

Birchtree Friday Update

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



March 27, 2015

t. 907-745-1831

f. 907-745-1843

HONOR and HONESTY

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the economically and/or socially oppressed. His work is rooted in transforming violent personal experience to non-violent change. As a young Indian in South Africa, he met with prejudice and racism from both Caucasian and Black Africans, being either "too black" or "too white". Arun's anger was riled, but his grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi, as well as his father taught him to seek justice through love rather than violence. Years ago, he spoke of his experience as a young boy, to an audience in Anchorage. This lecture dealt with honesty in a way I had not heard of prior to his talk.

Mahatma Gandhi lived in South Africa during only part of Arun's upbringing, but his legacy remained, mainly through his son, Arun's father. Arun and his family lived in a small South African village, approximately 18 miles from the nearest town. Their trips into town were infrequent and limited to purchasing or replenishing necessities unavailable in their village. One day, Arun recalls, his father bestowed him the honor of accompanying him to town. Their car needed repairs, and Arun was asked to take the vehicle into the shop after leaving his father to purchase groceries and sundries. Arun was to pick up his father at 5:00.

Arun dropped his father off and made his way toward the repair shop. The work was soon done, leaving Arun some time to spare. He decided to take in a movie: a John Wayne feature. Better yet, the theater would show a double feature this day. Arun became thoroughly engrossed in the films, and sat at the theater well past 5:00 o'clock. His father waited impatiently to be picked up, and decided to call into the repair shop to check the status of his car. The car, he was told, had left long ago.

Having enjoyed the movies, Arun quickly headed to the agreed-upon meeting spot. His father asked him why he was late. Arun explained that he was late because the car had not been ready. Many young men in this situation would have given a similar response. What was said next is where this story departs from the norm. His father looked Arun straight in the eye and said, "What have I done wrong, that you lack the courage to tell the truth? Get in the car. I will walk home."

Arun's father had learned to transform situations with suffering and love, in the same way as had his father before him. Arun was mortified at the thought of his father walking some 18 miles home. "Please, father, ride with me and I will drive us home." "No," the answer came. Repeatedly, Arun tried to dissuade his father from walking during the long, slow ride home, but without success. Nothing more was said or done. Arun, however, vowed from that day forward to remain truthful.

-Donna Levesque

Save This Date

April 1st: APC Meeting 6-8 PM

April 3rd: Intent to Return forms due

April 3rd: Pastries for Parents 8:30-10 AM

April 10th: Intent to Enroll form due.

April 22nd: The lottery will be held at 7 PM

May 1-8: 8th Grade trip to Washington DC.

May 2nd May Faire 11-3

May 7th: 5th Grade Pentathlon Goose Lake Anchorage

May 8th and 9th: BPG rummage sale.

May 9th: Elementary Track Meet TBA

May 15th: 8th Grade promotion at Mat-Su Senior Center.

May 18th: Last day of school for students. Enjoy your summer break.

Honesty

Honesty is being truthful, sincere, open, and genuine. We are content and confident to be ourselves. We see ourselves and others with unclouded eyes. We do not exaggerate to impress others. We refuse to lie, cheat or take what is not ours. We strive to keep our promises. As we recognize illusions and self-deceptions, we gently let them go. We admit mistakes even when we know someone may be disappointed or angry. We heal old messages that tell us we are less than worthy. We stand strong, knowing that we have true value in being who we are.

Reminders

Second Semester Supply FEES are due, if you have not paid please do so. Thanks

The front office has a basket of Lost and Found from before spring break. Please check with Beth if you are missing coats, snowpants, hats or gloves. The basket of Lost and Found will be donated to Bishops Attic Tuesday March 31st.

Intent to Return forms are now available on our website at www.birchtreecharterschool.org. If you intend on your student returning for the 2015-16 school year please complete and submit by April 3, 2015.

The Intent to Enroll form is now available. Please note there have been changes to families with prospective students. You may review those changes on our website at www.birchtreecharterschool.org

Pizza Orders: Please do not put multiple children on the pizza order. A pizza order form is needed for each student as the orders are sorted and delivered by classroom.

No Pizza the Month of May.

Parents, our school yearbook staff is in need of more pictures from school-wide events such as: Fall Festival, Circus, NYO, Winter Concert, Volleyball, Cross Country, Lantern Walk, Rose Ceremony, Art Club, Handwork Club, Chess Club, Carnival and other German events. Parents can email images to Dana Phillips (dana.phillips@matsuk12.us) OR go onto the TreeRing website (<https://www.treering.com>), create an account, and upload pics there (use school passcode: 1013468155713247).

BPG Rummage Sale

BPG and the 7th grade class are looking for good quality donated items for this years rummage sale! The sale will be held May 8th and 9th at the school. Donations will be accepted each Thursday starting on February 19th from 1-2 pm. If you have any questions please contact Mr. David Auld at 315-3079. March/April Pizza Order Forms are located in the

front office.

Please submit those orders by Wednesday of that week.

**Rummage
SALE**

Dear Birchtree Upper Grades Parents,

Birchtree will be fielding a middle school track and field team this year!

We are excited to invite all upper grades (6,7 & 8) to consider joining the track & field team.

Please read the following information thoroughly so that you may discuss with your student the option of participating on the team. Please pay particular attention to the expectations section, to which both parents and athletes would need to commit wholeheartedly.

Season details:

Preseason conditioning => March 19—April 9, Tues & Thurs for one hour after school

Official season => April 13th—May 15th

Daily practice (M-T-W & F), 3:45-5:00pm

Practice on Thurs at Colony High School track, 1:45-2:45pm (parent transport)

Three track meets, on Tuesdays => 4/28, 5/5 and 5/12/15

School district requirements (prior to any participation, pre-season included):

Current sports physical.

\$60 sports participation fee.

Signed parental consent/waiver.

Additional requirements:

Well-fitting running shoes.

Appropriate clothing for all weather conditions (we may have cold, wind and snow!).

Water bottle at EVERY practice.

Expectations:

No athlete will interfere with the learning or participation of another team member.

All athletes will attend practices regularly.

All athletes will fully participate in all aspects of the practice.

Please know that ALL students are welcome to participate in the track & field season, regardless of their previous experience. Finally, I would very much like to work with a parent or two who can assist with coaching these athletes. Due to the nature of track & field, there will be days in which we are trying to have 3-4 groups working on different skills. If you are interested in participating on a fairly regular basis (and I strive to keep the workout schedule predictable and rhythmic), please contact me via phone or email. I will have limited ability to contact you before March 18th, but I will get back to you as soon as I am able.

Parents and athletes, please feel free to contact me with any questions. I am excited to again be part of the Birchtree athletic program.

Warmly,

Heather Lee

hacski@mtaonline.net

907-232-0660

The German Corner



Congratulations to Mrs. Folsoms Class for finishing the German reading and writing Block on "Der Rattenfänger von Hameln" (Pied Piper). All of you worked so hard in the workshop sessions and really mastered the story and its questions, all in German. Well done! I'm proud of you!

Help needed:

Mau Rogers needs help mounting a manual pencil sharpener and some quilt hangers.

Elementary Track 2015

Track starts Thursday April 9, 2015. All fourth and fifth grade students are welcome to join. Practices will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:20 PM to 4:35 PM. On Thursdays practice will be from 1:30 to 2:35. We ask that all participants be picked up promptly. The season concludes with an all-district meet at Palmer High School May 9, 2015.

All practices will be held outdoors and there will be some cold and rainy days ahead, we recommend that all participants be prepared for the weather.

A fee of \$10.00 is REQUIRED of all Elementary School Extra Curricular Participants. (Please fill out Form)

Important Note : Students participating in extra curricular sports are not covered by school district insurance. Forms are available in the office if you desire to purchase coverage for your child (ren).

I'm looking forward to a great season!

Coach Andrist

Mrs. Vander Schrier would like to remind parents that even with this great warm sunny weather, she still expects children to have their coats at Movement. They may take their coat off on nice warm days as long as they have long sleeve. This is an expectation for 1st-8th graders. Along with coats it is also important to have appropriate shoe gear for Movement. Thank you for your support.

Dear Birchtree parents, a wonderful opportunity has come our way. Colony High School Tennis Club is providing two sessions May 8th with a pro Tennis player.

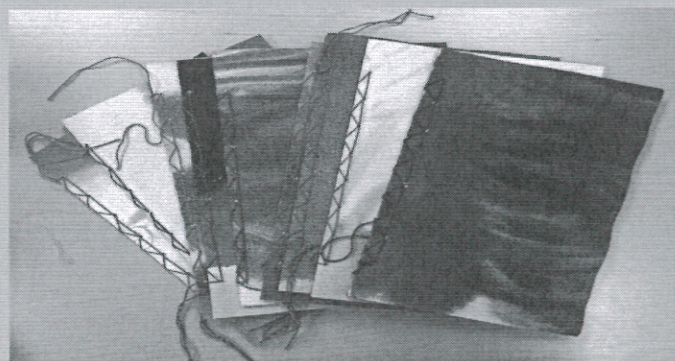
Mrs. Vander Schrier

Gratitude's and Expressions.

Mrs. Basner says a big thank you to Jason Thompson for helping her students make wooden boats. Thank you for all the preparation you put into making each of the pieces!

Congratulations to 2nd grade parent, Becca Moore, for completing the Iditarod! What an amazing goal! We look forward to hearing stories from the trail!

Thank you to the 4-8th grade classes who helped make journals to donate to MY House.



Upcoming Events

The National Tsunami Warning Center is hosting an open house on Saturday, March 28, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

Try the Shake Shack (experience an earthquake), view the Wave Tank, learn about Tsunamis and Tsunami preparedness.

Location: 6 Felton Drive, Palmer

Cost: Free

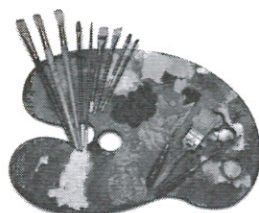
Birchtree Summer Arts Camp 2015 is to be held June 8-13th. I am honored to be passed the torch as Coordinator and continue what began last year. Our amazing volunteers and instructors served 34 campers in 2014 and raised a net profit of \$1600.31 for the BPG. It is my hope to expand camp attendance this year, hire quality instructors and artists, involve more of our community, and inspire people to create! This year, adult classes and more child age groups are to be included.

As an art instructor practicing in Alaska since 2009, I know that it's important to have a clear vision when it comes to promoting your services and feeling invested and recognized when others want you to be a part of what they are doing. Your involvement is priceless. By donating your time or resources by instructing or volunteering, you are raising funds so that the Birchtree Parent Guild can provide valuable resources for the students and teachers of BCS. Please consider joining this exciting adventure with us!

INSTRUCTORS:

Instructors are invited to take part in the June 2nd Saturday Birchtree Summer Arts Camp Showcase in order to promote their services, free of charge. They are encouraged to display an artist statement as well as host a table and greet attendees with information about their services. Instructor information will also be displayed on our webpage. Instructors in the following areas are needed:

Visual Arts
Culinary Arts
Circus Arts
Dance
Gardening
Woodworking
Fiber Arts
Photography
Drama
Adventure
Other



VOLUNTEERS

There are many opportunities to volunteer for the camp. What a fun way to meet new people, be a part of your community, and gain experience being part of a team! If you are a parent of a BCS student, this is a wonderful way to earn your volunteer hours! Donations are tax deductible. Areas of need are as follows:

Materials Coordinator
Publicity Coordinator
Finance and Registration Coordinator
Facility Coordinator
Clean-Up Crew
Set-Up Crew
Childcare Coordinator
Childcare Workers
Food Coordinator
Meal Preparation & Donation
Grant Writer
Art Showcase Coordinator
Art Showcase Crew

Victoria Peterson
Birchtree Summer Arts Camp Coordinator
Email: thecanvascafe@yahoo.com
Birchtreesummerartscamp.blogspot.com



March/April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22	23 Day 1	24 Day 2	25 Day3	26 Early Release Day 1	27 Day 2	28
29	30 Day 3	31 Day 1	1 APC Meeting 6-8 Day 2	2 Early Release Day 3	3 Pastries for Parents 8:30-10 AM Intent to return forms due Day 1	4
5	6 Day 2	7 Day 3	8 Day 1	9 Early Release Day 2	10 Intent to enroll forms are due Day 3	11
12	13 Day 1	14 Day 2	15 BPG 2nd semester Supply fees due Day 3	16 Early Release Day 1	17 Day 2	18
19	20 Day 3	21 Day 1	22 Lottery 7PM Day 2	23 Early Release Day 3	24 Day 1	25