



## The Birchwood Banner

### September 2019

*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



We are off to a fast and productive start! The school year will progress as fast as summer break has. Remember that the days are long but the years are short! Your children will be grown and gone before you know it, so it is important to cherish this time when they are young and plan for their success. Students who attend school 95% of the time or better will progress at a full year's progress or beyond. Students who attend less than 95% of the time are more likely to fall behind. Unless a student is ill, they should be at school every day. The below rates identify the days absent to percent ratios:

- Excellent = 0-3 absences (98-100%)
- Good = 4-9 absences (95-98%)
- Average = 10-14 absences (92-95%)
- Poor = 15-19 absences (89-92%)
- Severe = more than 20 absences (>89%)

#### Power of Positive Students (POPS)

Birchwood ABC Elementary is a positive learning environment. This is accomplished through the dedication of our staff, parents, and the community who ensure that our students receive the highest degree of education in a safe and inviting atmosphere. Recognition of positive student behavior is a necessary component in maintaining a successful learning environment. Birchwood ABC has begun to implement the POPS program. When a staff member or visitor in the building observes a student or students contributing in a positive way, they will provide them a POPS slip. The student will then bring the slip to the office and share it with the principal. They will leave a copy in the office and take a copy home to share with parents. At the end of each week, one slip per grade level will be drawn and that student will be further recognized during morning announcements and will earn a reward. The more POPS slips that a student earns during a week the more they improve their chances of earning the reward.

Thank You,  
Mr. Thomas



## ALICE Evacuation Drill Wednesday, September 4th

We will practice our 1<sup>st</sup> ALICE Violent Intruder Drill on Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup>. This drill will include the evacuation to a rally point. Our rally point is the soccer field near Chugiak High School. We will evacuate the school after the drill is announced over the intercom. Students and staff will stage in the areas that are designated for them during a fire drill. All students and staff will be accounted for and we will then walk to the rally point. We will again account for all staff and students at the rally point. We will then return to school, where all teachers will take role when they return to their classrooms. Please contact Mr. Thomas if you have any questions.





## **APD Information: Illegal Use of Handheld Devices in School Zones**

As of June 20, 2019, handheld cell phone use is illegal in active school zones and/or upon school grounds. If caught violating this new ordinance, the fine is a big one: 6 points on driver's license and a \$500 fine. Here are the pertinent points to know regarding AMC 9.28.055(E)(1):

- This law is in effect 6am – 9pm seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- This law applies to all signed school zones where the speed limit is 25 mph.
- This law applies to all school zones where there are temporary speed reductions to 20 mph or less (the school zones with the yellow flashing lights).
- This law does NOT apply to vehicles that are stopped (ex: parked in a school parking lot) or if the mobile device is being used hands-free.
- If a person in violation of this ordinance also causes a collision that results in injury or death, the penalty for this ordinance becomes a misdemeanor.

The District has also created an information page on the [ASD Family Involvement](#) webpage that provides more details.



## **MAP and FastBridge Assessment: Window – 9/3-9/20.**

The FastBridge assessment, will be replacing AIMSweb this year. All students in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be tested in reading with a 1-on-1 proctor on September 5th. First grade students will also have a computer-based assessment in math. Second graders will also have a computer-based assessment for both math and reading.

MAP assessments are administered to 3rd-6th grade students. Please see the following schedule:

- 3<sup>rd</sup>– Reading, 9/5 and Math, 9/6
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Reading, 9/9 and Math, 9/10
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – Reading, 9/12 and Math, 9/13
- Make-ups will be scheduled as needed

More detailed information regarding these assessments can be found on the ASD website at;<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/4320>



## *PEAKS 2019 Student-Level Results*

The Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) is Alaska's summative assessment for students in grades 3-9 in English Language art and mathematics and grades 4, 8 and 10 in science and was administered in spring 2019. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide information to parents, educators, policy makers, communities and businesses about how Alaska's schools and districts are performing, along with an overall picture of an individual student's progress in meeting State of Alaska standards at his/her grade level.

At this time, districts and schools are beginning the score reporting process with the preliminary work of interpreting and understanding PEAKS results. The Anchorage School District is currently preparing our online student information system for parents to receive electronic PEAKS results on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

For both math and English language arts, each student will receive an overall score that is aligned to one of four achievement levels: Proficient, Advanced, Below-Proficient and Far-Below Proficient. Students performing at a scale score of 500 or more are Proficient. In addition, information on groups of standards, called reporting categories, will also be provided as part of the score reporting process.

This year, English language arts (ELA) for grades 4-9 will include a Text-Dependent Analysis, or TDA score. The TDA is an item based on a passage or set of passages that a student reads during the ELA assessment. The TDA addresses both literary and informational texts. Students must draw on basic writing skills while inferring and synthesizing information from the passage in order to develop a comprehensive, holistic essay response.

The Text-Dependent Analysis is reported at the student level in grades 4-9 as one of the English language arts Reporting Categories. The TDA is hand-scored by the testing vendor using a rubric with a score range of 0-4, with a score of four being the highest. The rubric will be available in the *ASD PEAKS Parent Guide*.

For detailed information on PEAKS score reporting, please reference the *ASD PEAKS Parent Guide* available on the ASD PEAKS website, <http://www.asdk12.org/peaksresults>, along with the State of Alaska's *Parent's Guides to Student Reports Spring 2019 PEAKS Assessment English Language Arts and Mathematics* (and *Science* grades 4, 8 and 10), available on the Department of Education's website, <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>.

Please remember, PEAKS is not a pass/fail test. PEAKS is aligned to the Alaska State Standards and the scores provide information to guide decision-making and support students on their path to success. Alaska increased the rigor of its standards and assessments so that our students are academically ready to succeed in the community, jobs, career training, the military and college. The Anchorage School District maintains high learning expectations for all students and is committed to preparing students for success in life.





## Open House Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00PM

- We will meet in the gym from 5:30-5:45PM for an opening presentation from the principal, Mr. Thomas.
- There will then be five, 15-minute rotations where parents can meet with teachers and visit their students' classroom.
- The BAC will also provide phonogram training for parents to work with their children as part of the rotation schedule. Please take advantage of this opportunity if your child is new to the ABC program at Birchwood.

## PTA News

### First PTA Meeting, Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:45

The first PTA meeting of the year is happening Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m. in the library. Please join us as we discuss events happening this school year.



### Donuts with Dad Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM

Dads, please join the PTA on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 8:50 AM and have a donut with your student.



### Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC) News

**Next Meeting:** The next BAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the library. Please email [BWABCBAC@gmail.com](mailto:BWABCBAC@gmail.com) with any questions or curriculum matters you'd like to discuss or address.

**Did you know:** You do not need to be a BAC member to attend monthly meetings. Anyone interested in curriculum proposals, philosophy matters, or school academic policies are welcome and encouraged to attend. We want to hear from the parent/guardian body so that we may better represent you and our students.

The BAC is a committee of parents or guardians of BWABC students organized to advise, consult, and assist the school's administrative staff on matters relating to the curriculum.



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SCHOOL PORTRAITS WILL BE:  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH**

<b>Package A</b> \$67 4 - 8x10 4-5x7 4-3x5 32-wallets 1-8x10 Class Group Add a digital image of your individual portrait for \$10	<b>Package B</b> \$62 2 - 8x10 6-5x7 8-3x5 24-wallets 1-5x7 Class Group Add a digital image of your individual portrait for \$10	<b>Package C</b> \$51 4-5x7 8-3x5 32-wallets Add a digital image of your individual portrait for \$10
<b>Package D</b> \$45 1 - 8x10 5-5x7 4-3x5 20-wallets	<b>Package E</b> \$40 3-5x7 6-3x5 20-wallets	<b>Package F</b> \$37 1 - 8x10 2-5x7 2-3x5 12-wallets
<b>Package G</b> \$35 2-5x7 4-3x5 16-wallets	<b>Package H</b> \$32 2-5x7 4-3x5 8-wallets	<b>Package I</b> \$30 2-5x7 2-3x5 4-wallets
<b>Package J</b> \$23 1-5x7 2-3x5 4-wallets	<b>Package K</b> \$22 2-3x5 8-wallets	<b>Package L</b> \$15 1-5x7 2-3x5

Class/Group Portraits	
CA. 5x7 Class	\$10
CB. 8x10 Class	\$15
CC. 10x13 Class	\$25

**MOST POPULAR PACKAGE**

A la Carte Portraits	
with package purchase ONLY	
T. 4-Wallets	\$9
U. 2-3x5	\$9
V. 1-5x7	\$9
X. 1-8x10	\$10
Y. 1-10x13	\$18
Z. Digital Image	\$37

#### Specialty Items

- S01. Metal Key Chain \$15
- S02. 8x10 Calendar \$15
- S03. 2-magnets \$15
- S04. Photo Fun Pack \$30  
(Includes a door hanger, two bookmarks, two keychains, two key FOBs, and two bag tags)
- S05. Ornament \$25
- S06. Metal Luggage Tag \$18
- S07. 7" Round Wall Cling \$18
- S08. 3 Key Tag Traders \$15
- S09. 8x10 Vivid Metal Print \$45
- S10. 4x6 Acrylic Block \$25
- S11. Metal Photo Dog Tag \$15
- S12. School Days Mug \$25
- S13. "Love you to the Moon & Back" Ceramic Mug \$25

**NEW CERAMIC MUG OPTIONS!**



#### Questions?

Contact Fitzgerald Photography at:  
16829 Fire House Lane, Eagle River, AK  
99577  
(907) 726-1562  
Alicia@FitzgeraldPhotos.com  
Scott@FitzgeraldPhotos.com  
www.FitzgeraldPhotos.com

#### Important Information:

- A service fee will be charged on returned checks.
- ONE ENVELOPE PER STUDENT
- One check may be written for multiple student. Put check in one envelope and on other envelopes explain that payment is in other child's envelope.
- Enclose cash, check, MO or credit card information on DAY OF SHOOT
- Checks payable to Fitzgerald Photography

## Complete Order Form

Fill in information below. Please print clearly. We cannot accept responsibility for illegibility or misspelling.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PRINT PACKAGES:</b> ____ Package A \$67 ____ add digital image \$10 ____ Package B \$62 ____ add digital image \$10 ____ Package C \$51 ____ add digital image \$10 ____ Package D \$45 ____ Package E \$40 ____ Package F \$37 ____ Package G \$35 ____ Package H \$32 ____ Package I \$30 ____ Package J \$23 ____ Package K \$22 ____ Package L \$15	<b>Class Group Portraits:</b> ____ 5x7 Group \$10 ____ 8x10 Group \$15 ____ 10x13 Group \$25 ____ 16x20 Group \$30  <b>Specialty Items:</b> ____ So1 Metal Key Chain \$15 ____ So2 8x10 Calendar \$15 ____ So3 2-Magnets \$15 ____ So4 Photo Fun Pack \$30 ____ So5 Ornament \$25 ____ So6 Metal Luggage Tag \$18 ____ So7 7" Round Cling \$18 ____ So8 Key Tag Traders \$15 ____ So9 8x10 Vivid Metal Print \$45 ____ So10 4x6 Acrylic Block \$25 ____ So11 Metal Photo Dog Tag \$15 ____ So12 School Days Mug \$25 ____ So13 Moon & Back Mug \$25	<b>A la Carte Prints:</b> (only available after package purchase) ____ 4 - wallets \$9 ____ 2-3x5's \$9 ____ 1-5x7 \$9 ____ 1-8x10 \$10 ____ 1-10x13 \$18 ____ Digital Image \$37 be sure to put your phone number and email for digital delivery	<b>Facial Re-Touching</b> - Add \$6 _____ <b>Add First Name to:</b> Wallets or All Prints (circle one) - Add \$5 _____ <b>Add Year to:</b> Wallets or All Prints (circle one) - Add \$5 _____ <b>Optional Shipping</b> - Add \$7 _____ Prints are returned to school if the shipping is not paid for. <b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$</b> _____ Cash, check, MO, credit card accepted. Checks Payable to "Fitzgerald Photography" You can pre-order your students school portraits by calling (907)726-1562 and paying with a visa or mastercard.
<b>Credit Card Information: \$15 Minimum Purchase</b> (Fill out the information below OR write the information on a separate paper and place inside the envelope.) Circle One: Visa or Mastercard Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____			

*Each month Birchwood ABC focuses on a different character trait. One student from each class will receive an award for demonstrating this trait, which will be presented at the quarterly Red, White, & Blue Assembly.*

## September's Character Trait

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



September 2<sup>nd</sup>—Labor Day Holiday (No school)

September 5<sup>th</sup>—PTA Meeting 3:45 PM

September 27<sup>th</sup>—Popcorn Friday

October 4<sup>th</sup>—Jog-A-Thon

September 11<sup>th</sup>—School Open House 5:30 PM

September 12<sup>th</sup>—Donuts with Dads 8:00 AM

September 19<sup>th</sup>—BAC Meeting 6:00 PM

September 26<sup>th</sup>—Fall Picture Day

October 17<sup>th</sup>—Picture Retakes

October 17<sup>th</sup>—BAC Meeting 6:00 PM

October 31<sup>st</sup>—Popcorn Friday

**Thank you to our School Business Partner!!**



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