

Birchtree Friday Update

Birchtree Charter School 7107 E. Palmer Wasilla Hwy. Palmer, Ak 99645



May 2, 2014

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May Faire: May 3rd, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Join us at the May Faire where you can participate in the Maypole Dance, run the knights gauntlet obstacle and meet the May Queen. There will be plenty of games, crafts, and snacks for the whole family!

What's new in the May Faire this year?

We will have free art demonstrations, dancing, music and even a bon fire! Plenty of shopping opportunities abound with the addition of the third grade "Market Day" and local craft vendors. (Please bring your coins for the third grade "market".) There is truly something for everyone this year!

The kid's arts and crafts tables and game booths will cost "jewels" which you can buy at the door; while the craft and food vendors will operate on a cash only basis.

Pentathlon- May 8th

The date of the Olympic Pentathlon has fallen upon us. Our athletes are ready to share the beauty, grace and strength they have been honing within each specialty: wrestling, running, discus, javelin, and long jump. It is our hope that many will share in this momentous event, as it is the first time for Birchtree to host the Pentathlon. I want to thank all who have helped make this possible and all who will help the day of May 8th.

Below are some needs that have yet to be met. If you can help fulfill these, we would be so grateful. Have a wonderful weekend in the sun. Thank you *Golden Apollo*.

Pentathlon Needs:

Judges and/or Officials

Set - up morning of Wednesday, May 7th (10 - 1) and after school (4 - 7)

Dish to share at the Greek Feast

Tent canopy 10 x 10 or 12 x 12

Truck to haul large props to the Mat-Su River Park (sometime Wednesday)

Attendees: bring blankets or lawn chairs along with a simple Greek-like dish to share during the Greek Feast at 3 p.m.

If you can help, please contact Gena Chastain at Birchtree (745-1831)

Virtue of the Week-

The Practice of Trust

I maintain my hope.

I do not nag others or try to control them.

I believe there is some good in everything that happens.

I allow trust to heal my fears.

I am confident in my capacity for lifelong learning.

I rely on Divine assistance.

I am thankful for the gift of Trust. It renews my strength.

Happy Spring-

Ms. Sharrer's class welcomes a flock of spring chicks to their room.



Expressions of Gratitude-

- ♦ Mrs. Johndro's class wants to thank Mr. Auld for coming in and making our floor look beautiful!!! I also want to extend an thank you to Mrs. Green for coming in one more time to help with cooking!! And Alia's grandmother who comes in for weaving every week. I could not do all that I do without you!!
- ♦ Thank you to the Robertson and Mueller family for sending in embroidery hoops, needles and floss! The children are having a fantastic time designing and working on their tunics. Thank you to all the families who helped us with transportation to Colony. Thank you to Mrs. Milavec, Mrs. Minder, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Mueller, Mrs. Straub, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Germain, Mrs. Steiner for helping direct our play. A special thank you to the Mueller and Straub family, Ms. Ramsey, Ms. Terry, Mrs. Groth for their help with props and costumes! Thank you to Ms. Lisa, Ms. Mary, Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Milavec with their help directing and acting! Thank you to Cheyenne and Ms. Lisa for your help back stage. Thank you to Mr. Bowen and Ms. Sharrer for attending our grand finale show!
-Mrs. Hill
- ♦ Thank you 4th grade parents for helping at the May Faire! We look forward to having the classes perform the Maypole Dance. Thank you Jennifer Budde for helping us organize the Maypole dance, and Tisha Jones for teaching the Maypole dance to the 4th graders. Thank you lead parents and BPG for organizing this event!

Battle of the Books-

Do you have a child interested in participating in Battle of the Books next year? Get a head start on your Battle Books reading this Summer. The third- fourth, fifth-sixth and middle school reading list is available in the front office.

Quint A Volo Performance-

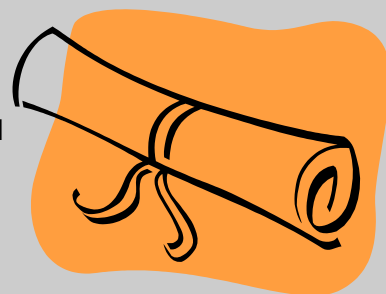
Come support our Birchtree quintet, Quint A Volo, at the Mat Su Farm Market on Monday, May 12th from 4:30 to 5:30 PM (Palmer Depot).



Leo Budde, Brian Germain, Jakob Rogers, Alexa Leingang, Kaden Mullin

8th grade graduation-

Our 8th grade class of 2014 will bid adieu to Birchtree, Friday, May 16th 6:00 PM at the Palmer Depot. It is an honor to share this important moment in your life. Your graduation from Birchtree Charter school is certainly an achievement, but there's a lot more to come: goals, challenges, and opportunities! Anything is possible when you just believe in yourself.



Summer Art Camp- June 9th – 13th

Birchtree Parent Guild is proud to offer students the opportunity to have fun with friends in a creative educational environment this summer. The duration of each class is one week and costs \$125.00 per class. A few of the classes available include: cake making, woodworking, felting, and adventure camp. Visit birchtreecharterschool.org and click on the Summer Camp link to find out more about the classes available and register your student for this great summer camp. <http://budgetauthenticity.org/summercamp/>

Volunteer Opportunities

Box Tops-

Please help us organize our **box tops**! This is a great activity you can do from home to help earn some extra money for our school. Contact Karie Raynovic at mkraynovic@gmail.com for more information.



4th Grade Requests

Supplies-

Mrs. Tran's fourth grade class will be putting on a Norse Myth play titled, "Thor and the Giant Family." This play is a humorous and dramatic play of how Thor escapes a plot to slay him.

We respectfully request help gathering supplies for the play. If you have any of the following items at home please send them into school with your child and earn volunteer time. We need large pieces of cardboard (for play set), coffee cans, and yogurt containers (small & medium size). Please drop off the items any day of the week (Monday, May 5th through Friday, May 9th) in Mrs. Tran's classroom. Thank you!

Matanuska River Historical/Cultural Tour -

Mrs. Tran's and Mrs. Folsom's 4th grade classes will embark on a fabulous natural history adventure, Thursday, May 15th, 8:30 - 3:00. **Two to Three chaperones; are needed to accompany them on their fun filled trip.** The itinerary includes stops at Moose Creek, Yah Ne Dah Ah School, Sutton Library & Alpine Park, and Mat-Su River Park (we will have Angie Wade and Patricia Wade as historical and geological guides and Athabascan storyteller); at the Park we hope to be hiking down to the Mat-Su River on one of their trails



Animal Care-

Opportunity to teach responsibility:

Animal care is a great way to teach or enrich your student's virtues of responsibility and compassion. Mrs. Hill has some animals that are need of care this summer, please contact her if you are interested.

-Low maintenance care:

-tarantula: comes with crickets and habitat

-Four gold fish: with bowl and food

-Medium care level: two guinea pigs that need a home for the summer. This could be a permanent home or a temporary home. They come with a cage and food.



The reviews are in-

Mrs. Hill's 5th grade class production of Danae and Perseus was a hit! Students took great care memorizing their lines, creating costumes and props for the play. Good job !

The play was performed at Colony High School theater. The class chose this story because they have been learning many Greek myths and this was one of their favorites.

Written by: Ahna Steiner and Charlotte Brown

Photo credit- Michael Clemmens



Mrs. Hill's Class takes a bow

Early Release Part 4

In my last article, I mentioned that specific traditions come with becoming a Waldorf school. I referenced our school's mission, which is very similar to most other Waldorf schools' missions. Even the day on which teachers meet is quite uniform in Waldorf schools. As promised, what follows is part of the reason why.

The days of the week have long been associated with the planets (and their influences), beginning with their names. This is most readily seen in the romance languages: luna—moon—Monday; martes—Mars—Tuesday; miercoles—Mercury—Wednesday; jueves—Jupiter—Thursday; etc. In his large body of research and written works, Rudolf Steiner furthered the study of the planets' influences of the days of the week and gave indications for each. He recalls Jupiter, our largest planet, as representing the ruler of our thought life. Just as Jupiter can be seen from a great distance, Steiner associated Thursday with a clear line of vision. In addition, organizational goals are set with greater consideration for the good of a whole group. Steiner acknowledged that the mercurial nature of Wednesday would result in quick ideas that were easily subject to change. Friday, representing Venus, is associated with emotional, rather than logical, thinking. Steiner saw Friday, then, as a good day for building relationships more than for making decisions toward reaching goals. Therefore, he consciously chose Thursday to be the most productive of days for Waldorf school faculties to meet as academies providing leadership and vision for their schools.

-Donna Levesque

Pedagogical Chair

BIRCHTREE SUMMER ARTS CAMP

JUNE 9TH-13TH, 2014



A WEEK OF HANDS ON CREATIVITY!

**CAKE MAKING, WOODWORK, KNITTING,
FELTING, WATERCOLOR AND ACRYLIC
PAINTING, ADVENTURE CAMP, CHOIR, RE-
CORDER ENSEMBLE, AND GUITAR**

Follow the link on our schools homepage to **register**:

www.birchtreecharterschool.org

Or come register at the school's front office,
1707 East Palmer Wasilla Highway, Palmer, AK

April/May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28 Spring concert 6:30–8 PM	29 7th grade visits the Career Tech High School 9:30–11:00 AM T.R.I. for a New Direction, high school meeting @ 8:30 in the library	30	1 Ms. Albina's 2nd grade field trip to North Bowl	2 Pastries for Parents 8:30AM Ms. Sharrer's 3rd grade sleepover 6 PM–9 AM Champions for children banquet at Evangelos	3 May Faire 11-4
4 8th grade D.C trip May 4-9	5	6 T.R.I. for a New Direction, high school meeting @ 8:30 in the library Teacher Appreciation Day	7 Both 1st grades will perform their plays @ 2 PM APC Meeting 6-8 PM	8 5th grade pentathlon at the Sherrod soccer field behind Academy Charter. time: TBA	9 Professional development (No School)	10
11	12	13 TRI for a New Di- rection, high school meeting @ 8:30 in the library Mrs. Tran's 4th grade class play rehearsal 1:30– 3:00 PM	14 BPG Meeting at 3:45 PM Mrs. Tran's 4th grade play 1:30-3:00 6th grade play at Colony High 6-8 PM	15 7th grade class play at Palmer High 6-8 PM 4th grade Mat Su River Historical/ Cul- tural Tour 8:30–3:00	16 8th grade graduation at the Palmer Depot 6:00 PM	17 District track meet at Colony High time: TBA
18	19 4th grade field trip to the Anchorage zoo 8:30–3:00	20 Last day of school!	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31