

To: Birchwood families

From: Pam Ober (Birchwood Bulletin Editor)

Date: September 12, 2013

RE: Weekly bulletin...What's going on at Birchwood?

Birchwood families have always relied on the weekly bulletin to hear what's happening at school--upcoming events, sign-up sheets, lunch menus, district news, and more.

Starting last school year, the bulletin got even better – and easier! The Communications Committee worked hard to make things quick and easy for busy parents by converting the newsletter to an online publication. We will continue with this practice this year. Starting in October (when our email database is up-to-date), you will receive a weekly email containing the information you need at a glance, with easy links to more information and online sign-up forms.

No more opening attachments, printing long documents, and stashing envelopes for the PTO in your child's backpack! (Or at least, much less of that stuff.) Detailed information and forms will be available on the PTO website any time: <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>.

The fun-filled email will still come on Thursdays and will come from "Birchwood PTO" ([Birchwood@niskyPTO.org](mailto:birchwood@niskypto.org)) instead of from Mrs. Berndt's mailbox.

What do you have to do? Nothing! Just make sure your email address is correct when you get a confirmation card from the school district. And add our address to your contacts so we don't get blocked by your SPAM filter! Don't worry—we won't bombard you with emails or allow others to view your address.

Want to opt out? Please use the tear-off portion at the bottom of this memo and return it to your child's teacher. (You can still receive notifications by opting in to district Buzzables.)

Want to submit something to the bulletin? Email it to [Birchwood@niskyPTO.org](mailto:birchwood@niskypto.org) by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear (please write "bulletin item" in the subject line).

Other suggestions or feedback? Write us! [Birchwood@niskyPTO.org](mailto:birchwood@niskypto.org)

We are looking forward to a great year bringing the Birchwood community together and supporting your child's school experience.

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You only need to complete this form if you wish to opt out of the weekly email bulletin.

Full name: _____

Email address you wish to have removed: _____

OPT OUT of the weekly email bulletin (paper copies can be picked up in the front office)

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin

September 12th, 2013

The weekly bulletin will be sent by email when our database is up-to-date for 2013-2014.

From Principal Berndt's desk... Summer is coming to a close, and with it, comes the start of another school year. I am excited to welcome all of our students, new and returning, to Birchwood Elementary School!

Also, a big welcome to our new staff: teaching assistants Denise Palataky and Sue Benoit, café cook Ryan Van Norstrand, librarian (Tu - Fri) Nancy Furey, and café helper Brian Vaccaro. We are also happy to welcome back band teacher Philip Pandori.

Where's the Birchwood directory? Like last year, the Birchwood directory will not be available until several weeks into the fall term. We apologize for the wait (we know it's hard to live without!), but it beats printing the directory with out-of-date information. Make sure you fill out the district's "Confidential Information Form" (sent home the first day of school) so that we can keep the database up-to-date. In the mean time, much of the helpful information printed in the directory (homeroom parent list, calendar of events, etc.) is on the PTO website: <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>.

Who's on First? Once again we have a dedicated group of PTO officers including Deb Foley and David Apkarian as Co-Presidents, Lynn Boler as VP Fundraising, Sonya Ward as VP Programs & Services, Treasurer Jennifer Sargent, and Recording Secretary Tracy Lasek. Three cheers!!!

We need your help!

It is the first week of school and over 2000 books have been returned and are waiting to be shelved! Anyone want to help? Please contact Sonya Ward @ mward22@nycap.rr.com. We love books!

Dates to remember:

The first PTO meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 17th, 6:30pm in the conference room at Birchwood. Everyone is welcome.

The Homeroom Parent meeting will be Thursday, September 12, at 7pm. If you are interested in being a Homeroom Parent but have yet to sign up, please contact Deb Foley at deb.foley4@gmail.com.

If you missed the monthly lunch menu handout, you can print it from the district site:

<http://www.niskayunaschools.org/district/cafeteria/elemlunch.htm>.



Curriculum (Back-to-School) Nights

Tuesday, 9/24, 6:30 pm:

3rd through 5th grade

Thursday, 9/26, 6:30 pm:

Kindergarten through 2nd grade

Curriculum Nights provide a chance for parents and teachers to meet each other, discuss the curriculum, and visit the classrooms. Stop at the entryway tables on your way in to learn more about Friends of Music, Birchwood's Girl Scout troops, and to pre-order a copy of the *Birchwood Directory 2013-2014* (included with your \$5.00 PTO membership dues payment).

Due to limited space in classrooms, this event is best suited for parents unaccompanied by their children.

Looking for... absolutely anything and everything?!?

Check out Birchwood's amazing website at

<http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>

Our Communications Guru Kim McClive-Reed works 24/7 (well, almost) to insure that you have the most up-to-date and complete information. You will find PTO information, PTO forms, district and school-specific calendars, details about upcoming events and activities, district information, community information, and more!

The **Birchwood Back-to-School BBQ** is Friday, September 20th, 2013 from 5:00-7:00pm (rain or shine). Join us for a fun welcome event with delicious food from Center Stage Deli. Get your orders in early! See attached form.



Tickets for cotton candy, snow cones, and face painting will be on sale the night of the event.

Back by Popular Demand...

Birchwood's After School Enrichment Program

Every fall and spring Birchwood offers fun and fantastic after school classes for all interested Birchwood students. Each class runs one day a week from 2:15 – 3:15pm for six consecutive weeks (skipping half days and holidays). Offerings typically include: Lego Robotics, arts & crafts, gym classes, chess, Harry Potter, and more! Classes cost between \$20 - \$60. The fall program will be sent home with students this week. There will be a ½ week registration period. First come, first served. Our fall program will begin the week of September 30th.

Summer Reading Program

We hope you enjoyed your summer and had a great time taking part of the Summer Reading Program.

Books need to be returned to the library during the 1st week of school. The Summer Reading tally sheets are due by Monday, September 16th, and can be dropped off in the main office.



Bulletin information is online at:
<http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>

To submit information for the weekly bulletin, please email Birchwood@niskyPTO.org by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear (write "bulletin item" in the subject line).

The Birchwood Bulletin is produced by the PTO Communications Committee in cooperation with the Birchwood principal and staff.



Birchwood Back-to-School BBQ
Friday, September 20th, 2013 from 5 – 7pm
(Rain or Shine)

MEAL ORDER FORM

Please make checks payable to “Birchwood PTO” and return to main office labeled BBQ or mail to Lori Lembo -- BBQ Committee, 11 Tamarack Lane, Niskayuna, NY 12309

BBQ Chicken Meal -- \$9.00 # of chicken meals _____ X \$9 = _____
½ BBQ chicken, macaroni salad, corn cake, biscuit, soda or water

Pulled Pork Meal -- \$9.00 # of pork meals _____ X \$9 = _____
Pulled pork sandwich, macaroni salad, corn cake, soda or water

Vegetable Lasagna Meal -- \$9.00 # of lasagna meals _____ X \$9 = _____
Lasagna, corn cake, soda or water

**“Grab n’ Play” Kids’
Chicken Tenders Meal** -- \$6.25 # of tender meals _____ X \$6.25 = _____
Tenders, apples slices, chips, cookie, juice box, toy

**“Grab n’ Play” Kids’
Beef Taco Wrap Meal** -- \$6.25 # of taco wrap meals _____ X \$6.25 = _____
Wrap, apple slices, chips, cookie, juice box, toy

TOTAL = _____

Family name: _____ Phone: _____

Your tickets will be held for you at the BBQ. See you there!



Birchwood Back-to-School BBQ Volunteer Form

We are still in need of volunteers! Please visit SignUp Genius at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094FA9AA2FA46-backtoschool1> OR email Lori Lembo@lorilembo@verizon.net to help out for an hour or two. We can’t do it without you!

Thank you!

