

Birchtree Friday Update

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



August 28, 2015

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ROSE CEREMONY

One of the many cycles in Waldorf schools occurs at the beginning of each school year: the Rose Ceremony. This occasion marks the first day of first graders' journey through eight grades. It also marks the last time eighth graders begin their school year at Birchtree. First grade children and their parents eagerly, perhaps nervously, anticipate what lies ahead for them on this day. The Rose Ceremony helps to welcome them on a grand scale, prior to the very first of what will become hundreds of main lessons.

Mrs. Busbey calls the names of a first grader and an eighth grader. They walk toward one another, meeting in the middle. The eighth grader extends a hand for the first grader to shake. Then the older student presents a rose, along with a quiet wish for a wonderful school year, to the younger student. Inevitably, the eighth graders are always surprised at how little the first graders are, and then quickly realize that they, too, were once that young and small. These students will remain "buddies" throughout the year, meeting occasionally to share activities with each other at designated times throughout the year.

Just before eighth grade graduation, we hold another ceremony with these same students. At this Rose Ceremony, it is the first graders who extend hands for the eighth graders to shake before giving each of their big buddies a rose and well wishes for the future. This day completes the cycle of giving and receiving, in much the same way that seeds are planted and then harvested. It is beautiful to behold the growth of all of these students over the course of one year, and commemorated by the rose-giving.

-Donna Levesque

Pedagogical Dean

Save The Date

- August 31st: 5th grade class field trip to The State Fair and Palmer Visitors Center
- September 1st: 7th grade parent night 6-7 PM
- September 1st: 8th grade parent night 6-7 PM
- September 2nd: Kindergarten parent night 6-7 PM
- September 3rd : Middle School Cross Country Meet @ WMS
- September 9th: BPG meeting 3:45 PM
- September 10th: Middle School Cross Country Meet @ CMS
- September 11th: Pastries for Parents 8:30-10 AM
- September 16th: APC Meeting at BTC 6-8 PM
- September 18th Picture Day with Life Touch
- September 23rd: Elementary Cross Country Meet
- September 26th: Fall Faire Times TBA
- October 16, 2015 picture re-takes with Life Touch

Gratitude's and Expressions

Mrs. Horvath would like to thank Nancy Burnett, Sarah Stewart, and Shannon Minder for helping the children make applesauce. Also, thanks to Erin Cross and Michelle Church for making Rhubarb Berry Crisp with the class.

Many thanks to the Lee family--Chuck, Heather, Tiana, and Jaxson--for mowing the playground lawn this past weekend. Your work was a wonderful gift to us all!

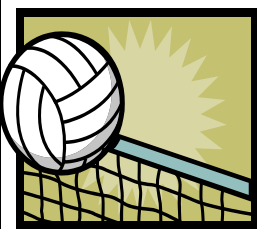
RIDE and SLIDE

907Boards is ready to teach you to ride and slide and other fun stuff. Bring your long-board, skateboard, penny board or whatever you have on wheels for a good time this **Sunday, August 30, 1:00-4:00 PM**. All ages and skill levels welcome and we have boards you can try. Helmets are required and safety gear recommended for all participants. We have a fresh order of protection gear and helmets ready for you and your friends. **\$3 for pizza and drinks, training session is FREE**. We recommend wearing pants and long sleeves or at least bring a hoodie. We look forward to a good time!!!

Call 868-3000 for details or visit the shop seven days a week at 8225 Old Seward Hwy, next to Pink Elephant Car Wash.

Middle School Volleyball

Coach Ferguson would like each of you interested in playing volleyball this year for Birchtree to look in to the Northern Lights Volleyball Club. This program is a great way to brush up on your skills as well boost confidence in the game. Tryouts well be held September 8, 9th and 10 from 6-8



PM at Palmer Junior Middle School. Find out more in formation by visiting their website: northernlightsvolleyball.net

This year Birchtree will have 1 C-Team and 1-JV team. More information

will be provided as the season gets closer.

School Year 2015-16 Bus Schedule

Morning Route: Birchtree's Bus schedule will be as follows:

Departs Wasilla Target parking lot (near Walgreens) leaving at 7:25 AM

Departs Palmer Public Library parking lot at 7:55 AM

Arrives at Birchtree Charter School at 8:10 AM



Afternoon Route:

- Departs Birchtree Charter School at 3:30 PM.
- Arrives at Wasilla Target parking lot at 3:40 PM (near Walgreens)
- Arrives at AT & T at 3:50 PM

Arrives at Palmer Public Library at 4:00 PM.

Early Release Thursdays:

- Departs Birchtree Charter School at 1:45 PM.
- Arrives at Wasilla Target parking lot at 1:55 PM (near Walgreens)
- Arrives at AT & T at 2:00 PM

Arrives at Palmer Public Library at 2:10 PM



Please note that all of these times are **approximate**, and you should arrive at the drop-off/pick-up site at the earliest estimated time.

Elementary Cross Country

Cross Country Running started this past Monday for our 4th and 5th grade students. Practice will continue on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:20 -4:40 PM. We ask that all participants be picked up by 4:50 PM. Thursday early release day practice will be held from 1:20- 2:40 PM. All practices will be outdoors. Please dress for the weather.

A Fee of \$10.00 and permission slip is required in order to participate in this activity.

I am looking forward to working with your children and having a fun season

~Coach Andrist



Feldman's Flyer

Mrs. Feldman's class – The beginning of our year began with us tapping deep into our creativity in the Perspective Drawing block. Students are learning artistic techniques developed during the Renaissance that allowed artists to create more realistic art that gives the illusion of three dimensions. Everyone is working hard, but also greatly enjoying just being together again. We are also thrilled to have new students in our class who are quickly becoming great friends!

Lost and Found

Two Violins are at the front office from last year. Also Mrs. Eddings has violins in her room left from last year. If you are missing yours please stop by and see if these belong to you.



Basner's Buzz

Third graders have been very busy learning about harvesting in Alaska. Those delicious smells you may have noticed when you walked through the hallways might have been coming from the third grade classrooms or the kitchen, as the students have been busy cooking. Mrs. Basner's class gives a special thanks to Lena Andrist for helping us make applesauce, to Joy Matthias and Tonya Rosa for helping us make rhubarb cobbler, and to Christy Marvin and Becca Moore for helping us make berry jam. Also, thanks to Mrs. Halseth for her very informative presentation regarding harvesting honey. We look forward to learning more about where our food comes from, and creative ways to use it for cooking. We have also enjoyed learning about construction as we tour the new addition each week. Part of the 3rd grade curriculum is "Building," so we feel fortunate to have this opportunity right on our school grounds. We hope this information will be handy as we prepare to build and "gift" a kindergarten playhouse next month.

Johndro's News Journal

Welcome back!!! I am so excited to be teaching 5th grade this year. We are going to have lots of fun. There is so much to learn! We are starting out the year with Botany and will spend much of the year focusing on ancient civilizations. As Botany involves a lot of outdoor study, we should be going on our first field trip at the end of August! This year due to budget concerns, we must ask parents to pay 8.00 for the bus. Please come and see me if this is a financial hardship.

Homework is an important part of learning. The homework that the children have will be daily, it is suggested that they establish a regular routine and have a quiet place to work. I will not grade homework, simply check that it is completed. Those who do their homework on a regular basis may receive an extra privilege, perhaps a free time or extra painting time now and again.

As we are doing less reading in class it is suggested that the children read for 20 minutes every night M-TH and that the parents initial the calendar in the students planner. I will check the planner on Fridays. I discussed with the students that they could skip a night and add about 7 minutes on each other night if they would like.

I will also begin the year with the students writing a paragraph each week to put into their main lesson books on Friday. We will begin the writing in Sept.

I will also have a few vocabulary words each week, the children should know how to spell them and what they mean. We will go over the definitions in class. They will have a quiz on Fridays.

The children will also be responsible for finishing any work that they are unable to finish in class. They will have regular math homework once we get going on Go Math

The students will also have a few German vocabulary words each week, they are expected to practice their violin and may need to bring knitting home to keep up on their projects.

I love your support and enthusiasm, thank you for trusting your children to my daily care and education. I just love my class!!!

Kara Johndro

Volunteer Opportunities

Spread wood chips in the play scape area for more info please contact the front office.

Build a stage for our new multipurpose room/gym. If Interested please see Mr. Bowen.

We need a parent to make bean bags. Material is bought and purchased. Please see Susan Halseth.

Can you knit or crochet? Come spend a cheery afternoon or two each week helping teach first second and third graders in handwork class! Great volunteer opportunity! If you can help, please contact Kristin Fry at 745-5319 or kristin.fry@matsuk12.us. I hope to hear from you soon.

Picture day is September 18th . Lifetouch is looking for 4-5 volunteers to help that day with students. If you are interested please see Vanessa Becker in the front office.

Mrs. Feldman needs someone to wash out paint jars from last year and paint a large book shelf in her room.

Mrs Vander Schrier needs help sweeping the blacktop. The gravel/ dirt from the construction is making the cement slippery.

Fifth grade will need help with the pentathlon tunics. Getting material, cutting and sewing the basic shape so the students can decorate them. Danielle will have more details.



Handwork Happiness:

The primary grades have completed their second week of handwork and are doing very well! The third graders are starting to "hook into" crochet and many have finished chaining bookmarks and are on to making double-stranded belts. Second graders are remembering their knitting skills from last year and are finishing up flute cases. Some are beginning our next project: knitting small gnomes. The first graders have finished sanding and burnishing their beautiful knitting needles and are ready to start knitting. ***This is the time we really need your help.*** If there were 10 volunteers in every class (1:30-2:15 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday) for the next two weeks, students would learn the basics and be knitting all together--it could save weeks of frustration. Even if you don't know how to knit, I can teach you what you need to know in just a couple of minutes. ***Please consider volunteering at this crucial beginning phase.***

Many thanks to those who have contributed yarn and supplies to our program--it give the students options when they work hard and finish early. Special thanks to those who have already been helping in handwork classes. Your contribution is very appreciated!

Hope to see you in the classroom!

Warmly,

Mrs. Kristin Fry
Handwork and Music

5th - 8th Grade Handwork

If you would like to help out with handwork classes either during class time or at home please see Danielle Terry or leave a note in my school mailbox.

Danielle Terry

5th -8th Grade Handwork

Danielle.Terry@matsuk12.us

German Corner

All classes have been up for a great start in German. 1st and 2nd grade are working on acquiring language through songs, games and poetry. 3rd grade is working on their first dance play "Dorn- roeschen" (Sleeping Beauty) which they will perform for first graders soon. 4th grade has started to use main lesson books and students are working on seasons, month and weekdays. Our 5th graders have embarked on a journey through a typical German city. 6th grade is working on writing a comparison between Germany and Alaska and soon will be diving into the life and Sagas of the Germanic Tribes. 7th grade is working on a short grammar block involving the "Akkusativ" and 8th grade is working with authentic texts from German popular youth papers and magazines.



Birchtree Charter School

Grades 4-5 Sports Survey 2015-2016 School Year

Each year we try to provide as many opportunities as we can for our students to compete in school sponsored activities. Following is a list of the sports we are hoping to provide to our student athletes. Keep in mind that before an elementary (grades 4-5) student can participate, they must have the \$10 sports fee paid, and a permission slip signed giving them permission to take part in each sport they are participating in.

The decision to have a team is based on the number of students interested in participating.

In order for us to plan this year's sports, please fill out this form and mark all of the sports you will be participating in this year and return it to the office. (Please fill out one per student if you have multiple students participating.)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Cross-Country Running (Aug. 24- Sept. 23)

Basketball (Sept. 28 -Nov. 20)

Track and Field (Dates TBA, usually the last 5-6 weeks of school)

If you are interested in volunteering as a coach or assistant coach, please contact Birchtree's front office for more information. This is a great way for parents to fulfill their required service hours.

I would like to be a Volunteer Coach,

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Sport: _____

Please return this to the office by Thursday, September 3rd.

Birchtree Charter School

Grades 6-8 Sports Survey 2015-2016 School Year

Each year we try to provide as many opportunities as we can for our students to compete in school sponsored activities. Following is a list of the sports we are hoping to provide to our student athletes. Keep in mind that before a student can participate, they must have a current sports physical on file, the \$60 sports fee paid, and a permission slip signed giving them permission to take part in each sport they are participating in.

The decision to have a team and choosing what level we will compete with other schools is based on the number of students participating and the level of skill collectively held by the group. So, we may only have a C-team versus a JV or Varsity team.

In order for us to plan this year's sports, please fill out this form and mark all of the sports you will be participating in this year and return it to the office. (Please fill out one per student if you have multiple students participating.)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Cross-Country Running (Aug. 17-Sept.16)

Basketball (Sept.21-Nov.14, Ends the 18th if we have a JV team)

Volleyball (Jan.4-Feb.25, Ends Mar.2nd if we have a JV team)

Track and Field (Apr.11-May10, Ends May 12th for Varsity runners)

If you are interested in volunteering as a coach or assistant coach, please contact Birchtree's front office for more information. This is a great way for parents to fulfill their required service hours.

I would like to be a Volunteer Coach,

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Sport: _____

Please return this to the office by Thursday, September 3rd.

1st Grade Rose Ceremony



August/September 2015

Early Release days are every Thursday at 1:30

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|---|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| 23 | 24 Rose Ceremony for kindergarten and 8th grade students First day for kin- dergarten and 1st grade | 25 1st grade parent night 6-7 PM Ms. Albina's Parent night 6-7 PM | 26 Mr. Danz parent night 6-7 PM 2nd & 3rd grade parent night 6-7 PM | 27 Mr. Danz's class overnight field trip 5th and 6th grade parent night 6-7 PM | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 21 | 1 7th and 8th grade parent night 6-7 PM | 2 Kindergarten par- ent night 6-7 PM | 3 Middle School Cross country @ WMS Time TBA | 4 No School | 5 |
| 6 | 7 No School | 8 | 9 BPG Meetng @ 3:45 PM | 10 Middle School cross Country @ CMS Time TBA | 11 Pastries for Par- ents 8:30-10 AM | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 APC 6-8 @ Birch- tree | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Fall Faire TBA |