

Birchtree Friday Update

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



April 24, 2015

t. 907-745-1831

f. 907-745-1843

VIRTUES in RETROSPECT, Part 2

As I indicated last week, the staff at Birchtree works with virtues central to the school's mission and identified by the acronym TREE: Thankfulness, Responsibility, Empathy, and Excellence; all rooted in the ground of respect. To reflect upon responsibility is to realize how the Waldorf curriculum aims to create a habit of being reliable, trustworthy, and accountable.

This work begins in the kindergarten. Because kindergarteners are imitative, teachers are tasked with providing models worthy of imitation. Children are taught to hang up their coats, place shoes neatly in their cubbies, put toys away, set and clear the table, rinse their snack dishes, and how to fold large cloths. One of the goals for kindergartners is to develop a habit of being responsible in these areas.

In the primary grades, children are still imitative, but decreasingly so, and teachers continue to be models for them. Teachers lead by example, using a quiet voice when that is expected of his/her students, writing slowly and carefully in main lesson work, and handling conflict in a kind, truthful, and just manner. Students are assigned classroom chores, to be done at the end of each and every day. These chores hold each student responsible, in part, for smooth functioning of the entire class.

The hope is that by the middle and upper grades, healthy student habits have been established. Around 10 years of age, Waldorf students are expected to have gained a sense of responsibility. They have developed initiative of their own, after years of will-development, to do what they are relied upon to do. As pre-adolescents wend their way closer toward adulthood, they often yearn for greater privileges. Responsibility becomes the leverage for these privileges, since the rite of passage to adulthood truly centers around the "ability to respond"--responsibility. Teachers look for their students' ability to assume increasing responsibility for their main lesson work, such as self-editing; to be relied upon to accomplish tasks without repeated reminders; and to own their mistakes and misdeeds. Children of this age now rebel, rather than imitate, providing some of the greatest challenges in our "ability to respond".

-Donna Levesque
Pedagogical Dean

Save This Date

April 27th: 6th grade Knighthood Ceremony @ 11:30 AM.

April 29th: Jo-Ann Climenhage, How to bolster their child(ren) learning at home lecture will take place from 6:30-8 PM in Anchorage.

April 30th: 2nd grade plays and potluck dinner 5:00 PM

May 1st: Pastries for Parents 8:30-10 AM

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

May 2nd May Faire 11 AM - 3 PM

May 7th: 5th Grade Pentathlon @ Goose Lake in Anchorage. Bus provided only to Goose Lake departs at 9 AM

May 8th and 9th: BPG rummage sale.

May 9th: Elementary Track Meet Palmer High School

May 11th: Mr. Clarks 4th grade class play time to be announced

May 12th: Mrs. Johndros class play at 5:30 PM

May 13th: APC meeting 6-8PM BPG meeting 3:35

May 15th: 8th Grade promotion at Mat-Su Senior Center 6 PM

May 18th: Medieval Games (6th grade)

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

Reminders

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 from 1-2 pm. If you have any questions please contact Mr. David Auld at 315-3079.

Please pay Second Semester Supply fees. You may check at the Front Office if you are unsure if you owe. The supply fees are due prior to returning for the 2015/2016 school year. If you are incurring a financial hardship, please ask at the Front Office for a Supply Fee Scholarship.

There is NO PIZZA in May. Please be sure to pack your child(ren) healthy snacks and lunches for all school days in May.

Please continue to check lost and found.

Gratitude's and Expressions.

The second grade teachers want to thank all of the parents who have worked so hard on our costumes and other things for our upcoming play. We greatly appreciate your help! We look forward to seeing you at our class plays on Thursday, April 30, at 5:00 PM. Our plays will be followed by a class potluck.

~Mrs. Basner & Mrs. Horvath

Thank you parents and staff for supporting the spring concert on Tuesday night. Thank you to all the students who attended and played/sang their hearts out.

Lost and Found

A purple pair of eye glasses have been turned in to the front office. The brand of the frame is Karen Kane.

A Violin has been turned in to the front office. If this belongs to you please come and see Ms. Beth.

BPG NEWS

Amazon Smile~ Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Birchtree Parents Guild Inc. has been added to the list. This is another great way to help give money back to our school. Next time you place an order through Amazon choose Birchtree Parents Guild Inc. as your charitable organization.

Thank you for all that you do,

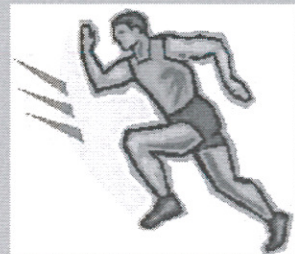
Tiffany Kent

BPG Treasurer

Middle School Track

If your student athlete is interested in participating in the middle school track and field program at Birchtree, you **MUST** have the following submitted to the office prior to participation:

- * Signed participation form
- * Current school physical on file
- * \$60 participation fee



Your student will **NOT** be allowed to participate until all three of these items are completed.

Please be aware that the track season is very brief — starts April 13 and ends May 13 — so attendance at every practice is important. It is my priority to assure that our athletes are trained safely and consistently. Consistent attendance will assist in injury prevention and maximum benefit to your athlete.

For those students that have already been participating in the pre-conditioning, please be sure your fees are paid, and that we have a copy of your physical on record.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns (hacski@mtaonline.net<<mailto:hacski@mtaonline.net>>; 907-232-0660)

Thank you and I look forward to a fun season with your student athletes!

Heather Lee

Coach

907-232-0660

Middle School Track Schedule

April 28th JV meet @ Palmer

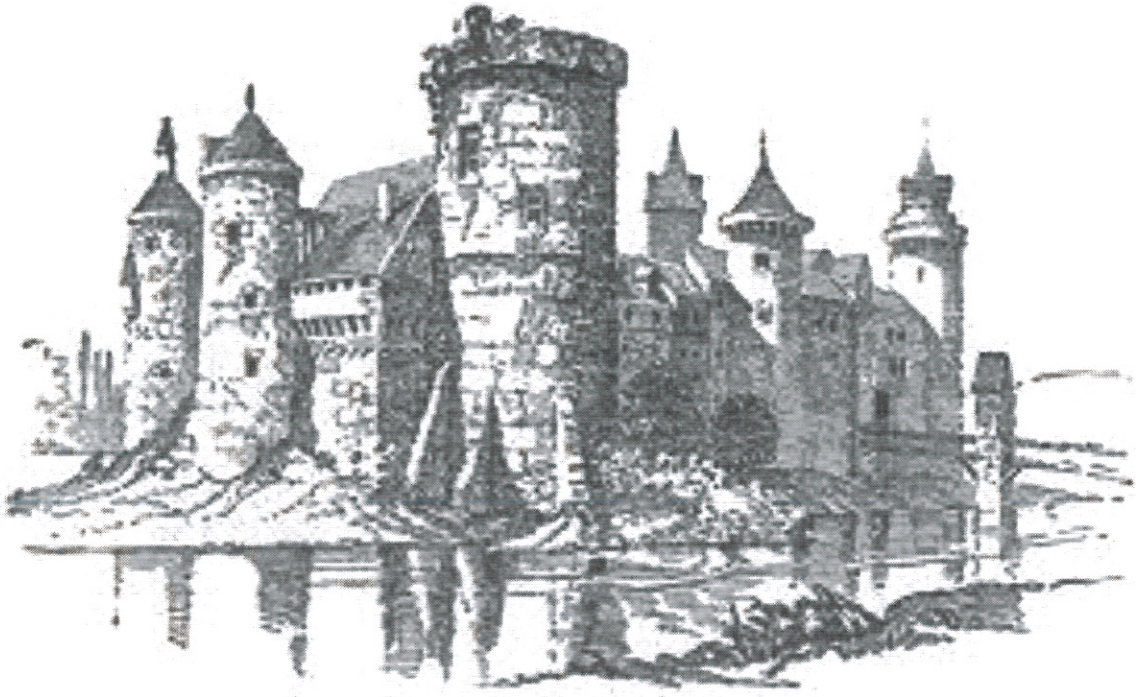
May 6th JV meet @ Teeland (@ Wasilla High School Track)

May 7th Varsity Meet @ Teeland (@ Wasilla High School Track)

May 12th JV Championship @ Houston

May 14th Varsity Championships @ Colony

BIRCHTREE 6TH GRADE



MEDIEVAL GAMES

MAY 18TH 2015 9AM- 1PM

GUARDIANS NEEDED:

Mrs. Vander Schrier is looking for Guardians to help move knights through the events.

1. Familiarize themselves with the locations of each event.
2. Event directions will be written at site of each event.
3. Look for virtues throughout the day
 - Fortitude
 - Justice
 - Hope
 - Trust
 - Charity/loyalty concern for others
 - Prudence
 - Temperance

April/May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19	20 Day 3	21 Spring Music Concert 6 PM @ Palmer First Baptist Church Day 1	22 Lottery 7 PM Day 2	23 Early Release Day 3	24 Day 1	25
26	27 Day 2	28 Day 3	29 Day 1	30 Early Release 2nd grade plays and pot luck at 5 pm Day 2	1 Pastries for Parents 8-10 AM 8th grade leaves for D.C Day 3	2 May Faire 11-3
3	4 Day 1	5 Day 2	6 Day 3	7 5th Grade Pentathlon at Goose Lake Early Release Day 1	8 Professional Development day No school for students. 7th Grade Rummage Sale	9 7th grade rummage sale 9 AM
10	11 Mr. Clarks Class Play TBA Day 2	12 Mrs. Johndro's class play 5:30 PM Day 3	13 APC Meeting 6-8 BPG Meeting 3:45 Day 1	14 Early Release Day 2	15 8th Grade Promotion at Palmer Senior center at 6PM Day 3	16
17	18 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Day 1	19	20	21	22	23