



The Birchwood Banner

January 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



Welcome back to Birchwood Elementary School in 2021! We are excited to welcome our K-2nd grade students back into the building starting on 1/19. The Superintendent and the School Board continue to support this plan. Our team is busy finalizing our plans to have in-person school for those grade levels. You can find information regarding our school safety plan, start and end times, as well as drop-off and pick-up procedures on the following ASD website:

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5359>

or on our school website:

<https://www.asdk12.org/birchwoodabc>

Initially grades 3-6 will continue in distance learning through Zoom and Canvas. However, beginning the week of 1/19 Wednesdays will be included in the regular zoom schedule and will continue until 3-6 grade students return to in-person schooling. Our teachers for those grade levels continue to be busy preparing lessons and uploading resource into Canvas. ASD is anticipating that those grade levels will return to in-person schooling prior to the end of the 3rd quarter. We will provide more information regarding 3-6 when it is determined. You can find the most current updates by the Superintendent at:

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5368>

We will also be having a Zoom BAC parent meeting on Friday 1/15 @ 6:00PM to answer questions. Please use the following link to attend:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/97897422746?pwd=VzB4SnVyUFJvVlFhUWmMyenRQTmdidz09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 978 9742 2746 Passcode: 866573

Saxon or Ready Math?

Saxon is our current math curriculum. This curriculum will be retired in the next few years. We identified the following 3 options during our last BAC meeting:

- Purchase additional Saxon 2008 materials May 2021 and create mastery copies for future use.
- Purchase Saxon 2018 materials May 2021 and consumables through May 2025. Review math program during 2025-2026 school year. Possibly create mastery copies of 2018 version for future use.
- Adopt ASD Ready math and re-evaluate math program along district timelines.

Please visit the following site for more information regarding Ready Math:

<https://www.curriculumassociates.com/review/anchorage-2>

We will further discuss our options during our next BAC meeting on Friday 1/15.

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.aspx>

Library News



Library curbside pick-up and return will be Wednesdays from 3:00PM-5:00PM. Book requests need to be in by noon on Wednesday. All information is on the library website.

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

Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC) News:

Next Meeting: The next BAC meeting is scheduled for January 15th at 6:00 PM via zoom. Please email bacb Birchwood@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.

RED, White, and Blue

Award Winners:

December Character Trait Awards:

Compassion: Deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.

Ms. Banner: Pippa Paul

Ms. Tyson: Riley Cook

Mrs. Crum: Noah O'Loughlin

Mrs. Dennis: Kailynn Sloan

Mrs. Summers: Eliza Lazenby

Mrs. Eads: Aurora Willette

Mrs. Lambert: Lilly Stockinger

Ms. Jacobs: Claire Curtis

Mrs. Boothe: Akira Hotch

Mrs. Barker: Kainer Kimbrell

Mrs. Means: Travis Halcomb

Mr. Hahn: Daemeon Nixon

Mrs. Motton: Leah Peterson

Ms. Jones: Janelle Iyakitan

Mr. Olson: Cameron Thorp

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



SchoolPortraits

- ✓ No Session Fee
- ✓ Purchase only the print package
- ✓ Indoor or Outdoor portrait options
- ✓ Only one family is scheduled at a time
- ✓ Sibling Photos
- ✓ Print packages ready in approximately one week
- ✓ Support a locally owned, family run business
- ✓ Appointments through December available



For all five of our kiddos, we love getting photos to share with family and friends. This was a fantastic experience where they offer a calm, inviting environment, different photo back drops, completely engaged with our 1 to 16 year old, and I LOVE the opportunity to pick what PRINTS you want instead of having to buy a package and having photos that might go to waste. This is definitely something to take advantage of!!"

-Jennifer M.,
Fitzgerald Photography Customer

ScheduleAppointment:

(907) 726-1562 CALL

(907) 727-7846 TEXT

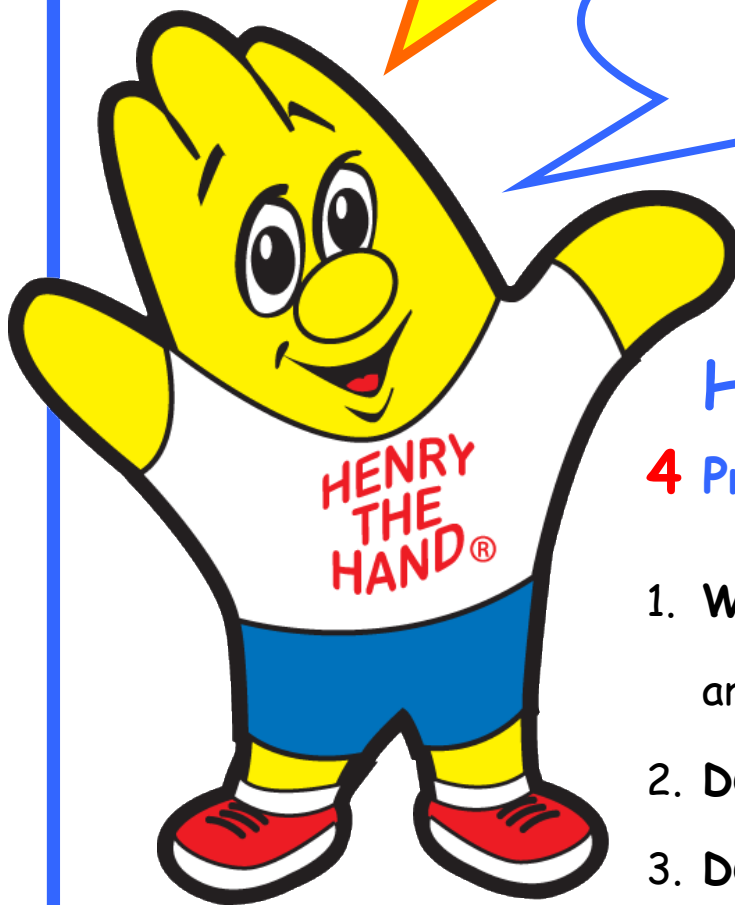
Alicia@FitzgeraldPhotos.com

www.FitzgeraldPhotos.com

***Located in downtown
Eagle River, Alaska***

Help keep
Birchwood ABC Elementary
Healthy

Spread the Word
Not the Germs



Henry the Hand's®

4 Principles of Hand Awareness:

1. **WASH** your hands when they are dirty and **BEFORE** eating.
2. **DO NOT** cough into your hands.
3. **DO NOT** sneeze into your hands.
4. Above all, **DO NOT** put your fingers into your eyes, nose or mouth!

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Henry the Hand Foundation promotes Hand Awareness.
Cincinnati, OH 45241 513.769.3660 www.henrythehand.com

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®



Sources: Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and American Academy of Pediatrics



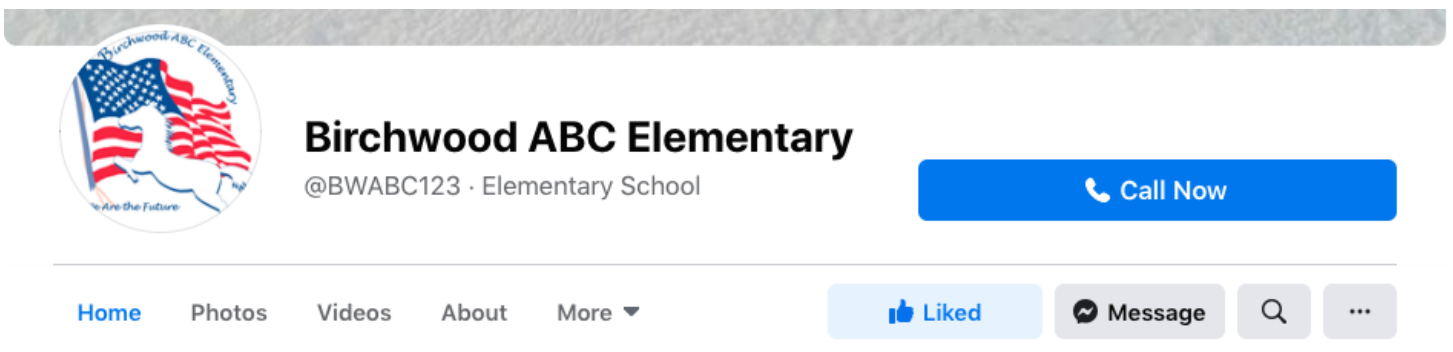
Dear Birchwood Families, you may or may not be aware that the YMCA is offering school age childcare before and after school hours. We still have a number of open spots for care. If you are interested, please feel free to contact Ms. Erika at (907) 223-7628.



Welcome to the Birchwood Winter Break Challenge. The challenge winners are Abigail B., from Ms. Banner's class; Hannah S. from Mrs. Mean's class; Rebecca B. and Evelyn S. from Ms. Tyson's class; Emma B. From Mrs. Barker's Class, and Claire C. from Ms. Jacob's class. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone that participated.



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.



Each month Birchwood ABC focuses on a different character trait.

January's Character Trait

Responsibility: A form of trustworthiness; the trait of being answerable to someone for something or being responsible for one's conduct.



January 13th & 14th-Asynchronous Day
January 18th—Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday-
No school

February 11th and 12th —Parent teacher
conferences
February 15th- Presidents Day-No School
February 26th- Asynchronous Day

Thank you to our School Business Partner!!!



773 Logistics Readiness
JBER, AK