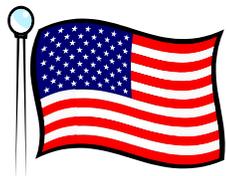


THE BIRCHWOOD BANNER

August 28, 2017



Birchwood ABC achieves high academic standards through a structured, well-defined curriculum, based on the mastery of skills, mandated homework and consistent grading procedures. Our program emphasizes leadership, citizenship, self-discipline, and character development as its guiding principles.

Principal's Corner

Greetings, Birchwood ABC Families!

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! The school year is off to a wonderful start. Happy First Day of School to our Kindergarteners! Our Birchwood ABC family is now complete with the arrival of our kindergarteners. It was really exciting to see their bright shining faces this morning when they arrived at school.

Communication is a key ingredient to our success at Birchwood. We work hard to keep our families informed about what is happening at school, and there are a variety of communication tools we will be using this year. Every month our school newsletter *The Banner* will be sent out via email to families. Our PTA will also publish a monthly newsletter and maintain a Facebook page. Families will receive a newsletter from either the PTA or our front office every two weeks. Teachers send out a weekly newsletter about classroom-based events, school activities, and homework. Periodically we will send out robo calls, emails, and text messages to let families know about special events at school. We are going to try something new this year by starting a school Twitter account. We will be sharing more information about this soon when we have that up and running. In addition, the Anchorage School District and our school websites are great resources for information. You are always welcome to call our office if you are in need of more information or with questions. We are happy to assist you!

You may have noticed some new faces in our school. We are happy to welcome Kirk Olson as our new PE teacher. Some of our students may have had him as a PE teacher in the past when he came here on Fridays to teach classes. We are happy to have him here full-time. Cindy Crum is our new 4th grade teacher. We are thrilled to have her join our teaching team. We

are also excited to have Cynthia Howze-Sinclair join us as our new Life Skills teacher. We also have a new Military Family Life Counselor (MFLC). Let's welcome Kate Bradley as our new MFLC! Ms. Bradley will be sharing information at our Open House on September 14th about the ways our MFLC Program support our students who are military dependents. We are super excited to welcome our new staff members to the Birchwood community.

It is honor to serve as the principal of Birchwood ABC. I am here to support our students, staff, and families. I have an open-door policy and welcome visitors. Feel free to drop by with questions, feedback, or a great success story. Thank you for your support! We consider parents to be our partners in educating our students. Here's to a great school year! ☺

Sincerely,

Lynn Mayberry-Burke, Principal

Mayberry.Lynn@asdk12.org

CALENDAR

September

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 4 | Labor Day— <i>NO SCHOOL</i> |
| 6 | PTA Meeting 6:00-8:00pm |
| 14 | Picture Day! |
| 14 | Open House 6:00-7:30pm |
| 15 | Family Fun Night 6:00-8:00pm |

Notes from Nurse Beth

Welcome back!! Summer went by very fast for me. Now the leaves are starting to fall and temperatures outside are also coming down. Please dress your students according to the weather. Layers are the best remedy.

At this time Health Services has not heard from the State if or when we will be getting flu vaccine again this year. Current consents are not available as yet. I know there was an option to indicate on the online registration whether you would like the flu vaccine given to your student at school if available. That option if chosen would not constitute a consent for vaccine administration. I will let you all know when and if the vaccine will be available through the school district this year. Please watch in The Banner for that announcement.

ASD has asked the school nurses to pass out a form to all parents, "How Sick is Too Sick for School?" Attached you will find this form. Please check it out. Any yes response basically says your student should probably stay home. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call, email, or visit me at school.

That's it for now. Please have a safe and pleasant Labor Day@

Nurse Beth
thomas_beth@asdk12.org



Each month BWABC has a character trait which one child from each class is awarded. September's character trait is:

RESPECT:

A regard for or appreciation of the worth or value of someone or something.

We will be highlighting examples of respect in our building this month.



Birchwood ABC Open House

We hope you will join us for our Open House on Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our curriculum, ASD standards, expectations, and classroom activities. Don't forget to visit our specialists and Special Education teachers! Those teachers would also love to share their plans for the school year. There will also be informational tables set up in the main hallway for our PTA, Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC), and some community organizations. We are excited to open our doors and welcome our families. We hope to see you there!

Band and Orchestra News

Band and Orchestra Parent Nights

Sixth graders have their first elective this year: band or orchestra. Once again, Marie Mills is our band teacher, and Shonti Elder is our orchestra teacher.

If your sixth grader is interested in joining either band or orchestra, please come to the **ASD Instrumental Music Open House** this week to learn more about the program and instrument choices.

You may come either Tuesday, August 29, at West High School in Anchorage, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM or Wednesday, August 30 at Gruening Middle School in Eagle River, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. On both nights music stores will have representatives to talk to parents about renting a musical instrument. To learn more, go to www.music.asdk12.org, click Elementary Music, and then 6th Grade Band and Orchestra.

Our regular band / orchestra class schedule begins Aug. 23. Students will need to sign a contract (commitment form) and return it by Friday, Sept. 8. Students don't need to have an instrument until later in September. For more information contact:

[Elder Shonti@asdk12.org](mailto:Elder.Shonti@asdk12.org) or
[Mills Marie@asdk12.org](mailto:Mills.Marie@asdk12.org)

Instruments Needed

If you have a musical instrument that you would like to donate to the Anchorage School District, please bring it to school for Shonti Elder or Marie Mills. We can provide a tax donation slip for you. We would also appreciate any extra music stands, or beginning band books left over from last year!

BAC News

Welcome and Announcements: The Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC) is excited to welcome you to another fun-filled school year. The BAC is a committee of parents or guardians of BWABC students organized for the purpose of advising, consulting, and assisting the school's administrative staff on matters relating to the curriculum.

Current BAC members are: Paige Saylor, Kai Sims, Beth Hastings, Kae Quick, Kristyne Montero, Jodie Yoschak, and Brad Poston.

We would also like to Welcome Bobbi Mason to the BAC, who was voted in to fill a recent vacancy.

Look for us at the Birchwood ABC Open House on September 14th; we'd be happy to discuss any questions or suggestions you may have regarding curriculum matters.

Next Meeting: The next BAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18th at 6:30pm in the library. Please email bwabcbac@yahoo.com with any questions or curriculum matters you'd like to discuss or address.

BIRCHWOOD ABC LIBRARY



Please contact me with
Questions, Concerns, or Suggestions!
brandt_allison@asdk12.org
<http://tinyurl.com/hjuh8jp>



Boxtops!

Please send in all the Boxtops you can! The class that brings in the most Boxtops each quarter will win a Popsicle party in the library! Last year, Boxtop collection resulted in over \$900 in new books for our school!

Volunteers

I've increased the amount of time I am working directly with classes this year and will need regular weekly volunteers to help with shelving and book processing. Please email me if you can lend a hand!

brandt_allison@asdk12.org

Donations

We can always use more yarn and origami paper for our Makerspace. Mrs. Dennis graciously donated some knitting looms that are sure to be popular. Please support our budding crafters and makers with your extra yarn and origami paper!

Library Schedule

Each class spends 50 minutes in the library each week. For grades K - 3 this represents an increase of 15 minutes of library time over last year! Library time consists of a lesson on information literacy or children's literature as well as book selection and checkout time. Additionally, students in grades 2 - 6 have the opportunity to come and create, experiment and explore at our library Makerspace during select recesses each week.

Circulation Policies

Kindergarten - 2 Books
1st - 3rd Grade - 3 Books
4th - 6th Grade 4 Books

Books can be renewed up to three times. Books that are already checked out may be placed on hold using our online catalog system. Students may not check out items if they have an overdue item.



"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life." ~Sidney Sheldon