



The Birchwood Banner

March 2021

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



2021 School Climate and Connectedness Survey ©

Birchwood Families,

Birchwood ABC ES is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the School Climate and Connectedness Survey ©, a statewide survey taken by students, staff, and families. This survey measures their perceptions of each school's climate including the engagement of students, staff, and families.

The Student Survey will be given to students in grades 3-6. The survey window for our school is March 1 – March 26. Students will complete the survey online during the school day.

The student survey will ask questions such as how students feel about school rules, their perceptions of how students treat each other, their relationships with staff, social and emotional skills, and observed risk behaviors of other students at school and school events. There are different surveys for younger students (grades 3-5) and older students (grades 6-12).

Family Survey: We also value input from our families. You are an important partner as we work to continually improve each school's environment. Each parent/guardian is asked to complete one survey prior to March 26. If you have more than one child attending this school, you only need to fill out one survey. Please use the following link to access the family survey:

<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily/surveys?language=en>

All of these surveys are voluntary, anonymous, confidential, and do not ask questions about students' families. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please notify the school in writing.

More information on this survey is available through the following link:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/4323>

Results from this survey will be used to identify student, staff and family perceptions of school climate issues within our school. School staff use the results to inform their efforts to ensure schools are safe, supportive, and caring places for all students.

Thank you for your cooperation in this year's School Climate and Connectedness Survey©.

Sincerely,

Michael Thomas

Principal

Birchwood ABC ES

2021 PEAKS State Assessment

2021 PEAKS Testing Window

March 29-April 30

Each spring, Alaskan students are provided an opportunity to show what they know. When students show what they know, teachers and parents can partner to promote student success.

The Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) is Alaska's summative assessment administered to students in Grades 3-9 (English language arts and mathematics) and grades 5, 8 and 10 (science) each spring. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide parents

and schools an overall picture of a student's progress in meeting the Alaska standards at his/her grade level. The assessment is taken on the computer and is not timed, but each content area takes approximately 100-180 minutes.

Parents can locate resources for the PEAKS assessment, including directions for PEAKS Practice tests, called Online Tools Training and PEAKS Tutorials on the ASD website at www.asdk12.org/PEAKS.

Parents can also help by ensuring their children are well rested, eat a nutritious breakfast, and are at school on time for the days of testing. Please avoid scheduling appointments on your child's testing days.

The ASD PEAKS testing window allows for school assessment scheduling flexibility. Birchwood ABC's grade level specific testing schedule will be available after spring break.



Save the Date: Picture day is Tuesday May 18th. Pictures will be taken outside and mailed to parents.

The online lottery for Birchwood ABC is now open and will close March 18th. Please use the link below to apply.

<https://lotapp.asdk12.org/apply/>



Busing Information

Please use the link below to check bus routes and schedules for your student. If you have any questions feel free to call the office at 907-742-3450

[http://busroutes.asdk12.org/Students/BasicTransBoundarySearch.a
spx](http://busroutes.asdk12.org/Students/BasicTransBoundarySearch.aspx)

Library News



For students not returning at all, special daytime appointments can be made with me via e-mail for book check out. Thanks again for all your support with curbside.

If you have any questions about check out this week or book return just let me know.

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/bwabclibrary/home>

Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC) News:

Next Meeting: The next BAC meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 6:00 PM via zoom. Please email bacbirchwood@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.



Updated COVID-19 Travel Guidance for ASD Staff and Students

<https://www.asdk12.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=115&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=60818&PageID=1>

Travel Policy for all ASD Staff & Students

This policy applies to **all** ASD staff and students **regardless of age** who return from travel outside of Alaska.

Travelers are **required** to submit a negative SARS-CoV2 test result from a test taken no earlier than 72 hours of arrival into Alaska.

- Test **must be** molecular-based (PCR). No antigen or antibody test.
- Test can be taken upon arrival in Alaska or anytime thereafter.
- Test can be taken no earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival in Alaska.
- The traveler **must maintain strict social distance** from work/school until test results are available.
 - If the result is positive, the traveler must remain in self-isolation and must not return to work/school until cleared by a Municipality or State Healthcare Provider (i.e. Public Health Nurse, Contact Tracer, Pediatrician, or Family Physician, etc.).
 - If the result is negative, the traveler may return to work/school as long as they are asymptomatic.
- Submit the negative result to your school nurse (student) or supervisor (employee).

If traveler chooses not to get a SARS-CoV2 test:

- The traveler **must maintain strict social distance** for 10 days from arrival in Alaska.
- The traveler may return to work/school on Day 11, if asymptomatic.

Travel outside of Alaska for less than 72 hours:

- No test requirement if currently asymptomatic.
- Must follow [isolation protocols](#) if experiencing symptoms.

Prior confirmed positive SARS-CoV2 result within 90 days of departure: (All Travelers)

- The traveler does not need a SARS-CoV2 test or to maintain social distance if the three following conditions are met:
 1. The traveler provides proof of a previously positive result of a molecular based test for SARS-CoV2 within 90 days of travel;
 2. The traveler is currently asymptomatic;
 3. The traveler submits the positive result with the date to your school nurse (student) or supervisor (employee).

Fully-Vaccinated individuals:

- Fully-vaccinated travelers will need to follow the above travel testing protocols.
 - *Fully-vaccinated is defined as two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series, or two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine.*

RED, White, and Blue

Award Winners:

February's Character Trait Awards:

Honesty: Fairness and straightforwardness of conduct, adherence to the facts.

Ms. Banner:	Faith Clark	Ms. Tyson:	Landon Benedict
Mrs. Crum:	Andi Van Eck	Mrs. Dennis:	Kylie Brezenski
Mrs. Summers:	Kezia Martin-Komok	Mrs. Eads:	Mackenzie Thorp
Mrs. Lambert:	Matthew Saxton	Ms. Jacobs:	Clara Skaggs
Mrs. Boothe:	Samuel Hofeling	Mrs. Barker:	Keagen Brown
Mrs. Means:	Jasmine Beach	Mr. Hahn:	Alyssa Charlie-Settje
Mrs. Motton:	Mikael Keanaaina	Ms. Jones:	Eric Diaz
		Mr. Olson:	Autumn Charlie-Settje



Orders will be filled every Wednesday, our spirit wear is great to wear on red, white and blue Fridays. We accept cash, check or Square payments. If you have any questions please email PTA at birchwoodpta@gmail.com

Youth T-Shirts- \$10
Youth Hoodies- \$18
Adult T-Shirts- \$10
Adult Long Sleeve-\$15
Adult Hoodies-\$20

KEEP ASD SYMPTOM FREE



At Home Health Screening for Parents and Guardians

Ask these questions at home before sending students to school. Anyone who answers "yes" to one or more of these questions must not enter the school or participate in a school sport or activity.

1 Within the last 10 days, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 or had a positive test for the virus?

2 Have you had any of these symptoms in the last 24 hours?

- Fever (defined as a temperature 100.4F or higher)
- Chills
- New trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- New cough
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Joint pain
- Muscle aches or body aches
- New rash
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache
- New congestion
- New runny nose

3 Do you live in the same household or have you had close contact in the last 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19? Close contact counts if you have been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes (cumulative over 24 hrs), or if someone from public health contacted you to let you know you are a contact.

Note: If a child or staff member lives with someone else who was named as a contact, it is okay for the child or staff member to go to school. We do not quarantine contacts of contacts.

STAY HOME or go home immediately if the answer is YES to one or more questions above. The next step is to call a doctor and consider getting tested for COVID-19. Do not go to the doctor's office without calling first. Seek emergency care immediately for difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, sleepiness, or other severe problems.

Parents / guardians should follow the Return to School Options pathway (see reverse) to determine when to send students back to school. DO NOT send student to school with any of the above symptoms.



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life






www.asdk12.org

Mask Guidance for School-Aged Children

The CDC recommends the use of non-medical grade cloth face coverings in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain. When used with other risk mitigating efforts, non-medical grade masks can further reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in public areas and a school building.

Masks are considered safe for most children and youth over the age of two years. **There are very few exceptions for wearing masks.**

Should a child be required to wear a mask during school?*

The child has asthma.	 YES The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology recommends that individuals with asthma wear a mask in public.
The child has a condition such as autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, or a mental health disorder.	 YES These conditions do not necessarily justify a mask exemption unless the child is unable to wear a mask without excessive trauma or frequent manipulation.
The child cannot communicate clearly while wearing a mask.	 YES Explore instructional adaptations or use a face mask with a clear plastic insert as appropriate.
The child cannot remove the mask on their own.	 NO Encourage the family to consider virtual learning opportunities.
The child is asleep or unconscious.	 NO

*There may be children that have experienced trauma and find masks hard to wear due to their past experiences.

For more information and tips for helping children wear masks, visit <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>

Alaska Chapter

Incorporated in Alaska

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®





Dear Birchwood Families, you may or may not be aware that the YMCA is offering school age childcare before and after school hours. We still have a number of open spots for care. If you are interested, please feel free to contact Ms. Erika at (907) 223-7628.



February's Healthy Future Activity Log is due March 3rd

You're
Already
Registered!



Were you
Active this
month?

Now all you have to do is fill out the form and turn it in!

February, March and April are Healthy Future months

February **Healthy Future Activity Logs** are **due to Mr. Olson by March 3rd!**

For more info... visit healthyfuturesak.org

Prizes soon to follow!

Start your ~~March~~ **Activity Log** Today!

Month: _____

Student name _____

Teacher _____

Signature _____

Physical Activity Log

Be active **60 minutes** or more at least **15 days** per month. Write down your activity or color in the boxes for the days you are physically active for at least 60 minutes. **Get Out and Play, Every Day!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday



www.healthyfuturesak.org



Birchwood ABC is on Facebook! Please be sure to follow and like our OFFICIAL Facebook page. This will be just one of many ways for Birchwood's staff, parents and students to stay connected! You can find our OFFICIAL page at www.facebook.com/BWABC123. We would love for you to share all the ways that you and your students are staying engaged, by posting pictures and videos to our page.



Birchwood ABC Elementary

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Each month Birchwood ABC focuses on a different character trait.

March's Character Trait

Diligence: Constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken.



March 5th- In service day-No school.

March 18th- BAC Meeting

March 8th-12th Spring Break

Thank you to our School Business Partner!!!



773 Logistics Readiness
JBER, AK