



## The Birchwood Banner

September 2022

*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. 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 achieve a full year of progress or beyond. Students who attend less than 95% of the time are more likely to fall behind. Students should be at school every day. ASD recognizes the following reasons as excused absences:

1. Illness
2. Death or serious illness in the immediate family
3. Participation in school activities
4. Religious obligations
5. Extenuating circumstance

The rates below 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 implements the POPS program. When a staff member or visitor in the building observes a student or students contributing in a positive way then they will provide them with 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 their 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 receiving a reward.

### Gas Cards

ASD has provided Birchwood ABC with some gas cards to provide families with assistance during the bussing situation. Unfortunately, we only have enough to help families who are in significant need of this support. Please inquire at the office if you need this assistance.

Thank You,  
Mr. Thomas



We love having volunteers in the building! Before you volunteer, please click [here](#) and submit an online application or come into the school and fill out a paper copy. The process to get approved can take a few weeks so please plan accordingly.



### 2022-2023 Covid Changes in ASD

#### What has Changed:

ASD does not plan to offer any form of COVID testing in the schools for 22/23 school year and testing is not a requirement. If you are ill and choose to test for COVID and are positive you will need to follow current CDC guidelines for isolation. You can find those guidelines on the CDC website and summarized below:

- If you have a positive test, isolate for 5 days.
- You may return to school with symptoms resolving on day 6. You will need to wear a mask day 6-10.

If families have additional questions about keeping your child home, please see the home screening guidelines page [HERE](#) or you can contact the school nurse at 907-742-3452



# WELCOME TO

# THE LIBRARY!



*Hi there!*

I'm Ms. Tyson, and I have the absolute privilege of being the librarian at Birchwood ABC this year. This is my 2nd year as a school librarian and I love working with all the students, staff, and our school community.

*need to contact me?*

[tyson\\_tanya@asdk12.org](mailto:tyson_tanya@asdk12.org)

If you're a 3rd-5th grader interested in joining Battle of the Books, keep your eyes open for information coming in September.



Notices of overdue books will be sent home once a quarter. We do not have overdue fines, but there are replacement charges for lost or damaged books.

*# of books allowed at a time per grade level*

## **KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE**

**1  
2ND GRADE  
2**

**3RD - 5TH  
GRADE  
3**

Check outs are for a 2 week period. Students can renew books if they need them longer. Students visit the library with their class once a week.

Book limits may be adjusted if students have book reports or other work requiring library materials.





This year our Art Teacher, Mrs. Turner is seeking supplies for a special Plaster/ Fossil project for the entire school. If you are interested in seeing this project, come to life, click on her Donors Choose link and read all about it.



[https://www.donorschoose.org/project/birchwood-abc-elem-plaster-casting-an/6782185/?utm\\_source=dc&utm\\_medium=directlink&utm\\_campaign=tpc\\_complete&utm\\_term=teacher\\_7720284&rf=directlink-dc-2022-08-tpc\\_complete-teacher\\_7720284&challengeid=21708417](https://www.donorschoose.org/project/birchwood-abc-elem-plaster-casting-an/6782185/?utm_source=dc&utm_medium=directlink&utm_campaign=tpc_complete&utm_term=teacher_7720284&rf=directlink-dc-2022-08-tpc_complete-teacher_7720284&challengeid=21708417)



## Meals at school

Each class will be scheduled for a lunch period that will be eaten in the cafeteria. Lunch options include students bring a lunch from home or eating a lunch offered by ASD. Lunches are available for purchase. (\$4.50). Lunches coming from home should include nutritious items. Please do not include pop or candy.

Additionally, we will not have a breakfast program at Birchwood ABC for K-5 students.

## Apply Online for Free and Reduced-Priced Meals

**YOU MUST APPLY EVERY SCHOOL YEAR.**

Families with students at **pricing schools** are encouraged to apply. Please include all ASD students in your household in the student section on the meal application, regardless of where they attend school, so we may certify your family in one application together. You may apply at any time of the year if your circumstances change due to layoffs, adding people to your households or decreased income.

If all of your ASD students attend Community Eligible Program (CEP) schools, no

application is required. If some students attend pricing schools and some attend community eligible schools, you should apply.

Note: Applications for the 22-23 school year will be accepted between mid July and the beginning of August 2022. Again if all of your students attended CEP schools this year, please do NOT apply.



The new web portal for Free and Reduced Meals is at [www.schoolcafe.com/anchorage](http://www.schoolcafe.com/anchorage)

[Click Here to Apply for Free and Reduced Meals](#)





## Quick Links

[PE website](#)

[Healthy Futures Activity Log](#)

[Olson\\_kirk@asdk12.org](mailto:Olson_kirk@asdk12.org)

## Upcoming Dates

- ⇒ Sept. 1- begin Healthy Futures Activity Log
- ⇒ Sept. 22- Beach Lake Elementary XC Running Jamboree
- ⇒ Oct. 4- **DUE** Sept. Activity Log

## Healthy Futures

Our school participates in the Healthy Futures Challenge. Your child has already received their Activity Log for September and the “challenge” is explained at [healthyfuturesak.org](http://healthyfuturesak.org).

### *Filling out the Activity Log...*

K-3 put a mark for each day they are active for 60 min. Parent signs.

4-5<sup>th</sup> write the activities they did for 60 min each day. Student signs.

All students who are active for **15 days** of the month, will return log to Mr. Olson for a prize.

The activity log link is a fillable PDF and can be emailed back.

## General PE Info

Welcome to a new school year! For an overview of how the PE program works, please visit the PE website link provided on this page under the quick links. It is “refreshed” at the beginning of each school year and contains procedures for grading, curriculum standards, after school club info etc. All current or new happenings will come through the monthly school newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Email also provided in the quick links.

## Beach Lake XC Jamboree

After a COVID break, our elementary cross-country running jamboree is back. Students in grades K-6 are invited to Chugiak High School on Sep. 22<sup>nd</sup> to participate in a “fun run”. The race is organized in intervals so different ages and genders run at different times throughout the evening starting with our youngest runners around 5:00. More info and registration attached. Forms are in the media rack as well.

## Volunteers Needed

Periodically throughout the year, you may want to do activities with your child as well as help classmates. XC skiing, after school clubs, and field day are common ones.

**All volunteers for our school must complete a Volunteer Application. Hard copy available in school office, or there is an online google form available.**

If you intend on volunteering at any time, might as well get ahead of the game!

## GYM SHOES

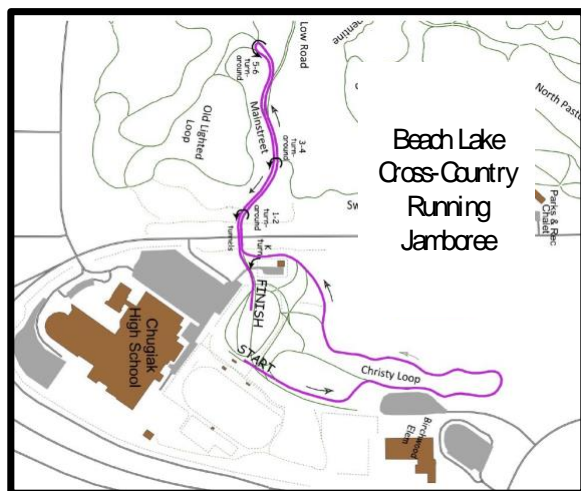
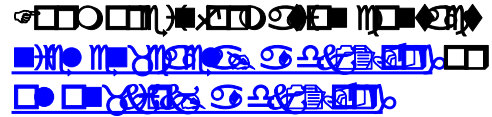
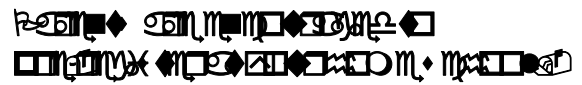
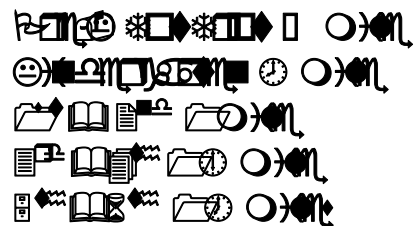
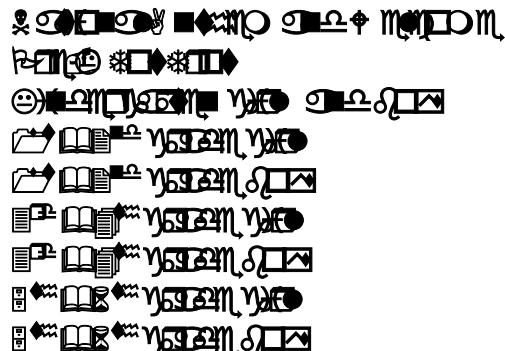
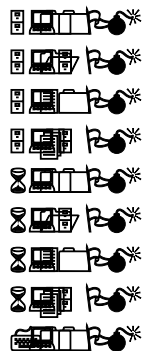
Students at Birchwood ABC are expected to have a pair of safe, clean shoes to participate in PE. There is a small amount of borrow shoes available. Just ask if assistance is needed.

**Kick for Kids-** There is a blue tub at our front entry if you have any gently used gym shoes that your child no longer needs.



# Beach Lake Cross-Country Running Jamboree

Thursday, September 22, 2022



**Please return this registration form and completed and ASD Waiver to your PE teacher by September 20th**

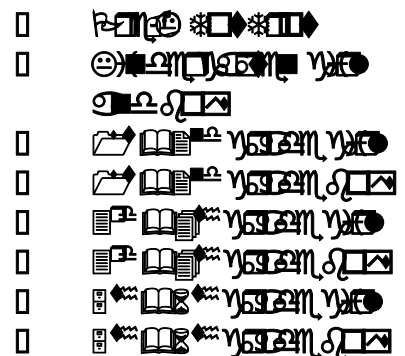
Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I have checked the box for the run I am registering for →

\_\_\_\_ I have completed ASD waiver on the back of this form

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_





**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELEMENTARY CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING JAMBOREE  
Acknowledgement of Risks, Assumption of Risk and Responsibility,  
and Release of Liability ("Agreement")**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of minor child \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Participant"). I request that the Participant be given the opportunity to participate in the Elementary Cross Country Running Jamboree (Jamboree) on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. Permission is hereby given for the Participant to participate. In consideration of the benefits and opportunities afforded the Participant by participating, I, on behalf of myself and the Participant, state and unconditionally agree as follows:

1. References to the Anchorage School District (the "District") include the District, its past, present, and/or future board members, administrators, officers, employees, volunteers, parents, students, agents, attorneys, insurers, reinsurers, representatives, designees, and assigns.

2. I understand that participation in the Jamboree involves certain risks and dangers inherent with running programs on trails, pathways & through wooded areas. These inherent risks include (without limitation) changing weather conditions; existing and changing snow/ice/mud conditions; uneven ground and/or trail surfaces; potential exposure to wild life including moose and bear, insect bites; bare spots; rocks; exposed roots, stumps and trees; collisions with these natural objects and with man-made objects, or other runner or pedestrians on the trails; variations in terrain; the negligence of the Participant; and the negligence of others, including drivers of vehicles near the trails and in cross walks. These inherent risks may result in fatigue; injury; significant injury/disability; and even death. I have made my own investigation of the risks of participation in the Jamboree as the parent or legal guardian of the Participant and on behalf of the Participant, and I understand these risks and assume them willingly on behalf of myself, the Participant, and each and every one of our heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, and assigns.

**3. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, THE PARTICIPANT, AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, I UNEQUIVOCALLY ASSUME ALL RISKS RELATED TO PARTICIPATING IN THE JAMBOREE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RISKS IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 2, ABOVE, THAT MAY ARISE OUT OF OR PERTAIN TO THE PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE JAMBOREE.**

4. Throughout the duration, I hereby grant permission to the District and any chaperones to authorize and consent to any emergency medical treatment, procedure, or provision of medication or medical assistance of any kind for the Participant, and I agree that such action shall be subject to the terms of this Agreement. I hereby authorize any provider of medical services to rely on this consent.

**5. ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, THE PARTICIPANT, AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, AGREE TO FOREVER RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD THE DISTRICT HARMLESS FROM ANY CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTION (WHETHER SOUNDING IN TORT [NEGLIGENCE, NEGLIGENT HIRING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION, WRONGFUL DEATH, OR OTHERWISE], CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STATUTORY LIABILITY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE), DEMANDS, OR EXPENSES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS) OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHATSOEVER THAT IN ANY WAY ARISE OUT OF, RESULT FROM, OR PERTAIN TO THE PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE JAMBOREE.**

6. Should the District, or anyone acting on its behalf, incur attorney's fees and/or costs to enforce the terms of this Agreement, or to defend any claims brought by myself and/or the Participant, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold the District harmless for (in other words, I agree to pay for) any and all such attorney's fees and/or costs.

**Warning: This Agreement is a binding contract that prevents you, the Participant, and your collective heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, and assigns from bringing any lawsuit against the District arising out of or pertaining to the Participant's participation in the Jamboree, including but not limited to any negligence claims. This document affects your substantial legal rights and remedies. Please read it carefully before proceeding.**

**FULLY UNDERSTANDING ALL OF THE ABOVE, AND WITH REASONABLE TIME TO SEEK ASSISTANCE IN UNDERSTANDING THIS AGREEMENT, I UNEQUIVOCALLY AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.**

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Buddy Bear Program

To apply, click the link below:

## [2022-2023 Buddy Bear Application](#)

### Considerations Before Applying

ASD strives to provide opportunities for preschool students with disabilities to interact and learn with typically-developing peers. The Buddy Bear model is not intended to provide early childhood education for typically-developing children; it is designed to support the development of young children who are identified as developmentally-delayed or disabled.

A maximum of three Buddy Bears are allocated per classroom. Allocations will be determined by the principal and school team and will be reviewed throughout the school year. The number of Buddy Bear students allocated to each preschool special education class is based on the enrollment and needs of the special education students in each class. Visit [www.asdk12.org/preschool](http://www.asdk12.org/preschool) for more information.

### Program Information

- Children 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2022 attend 11:30am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday
- Children younger than 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2022 attend either 8:15-10:45am **or** 12:15pm-2:45pm, Monday-Thursday
- Communication programs (Creekside, Taku, Ravenwood) operate 8:15-10:45am **or** 12:15pm-2:45pm, Monday/Tuesday **or** Wednesday/Thursday
- Age Eligibility: Children must be at least 3 years old to apply

**Transportation is not provided for the Buddy Bear Program.**

### Application and Selection

In consultation with the school team(s), principals select Buddy Bears based on program and classroom needs, and returning Buddy Bear status. Buddy Bear applicants must complete the *Buddy Bear Application*. The *Ages & Stages (ASQ) Screener* is completed by the family when contacted by a school for possible selection.

Families will be contacted by the school if/when a program determines space is available for a Buddy Bear. Families may be contacted for a potential spot in the Buddy Bear program throughout the school year.

Buddy Bears must reapply each school year.



Please join us for our first PTA meeting September 1, 6pm in the library. We will discuss the fun events we have planned through December. We LOVE our volunteers and thank you for joining PTA!

We are very thankful to have a new Popcorn Friday sponsor, Tara Barndt with Residential Mortgage! Thank you, Tara!

-Our annual Believe Kids catalog fundraiser is set to begin on Sept 23! Great for early holiday shopping and stocking up on wrapping paper. Look for those packets to come home that week.

BAC (Birchwood Advisory Committee) is still looking for new members to help uphold the ABC curriculum that Birchwood is known for and to assist the school with RW&B Awards and Assemblies. Please join us in the library on September 15 at 6pm.

Please take a moment to sign up for Fred Meyer and Amazon Smile rewards. The money you spend on everyday items will benefit our school and fund so many fun activities! This is a HUGE (and free!) way to support your PTA!

Amazon:



Visit - [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Choose - Birchwood ABC School PTA

Bookmark [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.Amazon.com) so that Birchwood ABC benefit every time you shop!

Fred Meyer Rewards:

Visit - [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.com](https://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.com)

Search for - BirchwoodABC or BX482

Then swipe your rewards card at every visit and you will still receive your discounts.

Rewards cards are available at the customer service desk at any Fred Meyer store if you don't currently have one.

## PTA FUNDRAISER/ART

This is a PTA fundraiser, art class helped with the design and Uzzi in Ms. Jacobs class is the winner. Please see below for his design! This is the only time this spirit wear will be sold; we won't open it back up! Click on the link to get your order in. Thank you!

Limited Edition Student Designed School Spirit Wear

[https://www.customink.com/fundraising/limited-edition-birchwood-abc-spirit-wear?utm\\_campaign=desktop-campaign-page-share-v3&utm\\_content=limited-edition-birchwood-abc-spirit-wear&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=copy-link](https://www.customink.com/fundraising/limited-edition-birchwood-abc-spirit-wear?utm_campaign=desktop-campaign-page-share-v3&utm_content=limited-edition-birchwood-abc-spirit-wear&utm_medium=social&utm_source=copy-link)



SEPTEMBER

14th

Pirate Dress Up Day



SEPTEMBER  
28TH

Twins  
Day

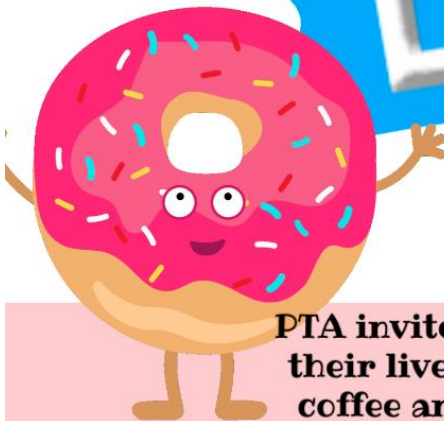


DONUTS

WITH DADS

SEPTEMBER 21ST

8:00-8:50 AM



PTA invites our students to bring a father figure present in their lives to enjoy a light breakfast of donuts, fruit, juice, coffee and milk free of charge. Please enjoy the breakfast with your student then have them line up outside with their class when finished.

**BIRCHWOOD ABC  
ELEMENTARY**



**SCHOOL PICTURE DAY**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTMEBER 29**

*Scan to Pre-Register*



*Each month Birchwood ABC focuses on a different character trait.*

## September's Character Trait

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



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](https://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

@BWABC123 · Elementary School

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Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> PTA Meeting  
Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> Labor Day- No School  
Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> Pirate Dress Up Day  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> BAC Meeting

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Donuts with Dad  
Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> Twins Dress up Day  
Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> School Picture Day  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Popcorn Friday

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



773 Logistics Readiness  
JBER, AK



RESIDENTIAL  
MORTGAGE, LLC  
NMLS #167729

**Tara Murdoch-Barndt**  
Mortgage Loan Originator NMLS #196018

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