



Birchtree Charter School Fall Faire

mark your calendars for

Saturday, September 24th, 11am – 3pm

– a day filled with activities that bridge summer and winter!

This Fair brings together families from our school and beyond, for a celebration of the season with activities for the whole family:

- Crafts for young and older fingers
- Making Wooden Swords
- Wax-dipped Leaves
- Leaf Rubbings
- Potato Dig
- Face painting
- Carnival Games
- Bonfire
- Soup (provided by the Kindergarten families)



Activities above (both indoor and outdoor) are paid for in gems. Gems may be purchased 20-per cup-full for \$5. (Most booths are 2 -3 gems, except for swords at 6 gems.) For each cup of gems purchased, you can enter your name into a pumpkin drawing.

Fundraising items are a cash-only service, provided by students for their class activities:

- Bake Sale
- Drinks and Rootbeer Floats
- Walking Tacos
- Class handicraft items may also be available

This annual event is a wonderful way for classmates, parents, alumni, and our local friends to see the Birchtree school community in action.

—Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate with us!



Birchtree Chess Club 2016 - 2017

- WHEN:** Tuesdays from 3:30–4:30 PM
- WHERE:** In Mr. Klauder's room (307)
- WHY:** Because Chess...
- IS FUN!
 - Helps develop thinking skills.
 - Builds self-esteem
 - Encourages positive study habits
 - Teaches good sportsmanship
 - IS FUN!
- WHAT:** Each session will include a chess lesson followed by free playing time.
- WHO:** **Anyone in grades 4 – 8** who wants to learn how to play chess – even if you have never played chess before!
- HOW:** Turn in the permission slip at the office along with the \$20 fee. Please talk to Mr. Klauder if you have any questions.

Birchtree Chess Club – Permission Slip

This form must be completed and returned to the office prior to participation.

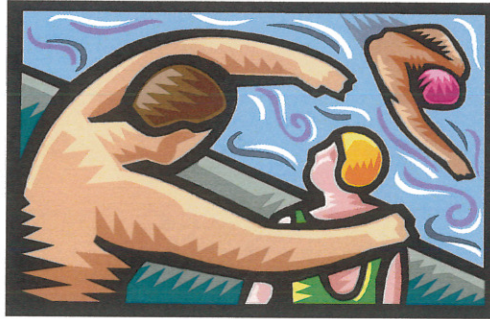
My child has my permission to participate in the Birchtree Chess Club. I understand that the club will meet in Mr. Klauder's room from **3:30–4:30 PM on Tuesdays**. I also understand that I will need to arrange transportation on the days that my child participates.

All Birchtree Charter School students participating in after school activities must be picked up within 15 minutes of activity completion (by 4:45). Please make appropriate transportation arrangements. Failure to do so may result in loss of participation.

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Gardian: _____ Date: _____

Palmer Pool Community Enrichment After School Swimming Lessons



The Palmer Pool staff will once again be providing Community Enrichment swimming lessons to your elementary school child. Your child will be picked up at the end of their school day by a designated bus that will take them to the Palmer Pool for their swimming lessons. The swimmers will be divided into several groups, based on their ability, and will be taught basic strokes, water safety, stroke improvement, and games. **This is for children 6 years and older.**

The lessons will be two days a week for four weeks and start at 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm. (see below for the days & dates). Total cost of the class will be \$70. This will include eight, 45 minute lessons, and **one-way bus transportation** from Academy to Palmer Pool. **Enrollment for the lessons will be limited to the first 40 children that are registered.** Registration is first come, first served, and tends to fill up quickly, so come in early! You must come to the pool and register in person, Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 pm, and Saturdays between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. All lessons must be paid for at the time of registration with either cash, checks, and credit cards.

Parents must pick up their child at the pool promptly after the lesson has concluded for the day. The classes end at 4:45 pm. Students will need to bring their own swim suit and towel. Please mark all of your child's belongings with permanent ink.

Birchtree Charter

Dates: November 8th - November 30th, 2016

Days: Mondays and Wednesdays

Class time: 4:00 - 4:45 pm

Age requirement: 6 years or older

Cost: \$70.00

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! We will need two adult volunteers. One to ride the bus and take attendance and one to give the first volunteer a ride back to their car. These volunteer positions are very important, since the lessons will not happen without an adult on the bus. A \$60 gift certificate will be given to volunteers upon completion of lessons. Anyone interested in volunteering please let Vanessa Becker know when you come in to register your child.

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K-12

Sixth Grade Is Tough. It Helps To Be 'Top Dog'

September 19, 2016 · 6:00 AM ET

ANYA KAMENETZ





A new study reports bottom dogs have higher rates of bullying, fighting, and gang activity and lower rates of safety and belonging than top and middle dogs.

Neil Webb/Getty Images/Ikon Images

Oh, middle school. The land of pantsing. Mean girls who won't let you sit with them in the cafeteria. And, these days, cryptic taunts posted on social media, where parents and teachers can't always see them.

Middle schoolers report higher rates of bullying and fights than students in any other grade span, and their academic performance also tends to dip. But, things could be a little better — if we just got rid of middle schools, according to a big new study.

Sorry kids, I'm not talking about staying home for those prime puberty years. The study looked at the experiences of sixth- through eighth-graders in New York City at schools with different grade spans: K-8 vs. 6-8 and 6-12.

In the K-8 schools, those tweens and young teens were the "top dogs" — the oldest, the most comfortable and familiar with the school. But, in traditional middle schools and 6-12 schools, sixth graders were the "bottom dogs."

The researchers drew from an unusually large group: 90,000 students in more than 500 schools. They studied them over a three-year period, and had access to a whole lot of data about them. This included annual student surveys, of the kind becoming more common in districts nationwide.

The researchers found that when students were not the "bottom dogs," they reported feeling safer, less bullying, less fighting and a greater sense of belonging.



NPR ED

A Silent Epidemic: The Mental Health Crisis In Our Schools



For example, one third of sixth-graders in 6-12 schools reported that students threatened or bullied other students "most or all of the time." Only one in four students at K-8 schools said the same thing. And their grades and test scores were better, too.

There's been a lot of research already supporting what's called the "top dog/bottom dog" hypothesis. But, because of the size of this study, the authors were able to strengthen the evidence by ruling out other factors.

"We, in fact, are the first to find that your position in the school affects your experiences, as opposed to some other explanation," study author Michah W. Rothbart at Syracuse University told NPR Ed.

For example, the negative effects of being a bottom dog don't just come from being new to the school: The students who transferred into a K-8 school in sixth grade still had better experiences than students who started at a 6-8 school.

The researchers even had access to the students' height and weight, so they could show that being tall enough to blend in with the older kids didn't necessarily soften "bottom dog" status.

Today the prevailing practice nationwide is for middle schoolers to go to, well, middle schools. So, should this research motivate a wave of school reorganization?

On the one hand, as Rothbart points out, "Someone has to be the bottom at some point. That is the nature of the system." However, since middle schoolers generally have a harder time with school climate than high schoolers do, there's a case to be made for reserving "bottom dog" status for ninth-graders alone.

Ahh, freshman year.