

Birchtree Friday Update

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



February 24, 2017

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Karneval - Fasching - Fastnacht

It is the 5th season in Germany- the carnival season. Also here at Birchtree in German class we are preparing to share this tradition

Carnival in Germany has a long tradition. The first documented Carnival took place in 1341 in the city of Cologne (Köln). The tradition stems from many pre-Christian beliefs which were later influenced by Christianity. Many historic events have influenced and molded traditions in specific regions. We will celebrate a few specific days such as “Weiberfastnacht” and “Rosenmontag Parade” and focus on Cologne.

Carnival is a calorie heavy time. The traditional dish is “Krapfen” which a yeast filled donut with sugar would come closest too. The end of Carnival marks the beginning of the fasting time before Easter.

This year our Birchtree Carneval parade will take place on Wednesday March 8 at the end of the day from 2:15 - 3pm. The costume themes for the different grades are:

1st grade gnomes and fairies

2nd grade Saints and animals

3rd grade gardeners, builders, cooks or characters from stories they read in class

4th grade Vikings, Norse myth

5th grade Egyptians and Greeks

6th grade Romans and Germanic tribe's people

7th grade Circus

8th grade Circus

Save The Date

March 1, 2017 Ms. Albina's class play 2 pm

March 1, 2017 Ms. Horvath's class play 6 pm

March 1, 2017 Mr. Danz's class play 7 pm

March 2, 2017 Mrs. Basner's class play 6 pm

March 3, 2017 Ms. Folsom's class play 6 pm PHS little theater

March 3, 2017 Ms. Albina's class play 7 pm

March 3, 2017 Pastries for Parents 8:30 - 9:30 AM

March 7, 2017 picture day in the Birchtree Gym

March 8, 2017 German Karneval 2-3:30 at Birchtree

March 13, 2017 to March 17th 2017 is spring break

April 7-14th 8th grade trip to Washington DC.

May 4, 2017 5th grade pentathlon



Middle School Track

All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to join the **Birchtree Middle School Track and Field team**. The season details are as follows:

Track season begins Monday, April 10th

Practice daily as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday = 3:30-5:00

Thursday = 1:45-3:15

Meets scheduled for April 25, May 4, May 9 or 11; meet dates are subject to change.

Participants must have a **current school physical, a signed participation waiver and pay the district-mandated \$60 activity fee BEFORE** starting practice on Monday, April 10.

For those who wish to do **pre-season conditioning**, there will be optional practice starting after Spring Break on Tuesdays (3/27 and 3/3) from 3:30-4:30 and Thursdays (3/23, 3/30, 4/6) from 1:45-2:45. Athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in these pre-season sessions as they will help increase fitness and reduce the likelihood of injury during the very brief track season.

I look forward to another great Birchtree Track & Field season!

If you have any questions, contact Heather Lee at 907-232-0660 or hacski@mtaonline.net.

German Corner

Carnival 101

The German word for Carnival is "Karneval". The core of the carnival tradition leads us back into the Middle Ages. In time many different aspects have made it into what Carnival represents today. People used to dress up in masks and walk loudly through the streets to hush away the demons of winter, which had brought sickness and starvation. The masks were artfully hand carved and handed down for generations. Christianization influenced the tradition. After a long struggle by the church to outlaw Carnival a compromise was reached. Carnival finally became the last big feast before the 40 days of fasting leading up to Easter. Thus, the local name "Fastnacht" meaning fasting night (the start of fasting) came about. The word Carnival stems from "carne" – meat and "vale" – without (such as vale parking) thus "without meat".



The city of Cologne made the Carnival into a peace march as soldiers fighting in the 30-year war finally refused to fight and placed red roses into their gun barrels in protest. Still today the strongest Carnival traditions are found around the area of Cologne.

During the Carnival all barriers of status fell (and still fall). Commoners could dress as nobility and mock their lords and kings with no fear of punishment. Today the German Carnival embraces all the different ways of celebrating. Mocking politicians without recourse is one of their favorites.

I need volunteers for:

Handyman projects around the portable, detaching strips of hocks from wall, mounting pencil sharpener etc. Sewing project. I also need donations: Working vacuum cleaner, Bookshelf, 3 yards of blue felt, 2 yards of green felt

February/March 2017

Early Release days are every Thursday at 1:30

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

19	20	21	22 APC Meeting at 6 PM	23 Mr. Phelp's class play At The Tree of Life Church in Palmer	24	25
26	27	28	1 Ms. Albina's class play 2 pm Ms. Horvath's class play 6 PM Mr. Danz's class play 7 pm	2 Ms. Basner's class play 6 pm @ BTC	3 Pastries for Parents 8:30-10 AM Ms. Albina's class play 6 pm @ BTC Ms. Folsom's class play at PHS	4
5	6	7 School pictures	8 German Karneval 2 pm	9 Parent Teacher Conferences No School for students	10 Parent Teacher Conferences No School for students	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Spring Break						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25