

Birchtree Friday Update

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



November 4, 2016

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LANTERN WALK

One of the festivals celebrated in Waldorf schools worldwide falls mid-way between autumnal equinox and winter solstice, or between Michaelmas and Christmas. Martinmas, the name given to this festival, commemorates Martin of Tours, a young soldier whose compassion exceeded his desire to fight battles.

Martin was born around the year 315, in a Roman province that encompasses what is now Hungary. His father was a Roman officer, and by Roman decree, his son was to join the army at 15 years of age. Martin's inscription into the army merely fulfilled an obligation, for he had already decided to serve, rather than to harm, his fellow people.

Martin's duty took him to Amiens, France. By the time he was 18, he too had become an officer. One bitterly cold winter day, as Martin rode his horse toward the city gates, he came upon a beggar. The beggar, barely covered in ragged clothing, sat shivering beside the city wall. Martin, probably donned in full regalia armor, sword, and an exquisite woolen cloak could not pass the beggar by, as had all others before him. Martin dismounted from his horse, and with one stroke of his gleaming sword, slit his cloak in two. He wrapped the beggar in this fine woolen garment, and then rode through the gates of Amiens. In a dream that night, Martin realized that his true calling was not one of military service, but one of community service, and he left the army.

His compassionate deed, one of giving, is replicated in Waldorf communities in a few ways. The first is the lantern walk, which is traditionally held on Martin of Tours' day of passing. Birchtree's Lantern Walk will be held on **November 17th at 6:20**. Symbolically, light and warmth are spread through the dark and cold at this time of year. Another way to celebrate Martin's service to humanity is to offer a clothing drive, helping to warm those in need. In addition, Martinmas often spurs food drives, again providing for those who might otherwise do without.

Save The Date

November 4, 2016 8th grade auction 6:30 PM at the Palmer Train Depot

November 7, 2016 Picture day re-takes

November 11, 2016 Professional Development day no school for students.

November 17, 2016 Lantern walk at Birchtree Charter School

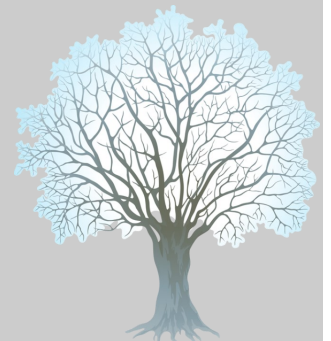
November 24 and 25 Thanksgiving break No School for staff or students

November 29, 2016 showing of Screenagers at PHS @ 6PM

December 2, 2016 Pastries for Parents 8:30-10:00 AM

December 8, 2016 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade concert at Teeland Middle School

December 9, 2016 6th, 7th and 8th grade concert at Teeland



Gratitude and Expressions

Mrs. Feldman would like to thank Steve Lyall for taking the lead on the Book Fair as well as all the eighth grade parents and students who took shifts. I would also like to thank all those parents, upper grades and lower grades, who procured donations for the Auction. Thank you so much!

Thank you Mark Kolendo and Emily Sikes for helping with the elementary boys and girls basketball teams.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteer Opportunity for students at the Lantern Walk
6th and 7th graders will be on the trails helping students through the walk

8th graders will be tending the fires & setting up drinks/bread sticks

Volunteers who signed up to help- there will be an assignment hung on the wall by BPG and a letter will be coming home with your child.

Sweeping the front side walk area is much appreciated.



Reminders

Square 1 Art orders are due today. Please don't forget to place your order. There are 3 ways to order:

- 1.) Online www.square1art.com
- 2.) Phone –1888-332-3294
- 3.) Custom Catalog with your students very own artwork and name printed on the front.

There is a sign up sheet on the BPG wall by the office for anyone interested in helping with Birchtrees first annual craft Bazar.

Please pay your students supply fees. 1st semester is due. This can be paid at the front office by cash or check. Or credit card through school cash online. Reminder letters were sent home.

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The mood we aim to capture during the Lantern Walk is one of collective reverence: harmoniously singing as we walk through the woods, and quietly



gathering around a fire afterward to enjoy hot drinks and bread on a stick. We eagerly anticipate you joining us for this festival, warming the night from the inside out.

Lantern Walk Items needed by November 15th:

****If you can help out and donate any of the following items please contact Mrs. Vander Schrier.**

300 white paper lunch sacks/bags



3 sand bags

300 tall votive candles (not tea lights)

2 portable fire pits

10 Long lighters

October/November 2016

Early Release days are every Thursday at 1:30

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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|----|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|----|
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Pastries for Parents 8:30-9:30 8th grade Auction at the Palmer Train Depot 6 PM | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Picture Re- Takes | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Veterans Day NO school for students | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 BPG 3:45PM APC 6:00 PM | 17 Lantern Walk 6:20 PM @ Birchtree Charter | 18 Middle school So- cial 3:30-5:00 PM | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Thanksgiving Break No School | 25 Thanksgiving Break No School | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 Screenagers at Palmer High School 's Little Theater | 30 | 1 Family Christmas Caroling at the Palmer Senior Center 6 PM | 2 | 3 |