



The Birchwood Banner

October 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



Our team is busy providing distance learning and planning for when students will return to instruction in the building. We still have a lot of planning to do to meet our COVID-19 mitigation plans and provide instruction to all of our students when they return. The basis for our mitigation plan is to reduce class size as much as possible and to limit the socialization of students and exposure to a smaller number of staff. We will provide more details regarding our plans when we have a date for when students will be returning to school in the building.

The following link provides detailed information regarding the criteria that the district is using to determine when it will be safe for students to return to the building for school.

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/16047>

Thank you for all of your patience and support!

Attendance

We want to share the attendance policy during distance learning again. Please remember that Wednesdays are a school day even though there are no zoom session. Students are expected to log into Canvas and complete the work that has been assigned for the day. Students will only be marked absent each day if they do not participate in anyway.

Birchwood Elementary School Distance Learning Attendance Policy

Attendance is still the number one factor in academic growth and progress. Students who participate regularly in Zoom sessions and complete tasks through Canvas will learn at a more accelerated rate than those who do not. We understand that attendance during distance learning will be different than when students are actually in school. However, **attendance will be taken each school day** but will encompass some options. Students will be counted as present if they attend a daily Zoom session. Students will also be recorded as present if they are unable to attend the Zoom session but log into Canvas and work on the daily assignments. Required Zoom sessions are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Some teachers will also be offering optional Zoom sessions on Wednesday but attendance will not be taken during optional sessions. **Attendance on Wednesday will be recorded based on a student logging into Canvas and working on the daily assignments.** Teachers will report attendance to the office between 3:30 and 4:00PM each day. Please contact the office to inform us if your child will be absent. That is, if they will not attend their daily zoom or log into Canvas to work on daily activities. Parents will receive a robo call at 4:30PM informing them that their child was absent if the office has not received prior notification.

October 16 and 23 are teacher training days. There will be no school. There will be no zooms on those dates nor any new content added to Canvas for those dates. Therefore, no attendance will be taken on October 16 and 23.

RED, White, and Blue

Award Winners:

September Character Trait Awards:

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

Ms. Banner:	Luella Brooks-Breckheimer
Mrs. Crum:	Madison Grey
Mrs. Summers:	Eleanor Nell
Mrs. Lambert:	Peter McGreal
Mrs. Boothe:	Leah McLeod
Mrs. Means:	Sawyer Lenichek
Mrs. Motton:	Nia Kashatok

Ms. Tyson:	Isabella Hill
Mrs. Dennis:	Miles Boylan
Mrs. Eads:	Mackenzie Thorp
Ms. Jacobs:	Sophia Syria
Mrs. Barker:	Emma Best
Mr. Hahn:	Paxon Jones
Ms. Jones:	Paul Nelson



The Parent Teacher Conference Scheduler is now available. Please visit <https://outlook.office365.com/calendar/BookingsBirchwoodABC> and choose a time that's convenient for you. If you have questions or need assistance with the scheduler, please call the office at 742-3450.



Library curbside pick-up and return will be Wednesday 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 October 22nd 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.



October
News

Online Physical Education

PE will continue to be an “asynchronous” (no live lessons with PE teacher) learning experience as we return to school. ASD will continue to create PE content for PE lessons to be done through Canvas. Please contact Birchwood ABC if these lessons are not available.

Students will receive a final grade (from their **classroom teacher**) for PE based on participation in these lessons, or **alternative activities** at the discretion of the teacher and family (maybe Healthy Futures 😊).

Where's the PE Teacher?

Mr. Olson will continue supporting core content areas at Birchwood. There is no immediate plan for the return of regular PE classes this year, but classroom teachers will be given resources to assist your child in some of the skills within the PE curriculum.

If you need any supports or ideas for your child, don't be afraid to send an email at olson_kirk@asdk12.org. There are still quite few community programs open for physical activity.

Healthy Futures

Activity Logs

DUE:
OCTOBER
5th!



September Activity logs can be submitting by scanning or photo attachment, and then emailed to Mr. Olson **and** this can count for your entire PE participation for the quarter!

Start your **OCTOBER ACTIVITY LOG** on the first!

Prizes can be distributed during school supply pick-ups, or when/if students return on the 19th

For more information about the Healthy Futures program, visit

<https://healthyfuturesak.org/>

Download an activity log [HERE](#)

See video link below for brief tutorial:



Notes from Nurse Beth

Welcome to Birchwood ABC. Fall has come and the temperatures are crisp but still pleasant!

Remember, if your student needs to have medications given at school, we have new forms this year. Links for those forms are below. Don't wait until the last minute to get them signed by your child's physician. Your pharmacy can make up a special bottle labeled just for school. In the case of EpiPens or inhalers, please ask the pharmacist to place the label on the EpiPen/inhaler, not on the box. Please do not send medications to school with your student. An adult does need to physically bring them to school. I will not accept pills in a baggie, only in an actual bottle from the pharmacy. Also, nurses are not allowed to administer herbal preparations to students in school. This includes herbal cough drops, such as doTERRA or Ricola cough drops. I can give over the counter medications with parent permission. I have special forms for that. Parents do need to sign an order for over the counter medications (OTC) given at school. [Medication Prescription 0525](#)
[Medication OTC 0523](#)
[Careplan Allergy Anaphylaxis 0502](#)
[Careplan Asthma 0505](#)

If your student has had immunizations during the summer, please send an updated immunization record to school, so I can update records. Your student's physician can

email or fax a copy to me. Fax is 907-742-3495. I sent letters to parents to let you know: 1) if I need a record, 2) if your student needs to have some immunizations. Providence sub-specialty has an immunization clinic 1st Saturday of each month, which is free. Alaska Regional has an immunization clinic 3rd Saturday of each month, this one is also free. Please bring identification and immunization records with you. Eagle River High School is having a drive by flu shot/immunization clinic Oct. 7th. Please see attached flyer for more information. Flu shots or immunizations can be gotten at Fred Meyer, Carrs, or Walgreens. If you have questions regarding immunizations or flu shots, please call the business that provides those vaccines. If you have questions regarding a letter sent, please call or email me.

Please practice face mask use and hand washing at home. At this time face masks are required in order to enter the school building. If you have questions regarding your student and face masks, please discuss with your student's physician. Hand washing needs to be at least 20 sec with soap and water (sing Happy Birthday song or ABC song twice through).

Stay healthy, stay safe!

Beth Thomas RN
thomas_beth@asdk12.org or
907-742-3452

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

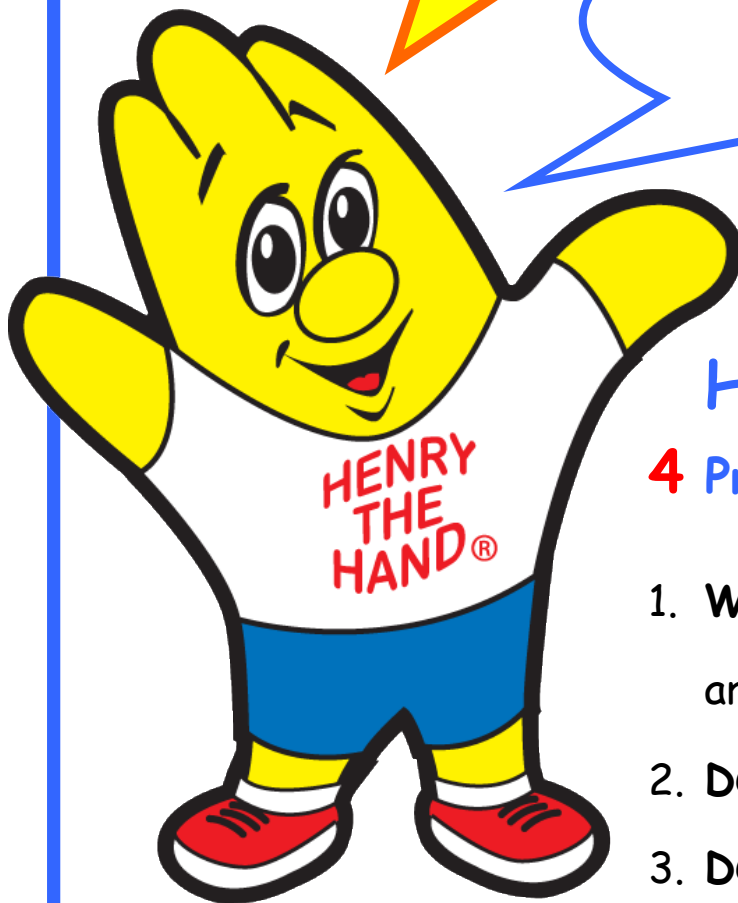
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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

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



Eagle River High School Drive Through Immunization Clinic

FREE for all ASD Students

Parent/guardian consent form is required for all
students age 17 and under

State Required Immunizations

DTaP, Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Polio, MMR,
Varicella, and combo vaccines

Eagle River High School

8701 Wolf Den Drive

Eagle River, AK 99577

Megan Charles 907-742-2750

charles_megan@asdk12.org

October 7, 2020 Year (Wednesday)

12pm-6pm

Flu Shots FREE for the Community!

Brought to you by the ASD Healthcare Services Department in
conjunction with the Anchorage Public Health Department





EAGLE RIVER GROCERY BAG

EagleRiverGroceryBag.com

Free Groceries for Eagle River Families

EVERY THURSDAY STARTING AUGUST 27, 2020

4-6p • Curbside pickup pantry items • No qualification

Community Covenant Church parking lot - 16123 Artillery Road, Eagle River

• No Questions, No Forms, No need to explain, just groceries
Go online and let us know how many are in your household.

Can't make the pick up time? Need it delivered? We can help.

Special arrangements for alternate delivery or pickup, call 696-5229 or Marci@communitycovenant.net



children's
lunchbox
a program of Deen's Cafe

COMMUNITY
COVENANT CHURCH



There is still time to join!

Battle of the Books will be starting again soon at Birchwood ABC. At Birchwood we will have a 3rd/4th grade team as well as a 5th/6th grade team. Students read a specific list of books and practice answering questions based on these books. At competition (which takes place in January or February), students work hard with their teammates to give the title and author of a book on which a question is based. For instance, the question may be, "In which book did a character cross an invisible bridge?" The correct answer to this would be "The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles by Julie Andrews Edwards." This activity is fun and really encourages reading and teamwork.

This is our eleventh year running Battle of the Books at Birchwood ABC. Ms. Tyson will be coaching the 3rd/4th grade and 5th/6th grade teams this year. All students are welcome to join! ***We will be practicing through zoom from 9-10 am. 3rd/4th graders will meet on Tuesdays and 5th/6th graders will meet on Thursdays. (To be changed when students return to the building.)***

If students choose to join BOB, they are expected to focus during practices and use sportsmanship behavior at all times. Students who use behavior that is inappropriate or unsportsmanlike during this time will not be able to continue to participate.

A permission slip is on the bottom of this letter. You can find a synopsis for each book at Goodreads.com. Students do not have to read all books to join. If you are concerned about a particular book, your child may still join us and he/she will not be required to read that book. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Tyson at Tyson_tanya@asdk12.org.

If your child would like to participate in Battle of the Books, please fill out the permission slip at the bottom of this paper and email the information to Ms. Tyson by Monday, September 28, 2020. We will begin our first meeting the following Tuesday and Thursday (9/29/20 and 10/1/20.) Thank you for encouraging your child's education and healthy sense of fun and competition through reading.

My child, _____, has my permission to attend morning Battle of the Books practices at Birchwood ABC this year. I understand he/she is expected to attend all practices and that if he/she cannot attend I will contact the coaches as soon as possible to let them know of the absence.

Parent Signature

Child's grade

Child's teacher

Parent email contact

parent phone #

___ My child may read all 2020-21 Battle of the Books titles at his/her grade level.

___ My child may not read _____ from the 2020-21 Battle of the Books titles at his/her grade level.

Once students are back in the building, practices will be either before or after school via Zoom. Times will be determined based on schedules.

Anchorage School District
Battle of the Books Titles 2020-2021
Grades 3/4

Listed below are the summaries for the Battle of the Books titles. ASD Board Policy requires that summaries be given to all participants prior to participation.

Bee the Change By James Preller
After Kym and Lizzie get the awesome opportunity to visit a bee colony, they realize all the wonderful things bees do! But how can it be that these amazing insects are disappearing? Kym and Lizzie set out to show their school the beauty of bees, and use their powers of persuasion to make a difference in the world.

Bob
By Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead
It's been five years since Livy and her family have visited Livy's grandmother in Australia. Bob, a short, greenish creature dressed in a chicken suit, didn't forget Livy, or her promise to help him find his way back home. Clue by clue, Livy and Bob will unravel the mystery of where Bob comes from, and discover the kind of magic that lasts forever.

Boy Called Bat By Elana K. Arnold
For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter.

But the minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together. And he's got one month to show his mom that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.

Dougie: The playful pup who became a sled dog hero

By Pam Flowers
From the beginning one puppy was different from the rest. He was big and black, his brother and sisters small and gray. While the others lay quietly snuggled against their mother, this puppy squirmed and wiggled constantly. So begins the inspiring true story of a puppy whose boundless energy almost got the best of him.

Dying to Meet You By Kate Klise
Ignatius B. Grumpy moves into the Victorian mansion at 43 Old Cemetery Road hoping to find some peace and quiet so he can crack a wicked case of writer's block. But 43 Old Cemetery Road is already occupied by eleven-year-old Seymour, his cat Shadow, and an irritable ghost named Olive. It's hard to say who is more outraged. But a grumpy old ghost just might inspire this grumpy old man—and the abandoned kid?

EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken!

By Sally Warner
EllRay Jakes is tired of being bullied by fellow classmate Jared Matthews. But when EllRay tries to defend himself, he winds up in trouble. Then his dad offers him a deal: If he stays out of trouble for one week, they'll go to Disneyland! EllRay says he can do it. But saying it and doing it are two very different things.

March of the Mini Beasts

By Ada Hopper
What would happen if your next-door neighbor were a mad scientist? Gabe, Laura, and Cesar live on a quiet cul-de-sac. Everyone in town lovingly refers to them as the Data Set. However, their quiet days of learning take a sudden turn for the exciting when they meet Dr. Gustav Bunsen—a mad scientist who throws the kids into a wild spiral of adventures.

Moo By Sharon Creech
When Reena, her little brother, Luke, and their parents first move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. Her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for an eccentric neighbor named Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna—and that stubborn cow, Zora.

Stargazing By Jen Wang
Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. After Moon moves in next door, these unlikely friends are soon best friends; Moon even tells Christine her deepest secret: that she has visions of celestial beings who speak to her from the

stars. Moon's visions have an all-too-earthly root, however, and soon Christine's best friend is in the hospital, fighting for her life. Can Christine be the friend Moon needs?
Turtle in Paradise By Jennifer L. Holm
11-year-old Turtle is no Shirley Temple. She's smart and tough and has seen enough of the world not to expect a Hollywood ending. After all, it's 1935 and jobs and money and sometimes even dreams are scarce. So when Turtle's mama gets a job housekeeping for a lady who doesn't like kids, Turtle says goodbye without a tear and heads off to Key West, Florida to live with relatives she's never met.

Water Horse

By Dick King-Smith
When eight-year-old Kirstie finds a strange egg near her home, she has no idea what will come out. Part horse, part toad, part turtle, and part crocodile? Only Kirstie's grandfather knows what it is: a water horse! While it is certainly the oddest-looking creature Kirstie has ever seen, it is also the gentlest. But soon, the unusual pet gets bigger. And bigger. And BIGGER. Will Kirstie and her family be able to keep their new pet or will he have to make a splash in someone else's home?

Wild Robot

By Peter Brown
Can a robot survive in the wilderness?
When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is—but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home—until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

Anchorage School District
Battle of the Books Titles 2020-2021
Grades 5/6

Listed below are the summaries for the Battle of the Books titles. ASD Board Policy requires that summaries be given to all participants prior to participation.

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed

Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment for her behavior, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate. So she summons her courage and begins navigating the complex rules of life as a servant.

Bud, Not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis

1936 Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and 10-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy, but Bud's got a few things going for him: 1. He has his own suitcase full of special things; 2. He's the author of *Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself*; 3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue. Bud is sure the clue will lead him to his father.

Dactyl Hill Squad by Daniel Jose Older

It's 1863 and dinosaurs roam the streets of New York as the Civil War rages between raptor-mounted armies down South. Magdalys and her friends flee to Brooklyn and settle in the Dactyl Hill neighborhood, where black and brown New Yorkers have set up an independent community -- a safe haven from the threats of Manhattan. Can Magdalys and the squad rescue the rest of their friends before it's too late?

EnginNerds by Jarrett Lerner

Ken is an EnginNerd: one of a super-smart group of friends who have been close since kindergarten. They may be brainiacs,

but they're just like everyone else. Well, maybe not just like everyone because Ken's best friend Dan has been building robots. He then secretly sent one to each of the EnginNerds, never letting them know he's the mastermind.

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed.

Number 3: She wants to be a writer. Will Mia be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

Guts by Raina Telgemeier

Raina wakes up one night with a terrible upset stomach. It soon becomes clear that Raina's tummy trouble isn't going away... and it coincides with her worries about food, school, and changing friendships. What's going on?

Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper

Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it.

Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

When Candice finds a letter in an old attic, she isn't sure she should read it. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery unfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle.

With the help of the quiet boy across the street, she begins to decipher the clues. Can they find the fortune and fulfill the letter's promise before the answers slip into the past yet again?

Screaming Staircase

by Jonathan Stroud

A sinister Problem has occurred in London: all nature of ghosts, haunts, spirits, and specters are appearing throughout the city, and they aren't exactly friendly. Only young people have the psychic abilities required to see and eradicate these supernatural foes. Many different Psychic Detection Agencies have cropped up to handle the dangerous work, and they are in fierce competition for business.

Skeleton Tree by Iain Lawrence

Less than forty-eight hours after twelve-year-old Chris sets off on a sailing trip down the Alaskan coast with his uncle, their boat sinks. The only survivors are Chris and a boy named Frank, who hates Chris immediately. Chris and Frank have no radio, no flares, no food. Suddenly, they've got to forage, fish, and scavenge the shore for supplies. The boys have to get along if they want to survive.

Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin

After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone.

What is the Women's Rights

Movement? By Deborah Hopkinson
In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, women were demanding the right to vote. During the 1960s, equal rights and opportunities for women--both at home and in the

Each month Birchwood ABC focuses on a different character trait.

October's Character Trait

Self-Discipline: Training and control of oneself and one's conduct, usually for personal improvement.



October 16th—No school for students
October 22nd—BAC Meeting via Zoom 6:00 PM
October 23rd—No school for students

November 3rd—No school for students
November 11th—No school for students
November 26th-27th—Thanksgiving Break

Thank you to our School Business Partner!!



773 Logistics Readiness
JBER, AK