



## --- The Birchwood Banner ---

May 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



The school year has passed by quickly. We have seen a lot of changes and together we have overcome many obstacles. I am proud to work with a school community that is so dedicated to meeting the needs of our students through challenging times. The end of this school year will mark the closing of an interesting chapter in the story for both the Birchwood ABC and Eagle River Elementary school communities. We have been through earthquakes and pandemics together. We have been a model for the character traits that we teach. Caring, compassion, diligence, leadership and responsibility have allowed our school communities to persevere together through these challenging times. We are excited for the Eagle River Elementary community to once again have a neighborhood school next fall but we will miss all of the students, staff and parents that have been part of Birchwood for the past 2 and half years. The legend of the Powerful Pegasus will forever be part of our joint history. We wish all of our Eagle River Elementary friends well next year and Vaya Con Dios!

## Spring Dress Code Update:

The warm spring weather has brought the melting of the snow. Students no longer need to bring winter gear to school. However, they should still wear a light jacket or sweatshirt to school. As we all know Alaska weather can change without warning and we still want them to be comfortable when outside for recess if they do need a jacket.

Per our dress code, students may wear shorts after May 1. Please make sure that shorts are no shorter than 2 inches above the knee. Sleeveless shirts and tank tops are not permitted at school.

Thank you for your support with our dress code.

Michael Thomas  
Principal  
Birchwood ABC ES

The fall online lottery for Birchwood ABC is now open and will close July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm. Please use the link below to apply.

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

## **Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC) News:**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The BAC, Birchwood Advisory Committee, would like you to take a moment to cast your vote for next year's new team members. Thank you for your time, we look forward to receiving your vote.

Please click this link: <https://forms.gle/CiGjXGo4aggPyTZM9>

Voting will close on May 6th

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

## Please return your device to your student's classroom teacher between May 3-7



## ASD Chromebook Return Information

Elementary students attending **in-person instruction** and who have an ASD Chromebook checked out to them will be asked to return the device to their school starting **May 3**. This includes students attending in-person summer school.

Students in the **ASD Virtual program** will be asked to return their device by the end of the school year unless: 1) they are attending virtual summer school, or 2) they will be enrolled in the virtual program next year.

- **Who:** Every elementary student who has been issued a District Chromebook and is **attending classes in-person**.
- **What:** Students will need to return their Chromebooks and **ALL** power cords. Any Chromebooks not returned by **May 7** will be remotely disabled on **May 17**.
- **When:** Chromebooks will be collected between **May 3 – 7**.

Your assistance in this process is greatly appreciated and provides a solid base for providing students with devices next fall. Returning devices now allows ASD to update and prepare them for use in your school in the 2021–22 school year.

# BIRCHWOOD ABC ELEMENTARY



**NEW FOR 2021!**

**SCHOOL  
PORTRAITS**

**VIEW BEFORE YOU PURCHASE**



Questions? Contact Fitzgerald Photography  
(907)726-1562  
alicia@fitzgeraldphotos.com  
www.FitzgeraldPhotos.com

## **SCHOOL PICTURES WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 18**

1. Send your child to school on picture day dressed for portraits! Pictures will be held outdoors (weather dependent)

2. AFTER picture day the school will send you an online order link. You will be able to view & purchase your favorite images.

3. Portraits are mailed directly home. No more lost or crumpled packages in the backpack!

**For notifications when pictures are in, please follow the link below**  
**<https://www.photorelect.com/store/Photos.aspx?e=10711193>**

## PTA UPDATE

Scholastic Book Fair OPEN ONLINE NOW! Help support Birchwood ABC and prepare your child for a summer full of reading. BWABC receives 25% of online sales. We use this money to provide a monthly box of books for the library, classroom materials etc. IN PERSON shopping will happen the week of May 3rd. A set schedule for preview and purchase day will be made and given to teachers during this COVID year. Students will only have one opportunity to purchase books in person but the ONLINE fair can be accessed April 25-May 11!! \$25 and over is FREE shipping to your home. Click on the link to shop our fair! <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/birchwoodabcelementarysch3>

### BOOK FAIR PURCHASE DAY SCHEDULE

Time	Wednesday 5/5	Thursday 5/6	Friday 5/7
11:30-12:00	Banner	Crum	Jones
12:05-12:35	Summers	Lambert	Tyson
12:40-1:10	Means	Boothe	Motton
1:15-1:45	Dennis	Barker	Jacobs
1:50-2:20	Eads	Olson	Hahn



## Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Monday, May 3-11th

PTA will be providing teachers/staff with something fun every day of this week. Please feel free to add to this special week in your own little way to show your appreciation for ALL the hard work they have put in this year for your student!

PTA hopes to be back next year providing events for families and would love your help! Please consider filling out a membership form in the fall to be a part of this very important role to the students and teachers. Being a part of PTA allows you to vote on materials purchased for the school and a voice for events held throughout the year. Have a wonderful summer and can't wait to hopefully see all of the students and families in the fall



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](mailto:birchwoodpta@gmail.com)

Youth T-Shirts- \$10

Youth Hoodies- \$18

Adult T-Shirts- \$10

Adult Long Sleeve-\$15

Adult Hoodies-\$20



**For information on covid testing please click the link below**

<https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/testing>

April Pollock, RN, BSN

Birchwood ABC Elementary

907-742-3452

# RED, White, and Blue

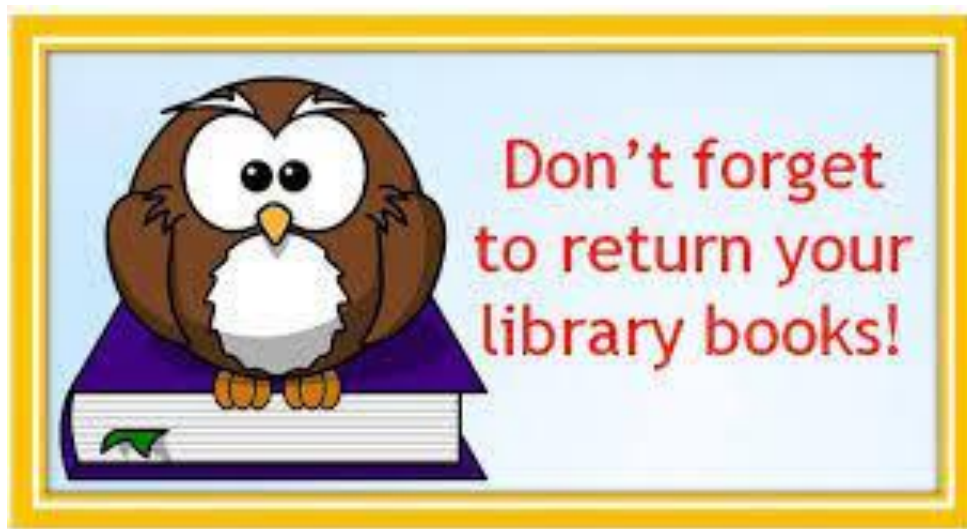
## Award Winners:

### April's Character Trait Awards:

Caring: Displaying kindness and concern for others.

Ms. Banner:	Abby Best	Ms. Tyson:	Anastasia Cadenas
Mrs. Crum:	Aaliyah Clinton	Mrs. Dennis:	Abigail Cage
Mrs. Summers:	Ellie Nell	Mrs. Eads:	Joshua Knight
Mrs. Lambert:	Rory Wilson	Ms. Jacobs:	Kharma Potts-Gilliatt
Mrs. Boothe:	Robert Mason	Mrs. Barker:	Emma Hughes
Mrs. Means:	Harper Phillips	Mr. Hahn:	Payton Embry
Mrs. Motton:	Mackenzie Krom	Ms. Jones:	Bailey Cranford
		Mr. Olson:	Gary Craig

## LIBRARY NEWS





April's Healthy Future Activity Logs are due May 3rd

You're  
Already  
Registered!



Were you  
Active this  
month?



**When:** May 20<sup>th</sup>

**What to bring:** A change of clothes

We will provide chips, water, popsicles  
and tons of games and activities



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.

## **Buddy Bear Program**

***Subject to change based on COVID risk level***

To apply, click the link below:

**[2021-2022 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, 2021 attend 9:45am-1:45pm, Monday-Friday
- Children younger than 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2021 attend either 9:45am-12:15pm **or** 1:45pm-4:15pm, Monday-Thursday
- Communication programs (Creekside, Taku, Ravenwood) operate 9:45am-12:15pm **or** 1:45pm-4:15pm, Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday
- Age Eligibility: Children must be at least 3 years old to apply
- Fee: \$200/semester; waived for families qualifying for free/reduced lunch

**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.

Buddy Bears must reapply each school year.



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

## May's Character Trait

**Perseverance:** Steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc.; especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.



*May 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Book Fair/Staff Appreciation*  
*May 20<sup>th</sup> Last Day of School/Field Day*

*May 18<sup>th</sup> Picture Day*

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



773 Logistics Readiness  
JBER, AK