

Birchtree Charter

Thursday Update, December 15, 2011

Thank-you 😊

The staff at Birchtree would like to say thank-you to the 5th grade parents who provided us with a delicious luncheon on Wednesday. The luncheon was a very pleasant surprise for the staff!

The staff also would like to say thank-you to the entire Birchtree community for your support in your child's education. We could not do this without you!

We hope you enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

Virtue of the Month – Forgiveness

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and the wrong.

Sometime in your life, you will have been all of these."

-Robert H. Goddard

Upcoming Important Dates

Please note that the following dates are different from the rest of the district:

- **Thursday, December 15th: Last day of school for students before holiday break.**
- **Friday, December 16th: No school for students.**
- **Friday, December 16th: 4:30 PM Spiral Advent event at Mat-Su River Park.**

Wasilla Soccer Camp

Wasilla Youth Soccer Association is hosting a Holiday Soccer Camp on Dec. 19 - 21, 2011 at the new turf at AT&T Sports Center (for kids ages 4 - 18). Please read the attached flyer for more information.

Worthwhile Reading...

Please click on the links below to read the articles. The first link is an excellent article from the Alliance for Childhood. The second article addresses holiday stress.

http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/crisis_in_early_ed.pdf

Holiday Stress: How to Keep Calm and Avoid Fighting with Your Kids The holidays are supposed to be a time of joy and family togetherness. So why do you end up feeling so stressed, exhausted and overwhelmed? Why is it also a time when so many kids act their worst? Most importantly, how can you make the upcoming holiday season a more calm and peaceful one—even if you have a child who frequently misbehaves and acts out?

Pizza Fundraiser Continues in January

Wow! The support that the 8th graders have been receiving for their various fundraisers has been tremendous! The 8th graders would like to thank everybody who has supported the various fundraising activities.

Pizza for lunch will continue in January on Fridays only. A new order form is attached to the update. Also, we would like to remind parents that when students do order pizza for lunch they receive the slice(s) of pizza and a juice box only.

Dress Code

Recently, there have been some questions about the school dress code. Mat-Su School Board policy does recognize that students have the right to make individual choices about clothing, but also recognizes that those choices should not be a distraction that would interfere with the educational process. At Birchtree we would ask that clothing choices are appropriate for school (in terms of dress/skirt length and neckline), and to keep in mind the Waldorf philosophy of no media images.

Lost and Found

The lost and found will be donated to a local charity on Friday, December 16th. Please stop by the office and look through all of the items. Your child's missing gloves, hats, or mittens may be there!

On another note the school does need snowpants for students in grades 1-3. If you have any snowpants that your child has outgrown and would like to donate them to the school, then please bring the snowpants to the front office.

Girl Scout Information

First Birchtree Girl Scout meeting will be Thursday, January 5 from 3:15-4:30 in Mr. Bowen's Room. Any questions or to register contact Stephanie Bowen
bbowensc@yahoo.com, 315-2175.

Spiral Advent Event

On Friday, December 16th at 4:30 there will be a community spiral advent event. The event will be held at the Mat-Su River Park. All children and parents are welcome to attend. The attached flyer has more information and directions to the Mat-Su River Park.

Parents please take a moment and fill out the following survey:

This needs assessment is important for the World Language Curriculum Writing Team which is rewriting curriculum content standards for all World Languages taught in the district. Please click on the following link:

<http://www.matsuk12.us/17331093115530827/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=81640>

