

## Birchwood Activities



Where did October go? We have been involved in so many activities - from our PTA sponsored Maggie Magee presentation to Rachel's Challenge, Birchwood students have been learning about the impact of being kind and compassionate. Our students demonstrate these characteristics each day! From including new students to volunteering to help in any situation needed to donating to Locks of Love our students are true examples of kindness and compassion.

Our October focus was "self-discipline"; November is "kindness". We will continue with our Hall of Fame, recognizing those acts of kindness. In keeping with our promise to Rachel's Challenge, we will add a link in our chain of kindness each time a student is recognized for such behavior. Our goal is to round the school in our chain! Additionally, students will be recognized for actions above and beyond by our monthly Praise Referral.

Please check the School Happenings page for a list of special dates.



On the academic front, Birchwood teachers are absorbed in our initiative of understanding by Design, focusing students on "The Big Idea" - information worth knowing, versus information that is "nice to know". Students are asked to analyze, evaluate, synthesize and problem solve, using the content as the vehicle to strengthen these skills. When studying, encourage your child to answer the "how" and "why" of information learned. Ask them to provide an example or explain a situation in which they might "apply" the information.

Thank you for your support of our non-sweets birthday celebrations. In keeping with our healthy focus, Mr. Chris Marangon was awarded a \$2,000 grant to purchase fun and motivating equipment for exercise. It is our intent to support your efforts in keeping our students healthy and happy.