



## The Birchwood Banner

March 2020

*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



#### Family Engagement Survey

The Family Engagement Survey window opened on January 17 and will remain open until March 20. This important survey provides parents the ability to provide input for district and school goals and programs. The following is the survey link and access code:

**Link:** [surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb) or <https://goo.gl/Enqoi2>

**Access Code:** birchwoodabcfamily

The survey invitation and link has also been sent out to families via email. Additionally, the link can also be accessed through both the ASD and Birchwood ABC websites. Please take some time to provide your input.

Thank you for your support for ASD and Birchwood ABC!

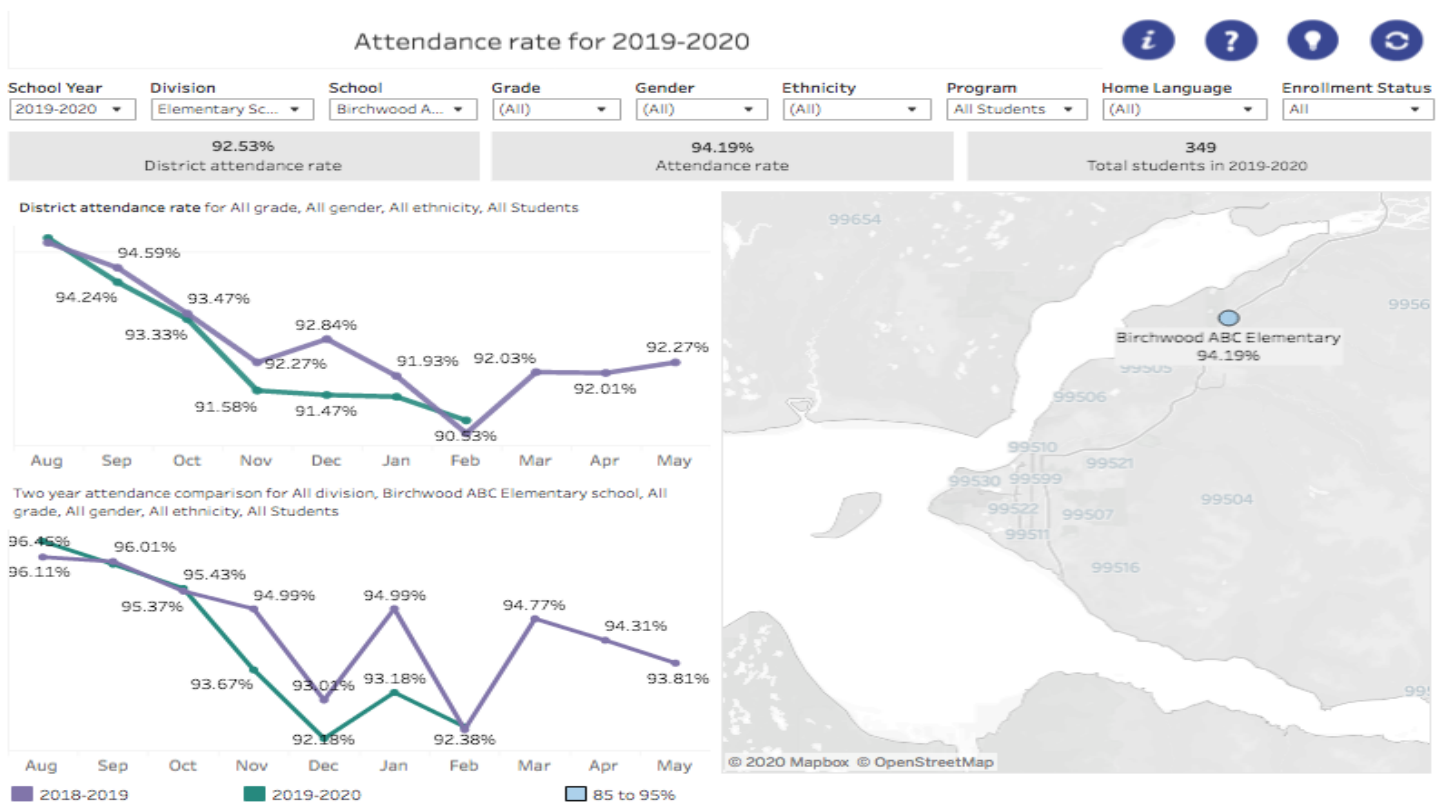
This past fall Birchwood ABC established the goal of 95% attendance for all students throughout the school year. Our current attendance rate so far this school year is only 94.19% and has dropped into the average range. In an effort to improve attendance communication our school has adopted a more specific attendance policy. This policy was hand delivered to all parents at conferences. It has also been emailed out to all parents and is available for reference on our school website at:

<https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/ModuleInstance/127/BWABC%20Attendance%20Policy%20.pdf>

The improvement of a student's attendance cannot be achieved without the dedication and commitment of families to making sure that their children are here on time every day!

Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you with improving your child's attendance.

- 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%)



The PEAKS assessment involves 3-6 grade students. **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will test reading on March 31<sup>st</sup> and math on April 1<sup>st</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will test science on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will test reading on April 7<sup>th</sup> and Math on April 8<sup>th</sup>.** More information is provided below and can be accessed through the district website at <https://www.asdk12.org/peaks>. Please do not plan student absences during the weeks of March 30 or April 10.

## PEAKS Testing Window, Content Areas and Testing Times

2020 State Testing Window: **March 30-May 1**

ASD Window: **March 30-April 10** (Make-ups may occur at any time March 31- May 1)



PEAKS (Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools) will be administered to Anchorage students in Grades 3-9 (English language arts and mathematics) and grades 4, 8 and 10 (science) during the weeks of March 30-April 10. Schools have flexibility in providing the test to students to minimize the impact on instructional time. Make-ups are allowed any time between March 31-May 1. Students are not allowed to complete more than one full content area in a day.

Testing times\* to complete PEAKS vary by grade level and content area. While the assessment is untimed, approximate testing times by content area and grade level are included in the table below. Using these estimates, ASD has included a recommended minimum test session length.

English Language Arts (ELA)—Grades 3-9					Mathematics—Grades 3-9				
Grade(s)	Parts	Time Per Part	Time Total	Test Session Time Recommendation	Grade(s)	Parts	Time Per Part	Time Total	Test Session Time Recommendation
3	P1: Reading	55 Minutes	90 minutes	120-130 minutes	3-5	P1: Non-Calculator	40 Minutes	80 minutes	110-120 minutes
	P2: Writing	35 Minutes				P2: Non-Calculator	40 Minutes		
4-5	P1: Reading	55 minutes	115 Minutes	145-175 minutes	6	P1: Non-Calculator	40 minutes	90 Minutes	120-130 minutes
	P2: Reading and TDA~	30 Minutes				P2: Calculator	50 Minutes		
	P3: Writing	30 Minutes							
6-9	P1: Reading and TDA~	85 Minutes	120 minutes	150-180 minutes	7	P1: Non-Calculator	25 minutes	90 Minutes	120-130 minutes
	P2: Writing	35 Minutes				P2: Calculator	65 Minutes		
Science—Grades 4, 8 and 10					8	P1: Non-Calculator	20 minutes	90 Minutes	120-130 minutes
						P2: Calculator	70 Minutes		
					9	P1: Calculator	45-60 minutes	90-120 minutes	150-180 minutes
P2: Calculator	45-60 minutes								
					* Testing times are approximate and do not include time needed to start computers, student logins, reading directions and handing out test materials.				
4, 8, 10	1 Part Only	60-70 minutes	60-70 minutes	90 minutes	~ TDA: Text-Dependent Analysis. A TDA is a written response based on a reading passage. TDAs are included in the ELA test and are applicable for grades 4-9 only.				

Guidelines from the CDC for keeping healthy:

**Stay home when you are sick.**

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

- o Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- o Cover coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes, then dispose of the tissue. When a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- o Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. CDC has additional resources on how to clean and disinfect home or schools at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>.
- o Wash hands for 20 seconds. Washing hands often under clean, running water can help prevent the spread of germs. For more guidance see the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

If you cannot wash your hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-95% alcohol.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.



Stay safe, stay healthy! Nurse Beth





The Cafeteria will no longer be providing straws once we are out of stock. This decision was made due to the amount of waste they make in the landfills. As many of you might know, Student Nutrition is trying to reduce waste over the next few years.

In addition, we have transitioned to individual unwrapped sporks. Students will need to pick up their spork and napkin separately.

As a friendly reminder to all classrooms, the Cafeteria does not provide sporks or condiments to classrooms. We provide what is needed to each student who purchases a Breakfast or Lunch at the time of service.



# PE News

## Badminton Club

4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in competing at the Alaska State School Badminton Championships are invited to partake in the Birchwood After School Badminton Club after Spring Break. Last year, 8 students represented our school in competitive doubles and we're looking for more this year. LIMIT is 20 students. Permission slips coming soon!



## *Congrats!*

To all the students who competed for Team Birchwood at this year's JNYO competitions.



## State Finalist

A Special WOW! for Irelynn Borem who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Alaska State JNYO for the Arm Pull.



## Healthy Futures

Continues for March and April. Students will be responsible for their own logs. Preferably students make their own logs on a scratch sheet of paper, but there are logs available at school, and can be printed at home!



American  
Heart  
Association.

Thank you to all the families who were able to collect donations for the Kids Heart Challenge. We came in just over \$4000 as a few final donations come in. We'll try a tiny celebration after Spring Break for our fund raisers!

Month: \_\_\_\_\_

# Physical Activity Log

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

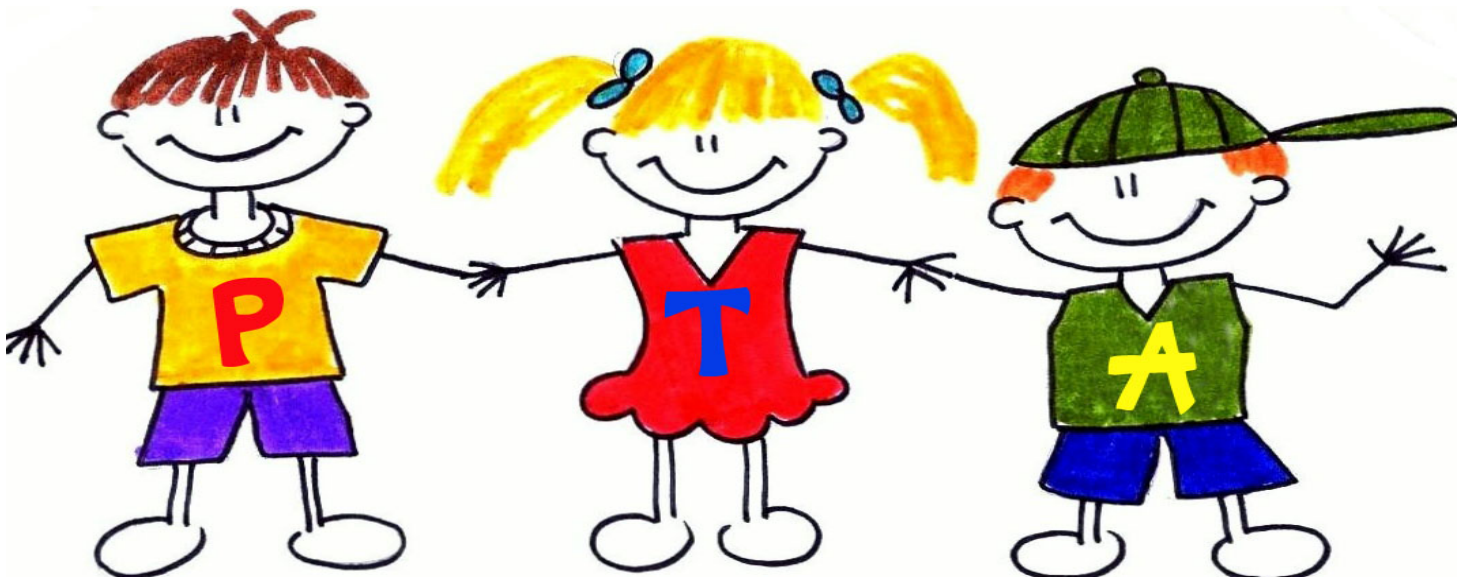
Be active **60 minutes** or more at least **15 days** per month. Write down your activity or color in the boxes for the days you are physically active for at least 60 minutes. **Get Out and Play, Every Day!**

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](http://www.healthyfuturesak.org)





## **Muffins with Mom 3/26 8:00-8:50 a.m.**

As families do their Spring cleaning and clean off book shelves, keep PTA in mind. We will collect any age, style book anyone is looking to get rid of for a future family night. Can be dropped off at the school.

Book fair is April 27-May 1st

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up in May! Be on the lookout for a Sign-up Genius link





Dress up week March 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>:

# COLOR CHALLENGE

MONDAY- BLACK

TUESDAY- GREEN

WEDNESDAY- PURPLE

THURSDAY- YELLOW

FRIDAY- RED, WHITE, BLUE



**Dear Birchwood Families,**

**You may or may not be aware that 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 inquire in the MPR, before or after school, with Ms. Erika or call 223-7628. We also offer care during in-service and snow days. However, due to low attendance, we may not be able to provide these services this year. If you are interested in possibly using our care, please inquire with Ms. Erika.**

**Birchwood YMCA has a staff opening.**

**If you or someone you know is looking for a part time job, look no further!! Please inquire with Ms. Erica in the MPR or at 223-7628 or call the YMCA at 563-3211.**



**Mrs. Turner is excited to announce four students who will have their artwork at the Eagle River Library and the Anchorage Museum of Art, for youth art month:**

**Kennedy Mason  
Aurora Kennedy  
Cooper Harding  
Cage Klayum**

# Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC) News:

**Next Meeting:** The next BAC meeting is scheduled for March 19th at 6:00 PM in the library. Please email [bacbirchwood@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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.

## March's Character Trait

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





# Mark Your Calendar



## March



19<sup>th</sup>- BAC Meeting (6PM-Library)



20<sup>th</sup>- Red/White/Blue Assembly.

26<sup>th</sup> – Muffins with Mom (8:00am-8:50am)

27<sup>th</sup> – Popcorn Friday

## April

16<sup>th</sup>- BAC Meeting (6PM-Library)

22<sup>nd</sup>- Admin Appreciation Day

27<sup>th</sup>- May 1<sup>st</sup>- Book Fair

Thank you to our School Business Partner!!



773 Logistics Readiness  
JBER, AK