

Birchtree Friday Update

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



May 8, 2015

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VIRTUES in RETROSPECT, Part 4

During these last couple of weeks, it is easy to find examples of excellence from throughout the school year: main lesson work, project completion, and extended learning activities. Children in all grades slowly turn main lesson book pages, reviewing what they have produced, and inwardly acknowledging the bounty of their efforts. They take pride in their accomplishments, and drink in the beauty created in main lesson entries.

In every grade, new skills profoundly enhance the children's repertoire. For the first time, they have either learned to knit, to read, to build a structure, to organize a report, to throw a javelin, to serve the community, to build a trebuchet, or to memorize the preamble to the Constitution. The list is endless, really. Culminating a study of ancient cultures, fifth graders will represent Birchtree at the annual Pentathlon. Organized by city-states, these children will work with students from Anchorage Waldorf School and Winterberry Charter School to exhibit strength, grace, and beauty in five Olympic events that originated in Greece. In addition to the athletic components, judges note how each pentathlete conducts him- or herself toward holding each event in its highest form.

Students at Birchtree learn an additional curriculum, referred to in Waldorf circles as the social curriculum. This curriculum touches on the development of character, learning to be an upright human being who contributes for the good of society. This year's sixth graders participated in a knighthood ceremony, during which they swore to uphold light, bravery, righteousness, honor, truth, and protection. To keep this pledge is to achieve excellence in the social realm.

How lucky we all are to work toward both academic and social excellence in our community. We adults are most fortunate, perhaps, to be able to deliver both the academic and social curricula in a manner that best suits the course of human development. The true gift in striving for excellence at Birchtree is that we are all striving together.

-Donna Levesque

Pedagogical Dean

Save This Date

May 8th and 9th: BPG rummage sale.

May 9th: Elementary Track Meet Palmer High School

May 11th: Mr. Clarks 4th grade class play time to be announced

May 11th: Mr. Danz's class Bike Ride after school

May 12th: Mrs. Johndros class play at 5:30 PM

May 13th: APC meeting 6-8PM BPG meeting 3:35

May 13th: Mrs. Hills class play @ 1:30 PM

May 13th: Ms. Albina's class play @ 5:30 PM

May 13th: Mr. Phelps class play at 1:30 PM

May 14th: Mrs. Trans Class Play @ 5:00 PM

May 14th Shakespeare night Mr. Klauers class at 5:30 PM

May 15th: 5th Grade camp out at the Reindeer farm in the Butte.

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

May 18th: Medieval Games (6th grade) and the end of the year Picnic

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

I overlook mistakes.

I free myself from pain and resentment. I am willing to heal the past. I find it in my heart to give others another chance. I use guilt only as a signal for change. I accept Divine redemption. I have the power to change for the better.

Reminders

Yearbooks are available now in the front office. Please stop by and purchase this year's Birchtree yearbook for \$15.00, Limited supplies. Get yours before they're gone!

Please pay Second Semester Supply fees. You may check at the Front Office if you are unsure if you owe. The supply fees are due prior to returning for the 2015/2016 school year. If you are incurring a financial hardship, please ask at the Front Office for a Supply Fee Scholarship.

Mrs. Hill's first grade class finale will be held Wed May 13 at 1:30. We are hoping for a beautiful sunny day as parts of our show are outdoors. We have practiced a Plan B rainy day scenario too! Hope too see you there! We plan to serve hot cross buns and jam as refreshments. Families are allowed to depart after the show.

Birchtree Potluck Picnic will be held Monday May 18th from 11:30-1:00. Parents are welcome to take their kids home after the picnic. Attached you will find a list of items to bring. If you have any questions please contact the front office. 907-745-1831



7th Grade Rummage Sale is This Weekend!

Please stop by this Friday and Saturday and help support our 7th grade class on their fundraising efforts for their 8th grade trip to Washington DC.

Lost and Found

Lost and found is stacking up with winter gear, water bottles, random hats and gloves. Tomorrow and Saturday all items will be laid out. Please stop by and take a peek. All unclaimed items will be donated to Bishops Attic on May 22nd.

The office has a violin that was turned in. If you are missing yours please come see Ms. Beth.

Gratitudes and Expressions.

Many thanks to Celena Brunot and her community of helpers for a wonderful May Faire.

Thank you to Vanessa Becker, Cathy Busbey, Laura Sampson, Jo Terwilliger and BPG for making teachers feel even more appreciated this week, providing scrumptious snacks and luscious lunches!



May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 Day 1	5 Day 2	6 Day 3	7 5th Grade Pen- tathlon at Goose Lake Early Release Day 1	8 Professional De- velopment day No school for stu- dents. 7th Grade Rummage Sale	9 7th grade rummage sale 9 AM
10	11 Mr. Clarks Class Play 4:00 PM Mr. Danz's Class bike ride after school Day 2	12 Mrs. Johndro's class play 5:30 PM Day 3	13 APC Meeting 6-8 BPG Meeting 3:45 Hill, Phelps and Albina Ciss plays Day 1	14 7th and 8th grade Promo- tion practice 3 PM palmer senior center Mrs. Trans Class Play 5:PM 7th Grade Shakespear night 5:30 PM Early Release	15 8th Grade Promotion at Palmer Senior center at 6PM 5th grade Camp out at the Rendee Farm Day 3	16
17	18 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL School Wide Picnic Day 1	19	20	21	22	23
Summer Break						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6