



Birchwood ABC

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August 25, 2008

High academic standards through a structured, well-defined curriculum based on mastery of skills, good deportment, mandated homework and consistent grading procedures. A program which emphasizes leadership, citizenship, self-discipline, and character development as its guiding principle.

Principally Speaking

Hello Everyone,

It looks like we're off to a great start! I hope that the first week of school went smoothly for all students who were here last week (grades 2-6). Tomorrow, Tuesday the 26th, we welcome the kindergarten and 1st graders to school (they were being assessed last week). I urge all parents of older students to remind their children to be helpful and kind to our incoming 5 and 6 year olds.

The parking lot rules went out in last weeks Banner and if you haven't had a chance to review them, I urge you to do so. Drivers who abide by the organizational rules tend to get very frustrated with those that don't. We want our parking and driving lot situation to be cordial and safe.

Remember, students must never exit onto a road without direct assistance from an adult. Also, do not drive up to the cross walk in the parking lot and let your child out. If you come into the parking lot to drop your child off, you must park and escort him or her to the crosswalk. If you want to stay in your vehicle to drop-off or pick-up your child, you must be in either of the two drop-off/pick-up areas by the sidewalks, not in the parking lot. Thank you for complying with these very important policies.

Another reminder is that promptness is important. Consistent unexcused tardiness (3 or more) have stiff penalties for students including lunch time detentions, even if it is the driver's fault. If you are transporting your child, a good policy is to try to arrive by 8:50 to give yourself a little bit of extra time if something unexpected comes up. Lastly, if you are late for any reason, you must walk your child to the office. Excused absences include things like doctors appointments. Excused absences do not count as tardies. If buses are late, for whatever reason, those students will not be counted as tardy.

The Banner comes out every week on the first day of the week. Read it to keep on top of upcoming happenings at the school. I hope you and your family have a great week.

Dan Reed- Principal

New Staff Members!

We would like to welcome two new staff members to Birchwood ABC. First, Mr. Justin Price, is our new Building Plant Operator (BPO). He comes from Chinook elementary school and he's doing an excellent job. Also, we have a new art teacher, Ms. Rosie Morgan, whom we are sharing with Chugiak Elementary school. Please welcome Ms. Morgan and Mr. Price to Birchwood ABC.

Word for the Week ~ "Preparation"

- Getting organized before you begin
- Being ready for an unexpected event

Theme for the Month of August ~ "Honesty"



RWB



Every Friday (or the last day of any week), is a spirit day at our school. Please wear your school colors of red, white, and blue! Classes that have 100% participation will be mentioned in the Banner.



Calendar

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| 8/26 (Tue) | 1 st day of school for kindergarten and 1 st grade. |
| 8/26 (Tue) | Tears or Cheers table for kindergarten 9:00am |
| 8/28 (Thurs) | Open House/PTO general membership meeting 6:30-8:00pm |
| 9/1 (Mon) | No School/ Labor Day |

Cafeteria Comments:

Welcome back! For those of you new to this school, my name is Mrs. Jennings, and I am the Hot lunch lady. There are a few things I want to

address to help us all get started to a great and healthy school year.

For those of you who are new to our program, I'll fill you in on how it works.

If you think your child is going to eat hot lunch, it is best to pre-pay. Every child enrolled in ASD has a lunch account, so I can add money to your child's account at any time. If your child is running low on funds, and the next day they have only the amount for one lunch, I will put a "Last Day" sticker on their card. This information will hopefully get back to you.

We allow each student to charge lunch 3 times (unless you call and tell me otherwise). You will know your child has charged when you see them hand you a pink slip saying "Meal Charge Slip". At the student's second charge, I will call home to alert you that your child is nearing their last lunch. If a student charges their third time and still does not bring in money or a lunch the next day, they will receive a cold pack and milk only.

Every Monday I will send home a balance slip with every student that owes any money. This is computer generated, so even if a student owes (\$.15), the slip will come home. If there seems to be a pattern with a student charging, a free/reduced application will be sent home to the parents of that student.

If you think you might qualify for free/reduced lunches, please stop by the office for an application, or call me and I will send an application to you. If your child was on the free/reduced program last year, you will still need to submit a new application to see if you qualify for the upcoming school year. If you send your application to me, the process goes much faster.

NEW NEWS:

The lunch prices went up this year to **\$2.90**. Milk is still **\$.50** and Reduced lunch is still **\$.40**.

There are also NEW MENU ITEMS this year. I am very interested in student's feedback so that I can order what they like. Please check the Banner every week to see if there have been changes made to the lunch menu.

All lunch cards are white this year. In previous years we had red lunch cards and white milk cards. For several reasons, we changed to one color across the board. If your child has milk only, I will put an "M" on the corner of the card.

I think that is it for now. If you have any questions, I'll be in the building from 9:30am – 1:30pm. Please try not to call between lunches (11:30 – 12:30). My phone number is 742-3457. If you need to email me, my email is

Café_Birchwood@asdk12.org

Thank you in advance for helping to make this a great school year. I will do my best to feed your child healthy, nutritious lunches!

~Jess Jennings
Cafeteria Manager

"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY?" Check it out!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT! - The students are bringing home this week a LIBRARY NEWSLETTER with lots of information about what is happening in the library this year.

BOXTOPS – once again the library is collecting boxtops! Last year we managed to collect approximately \$900.00 worth of boxtops! GREAT JOB! It is a grade level competition held every quarter. The grade that brings in the most boxtops receives a half hour of free time in the library and something to eat!

PAIGE TURNER – our library doll (world traveler) – New to the library, Paige Turner is a traveling library doll. Planning a vacation; please consider bringing our library doll (5" action figure size) along with you. She comes with a small material travel bag, mini journal, and is available on a first come first serve basis. All I ask is that you either send us or bring back to us a post card from where you traveled and some pictures with you and Paige Turner, our library ambassador.

KEEP READING!



Students Celebrating Their Birthday This Week: