Elementary Chess Tournament. See Mr. Klauder for more information

April 22nd: The lottery will be held at 7 PM

April 30th: 2nd grade plays and potluck dinner 5:00 PM

May 1-8: 8th Grade trip to Washington DC.

May 2nd May Faire 11 AM - 3 PM

May 7th: 5th Grade Pentathlon @ Goose Lake in Anchorage Bus provided only to Goose Lake departs at 9 AM

May 8th and 9th: BPG rummage sale.

May 9th: Elementary Track Meet Palmer High School

May 15th: 8th Grade promotion at Mat-Su Senior Center 6 PM

May 18th: Last day of school for students. Enjoy your summer break!!

Reminders

Second Semester Supply FEES are due, if you have not paid please do so. Thanks

Intent to Return forms were due April 3rd. If you failed to fill that out please contact the Birchtree Front office.

The **Intent to Enroll** form is now available. Please note there have been changes for new families with prospective students. You may locate that form at www.birchtreecharterschool.org

Yearbook staff is wrapping up the yearbook early next week. This is your final chance to submit some of your class photos to us. **Deadline to submit photos is Sunday by noon.** Please either email photos to me directly at dana.phillips@matsuk12.us or go on to treering.com website and upload photos there. Thank you staff. We appreciate all of your help! **Final online yearbook sales are Wednesday April 8th.**

BPG and the 7th grade class are looking for good quality donated items for this year's rummage sale! The sale will be held May 8th and 9th at the school. Donations will be accepted each Thursday from 1-2 pm. If you have any questions please contact Mr. David Auld at 315-3079.

4th Grade Needs

Mrs. Johndro's class is in need of donations from our Birchtree Community. Mrs. Johndro's 4th grade class is helping children from Make a Wish Foundation.

We are in need of travel items such as: Crayons, books, paper, sunscreen, chapstick, snacks for travel, games, and anything that a child would enjoy while traveling.

There is a purple tub in front of Mrs. Johndro's classroom door, you or your child may drop items in at any time. All items will be collected on April 13th. If you have any questions please contact Heather Wagoner @ 841-6966 or wagonerheather@hotmail.com

News from the APC:

Hello Birchtree Community! My name is Rob Catlett and I am the APC chair. I plan on giving monthly updates on the APC meetings in the Friday update. Our last APC meeting was on Wednesday, April 1st. Normally, the APC meetings will be the second Wednesday of every month. This month due to both administrators attending a conference on the 8th of April the meeting was moved to the 1st.

At the April meeting the APC approved the FY 16 calendar. The calendar is attached to the Friday update. The APC also approved to increase school supply fees from \$100.00 to \$125.00. The supplies the school purchases for each child are specialized for a Waldorf school. The cost of the supplies has increased and that has resulted in the increased fee. The fee can be paid in two payments or at one time at the start of school.

For non-action items the board discussed building options. There are three options that the board is considering for the next meeting. The options are as follows:

Option 1: Continuing our lease for 5 years. We deal with our current building as is and the congested parking lot. This would keep our rent as low as possible and allow us to look for a USDA loan that would allow us to purchase our current site or a different property.

Option 2: Continuing our lease for 5 year with an increase of about \$3000-5000 monthly. The parking lot would be improved to better accommodate our community.

Option 3: Negotiate for a longer (15+ years) with an increase of \$5000-7000 monthly. We would get a gym with classrooms and a paved drive/parking lot and improvements to our current building (sound proofing).

Lastly, the board is considering appointing members to the APC instead of electing members. At the board retreat this option was suggested by the Foraker Group. There are positives and negatives for appointing members as opposed to electing members. The board is considering all information before making a decision.

Both the building and the board member elections will be action items for the next meeting. All of our meetings are posted twenty-four in advance. The agendas are also sent before the meeting so parents can review the agenda. Board packets and agendas are also available on Birchtree's website.

If you are able please feel free to attend the next meeting on May 13th. Parents and community members are always welcome!

Warmly,

Rob Catlett, APC Chair

1st Grade Art Work



Art work courtesy of:
Emma Western
Henry Clark and
Gracie Wagner



Elementary Track 2015

Track starts Thursday April 9, 2015. All fourth and fifth grade students are welcome to join. Practices will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:20 PM to 4:35 PM. On Thursdays practice will be from 1:30 to 2:35. We ask that all participants be picked up promptly. The season concludes with an all-district meet at Palmer High School May 9, 2015.

All practices will be held outdoors, there will be some cold and rainy days ahead, we recommend that all participants be prepared for the weather.

A fee of \$10.00 is REQUIRED of all Elementary School Extra Curricular Participants. (Please fill out Form)

Important Note : Students participating in extra curricular sports are not covered by school district insurance. Forms are available in the office if you desire to purchase coverage for your child (ren).

I'm look forward to a great season!

Coach Andrist

Gratitude's and Expressions.

Thank you to all of the 2nd grade parents who helped out with our Easter egg hunts! A special big thanks to Carrie Hronkin and Nancy Burnett for organizing this hunt for our 2nd graders!

A big thank you to Ms. Levesque for helping the younger hand-work classes make special felted little chicks!

Mrs. Feldman would like to thank David and Felix Robertson for their wonderful craftsmanship in building the bench and traveler for our new jump rope winders. They are amazing!

Twisted color Jump Ropes

Twisted Colors Jump Ropes are back! Sixth Grade will be making jump ropes for sale for the rest of the year. Order forms will be in the office and, once filled out, can be either brought to Mrs. Feldman or put into her mail-box. Please note that, due to a need for efficiency, we will not have colors requested on the form. However, if you wish to come up to Mrs. Feldman's room and see what colors are available, you may do so.



Sprockidz Summer Mountain Bike Program For Kids

What age group is Sprockidz open to?

Ages 8-18; coaches are always needed too!

What is the cost?

The cost may fluctuate each year but here are some numbers from last year:

2014: \$75 for first child; \$25 for each additional child

The cost of Sprockidz will always include the VMBaH membership fee. Registered kids must be a member of Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers. If your family is already of member of VMBaH, contact us upon sign up and receive a lower rate.

The registration fee also includes a Sprockidz t-shirt, as well as all the fun they'll have this summer!



More information is available on our website at <http://sprockidz.weebly.com/>

Birchtree Summer Arts Camp 2015 is to be held [June 8-13th](#). I am honored to be passed the torch as Coordinator and continue what began last year. Our amazing volunteers and instructors served 34 campers in 2014 and raised a net profit of \$1600.31 for the BPG. It is my hope to expand camp attendance this year, hire quality instructors and artists, involve more of our community, and inspire people to create! This year, adult classes and more child age groups are to be included.

As an art instructor practicing in Alaska since 2009, I know that it's important to have a clear vision when it comes to promoting your services and feeling invested and recognized when others want you to be a part of what they are doing. Your involvement is priceless. By donating your time or resources by instructing or volunteering, you are raising funds so that the Birchtree Parent Guild can provide valuable resources for the students and teachers of BCS. Please consider joining this exciting adventure with us!

INSTRUCTORS:

Instructors are invited to take part in the [June 2nd Saturday](#) Birchtree Summer Arts Camp Showcase in order to promote their services, free of charge. They are encouraged to display an artist statement as well as host a table and greet attendees with information about their services. Instructor information will also be displayed on our webpage. Instructors in the following areas are needed:

- Visual Arts
- Culinary Arts
- Circus Arts
- Dance
- Gardening
- Woodworking
- Fiber Arts
- Photography
- Drama
- Adventure
- Other



VOLUNTEERS

There are many opportunities to volunteer for the camp. What a fun way to meet new people, be a part of your community, and gain experience being part of a team! If you are a parent of a BCS student, this is a wonderful way to earn your volunteer hours! Donations are tax deductible. Areas of need are as follows:

- Materials Coordinator
- Publicity Coordinator
- Finance and Registration Coordinator
- Facility Coordinator
- Clean-Up Crew
- Set-Up Crew
- Childcare Coordinator
- Childcare Workers
- Food Coordinator
- Meal Preparation & Donation
- Grant Writer
- Art Showcase Coordinator
- Art Showcase Crew

Victoria Peterson
Birchtree Summer Arts Camp Coordinator
Email: thecanvascafe@yahoo.com
Birchtreesummerartscamp.blogspot.com



April/May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Day 3	Day 1	APC Meeting 6-8 Day 2	Early Release Day 3	Pastries for Parents 8:30-10 AM Intent to return forms due Day 1	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Day 2	Day 3	Day 1	Early Release Day 2	Intent to enroll forms are due Day 3	Middle School Chess tournament TBA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Day 1	Day 2	BPG 2nd semester Supply fees due Day 3	Early Release Day 1	Day 2	Elementary School Chess tournament TBA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Day 3	Spring Music Concert 6 PM @ Palmer First Baptist Church Day 1	Lottery 7PM Day 2	Early Release Day 3	Day 1	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
	Day 2	Day 3	Day 1	2nd grade plays and pot luck at 5 pm Day 2	Pastries for Parents 8-10 AM Day 3	