

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- November 14, 2013



From Birchwood's PTO Presidents:

Facilities Utilization Advisory Committee update to highlight November 20 Birchwood PTO Meeting

Last spring the district created the Facilities Utilization Advisory Committee (FUAC) to look at the district's use of our 5 elementary schools and 2 middle schools. You can find meeting minutes and information about the committee's work [HERE](#). At the next Birchwood PTO meeting on November 20, the five current Birchwood parents who served on the FUAC will be present to provide a brief overview of the committee's work, outline the three options that will be presented to the Board of Education, and most importantly, do their best to answer any questions that you may have. FUAC is offering 3 configurations for consideration by the Board, all of which require re-districting. Here is a very short summary:

- Close an elementary school (specific school to be determined); redistrict all elementary students; and keep 2 middle schools as is.
- Close 1 elementary school (TBD) to create 4 elementary buildings for grades K-4; VA would house grades 5-6; and Iroquois would house grades 7-8.
- Create a Rosendale-Iroquois middle school campus housing grades 6-8; VA would close; all elementary students would be redistricted to the remaining 4 elementary schools.

FUAC will present their recommendations to the Board on December 3 at 7 p.m. in the VA auditorium. It will then be up to the Board to take any action. They may adopt one of FUAC's recommendations; they may create a completely different configuration; or, they may opt to make no changes at all to the building usage. All Board of Education meetings are open to the public. We strongly urge you to attend the Birchwood PTO meeting on November 20 at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about the FUAC and the presentation and the options that will be presented.

Look It Up on the [Birchwood PTO Website!](#)

Don't know what's for lunch, or can't remember where to make school lunch payments? Your school calendar isn't handy, and you can't remember when the next half-day is? Not sure when to pick up your Frozen Foods order? Forgot what days the Book Fair runs? Can't make PTO meetings, but want to know what was discussed?

You can find all that information (and much much more) by visiting the [Birchwood PTO Website](#). It's even searchable! Don't forget to bookmark the site for repeat visits.



It's time for the Annual Concerned for the Hungry Thanksgiving Food Drive.

We have already collected a lot, but let's keep going! This year, we have been asked to provide specific items that will help provide a little more than a Thanksgiving meal -- spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese, juice, canned tuna, hot cocoa, and cake mix. The deadline is November 21st. We will place boxes outside the cafeteria so that students can drop off their donations either as they arrive in the morning or when they go to lunch. Please remember: No glass containers. Let's teach our children to help others in our community. Want more details? Click [HERE](#).

Frozen Food Pick Up will be Wednesday the 20th, 5:00-7:30pm.

Box Top Fun Continues! This month's drawing is sponsored by Sweet Frog! So... keep collecting those Box Tops and Labels for Education and sending in completed sheets or labels in sealed envelope with your child's name and classroom.

FYI: Did you know that Birchwood would earn almost \$3,000 this school year if each student completed just one Box Top sheet per month? Easiest. Fundraiser. Ever.

Please use these attachments for November: [Basketball Fun or Point Collection Sheet](#). Don't like these sheets? More Box Tops info and tons of different and fun sheets

available [here!](#)

Did you know that Birchwood has a new school pledge?

I pledge today to do my best,
In reading, math and all the rest.
I come prepared with all I need,
And make good choices to succeed.

November 18 forum to focus on athletic programs in the Niskayuna Central School District and the community – please join us!

At a November 18 forum, Superintendent Susan Kay Salvaggio and three community faith leaders will host a broad-based, forward-looking community forum about athletic offerings in the district and the community. Parents, students, and community members are asked to attend and participate.

The event will be held at 7 p.m. at Union Street Church, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. It will be hosted by Father Bob Longobucco, Rabbi Matt Cutler, and Reverend Scott DeBlock.

The forum hosts emphasized their belief that the broader athletic community has a shared goal – to maximize opportunities for children to benefit from participating in programs, whether they are community-based or offered by the school. This forum is an effort to share information and make the partnership between school and community and the programs available to Niskayuna students as strong as possible.

Discussion items will include athletic offerings in the district, the role of the Niskayuna Booster Club, the activities of the Junior Warriors, and ways that all community stakeholders can communicate and collaborate. For more details and updates, visit Birchwood PTO [District News](#).

The District's Coffee Talk Series continues. Please consider attending one of these informative sessions. They usually last about an hour. The next talk -- "Managing Technology: Sensible Ways to Set Limits and Why You Must Do this Now!" -- will be on November 18th at 8:15am at Craig Elementary School. For more information, check out the [Coffee Talk Schedule](#).

Birchwood's Book of the Month Club is back! Please join us December 9th for a fun-filled afternoon of games, snacks, and book talk! Our book will be "The Tale of Despereaux" by Kate DiCamillo. The Book Club is for students of all ages. For more information about the club and the book, please see the flyer [HERE!](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

- November 18 -- Coffee Talk at Craig (8:15am)
- November 18 -- Athletic Forum at Union Street Church, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish (7pm)
- November 19 -- Picture Retakes
- November 19 -- Tardy Brothers School Assembly 8:15am
- November 20 -- PTO Meeting (6:30pm)
- November 20 -- Frozen Food Fundraiser Pick Up (5-7:30pm)
- November 22 -- Half Day (10:45am dismissal)
- November 22 -- Popcorn Friday & School Banking

[Click HERE for November's Lunch Menu](#)



Happy 60th Birthday Niskayuna Central School District!

The district is putting together a committee to plan a celebration for the district's 60th anniversary. They would like a parent representative from each school. Interested? Contact [Deb Foley](#).



Birchwood's Fall Book Fair will be December 2 - 6!

Mark your calendars! It's (almost) Book Fair time! This year we're trying something new -- Our teachers will make their own wish lists for their classrooms. What a great opportunity to help supply the books for our children's classrooms! And, as you know, you can *never* have too many books! Keep an eye on backpacks for an information flyer.

Feedback? [Click here](#)

Add/update an email address? [Click here](#)

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

To submit information for the weekly bulletin, please email [Birchwood@niskyPTO.org](mailto: Birchwood@niskyPTO.org) by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear.

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