

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD

ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- December 12, 2013



Birchwood's Holiday Shopping Event will take place on December 15th! Come to Mohawk Commons and Mansion Square (right across the street) THIS WEEKEND to finish/start your shopping AND support Birchwood. There will be the Barnes & Noble 15% to Birchwood event with in-store gift wrapping booth (make a donation to Birchwood and have someone else do the wrapping for you). Same day, eat at Chipotle from 12-4 PM and 50% goes to Birchwood. Last but not least, treat your family to a little Sweet Frog, and our school will receive 25% of any purchase all day (including gift cards) if someone presents our flyer or just says "Birchwood" when placing an order. We're in need of parent volunteers to hand out flyers and help wrap. To volunteer, contact [Deb Foley](#) today. For more information see our [Shopping Event Flyer](#).

A very big THANK YOU goes out to all those who supported our Scholastic Book Fair last week! This was our first all-parent run Book Fair and it would not have been such a success if it weren't for our wonderful volunteers! The Teacher/Classroom wish list was also a huge hit with parents and teachers alike. Our book fair profit exceeded that of last year, with a total of \$1,639.12!

Thank you to the parent coordinators and volunteers who helped make the Book Fair and Open House a success. Special thanks go out to coordinators Francesca Hill and Sonya Ward (Book Fair); Lynn Boler (Kids' Holiday Shop); Mrs. Disque (Storytelling); and Lori Lembo and Kim McClive-Reed (Cookies and Cocoa). Additional parent volunteers who helped that night and throughout the week at the Book Fair include: Jill Appert, Jenn

DiCerbo, Stephanie Stiles, Jude Melendez, Diane Schroeder, Amy Jasiewicz, Grace Gan, Elissa Fromowitz, Anne Burger, Joni Bonilla, Soyoung Mok, Rebecca Pezzano (and her mom), Millie Gnatek, Karen Davis, Sally Bratten, Suzanne Brooksby, Katrine Rush, Cheryl Gerstler, Lori Kwan, Nahla Khan, Laura Igoe Kruggel, Jennifer Ruggiero, Joanne Ferrara, and Wei Tong. We also express our appreciation to Mrs. Furey, Mrs. Dorries, and Mr. Garrison. Thanks to all (and an apology if we accidentally left someone off the list)!



Cold weather is here! Students go outside for recess every day unless it's raining or exceptionally cold. Please make sure they are dressed for outdoor play.

It's a SNOW DAY!!! With winter around the corner, the time is right to remind you how the Niskayuna Central School District communicates weather-related announcements, including closings, delays, and early dismissals. Notifications are always posted on the school district's website, right on the homepage at www.niskayunaschools.org.

School closings are announced on the following local TV and radio stations: Channel 6, Channel 9 (YNN), Channel 10, Channel 13, FOX23, WFLY (92.3 FM), WGNA (107.7 FM), WGY (810 AM), WYJB (B95.5), WRVE (99.5 FM) and <http://timesunion.com>. We will also post notifications to our district Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NiskayunaCSD>).

Closing information can be sent directly to your email account via the district's School News Notifier (SNN) system if you have signed up for the closings and delays notification option. It will also be sent directly to your cell phone via text message if you have signed up for text message alerts. Sign up for School News Notifier (SNN) [HERE](#).

Please note that due to the volume of closing notifications sent over SNN, and precautions put in place by the recipient's email server, these notifications may not be received immediately.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR:



There's still time! Birchwood is a collection point for the Toys for Tots Campaign. Please consider donating NEW & UNWRAPPED toys for local distribution this season. There will be donation boxes at the Main Office until December 16th.

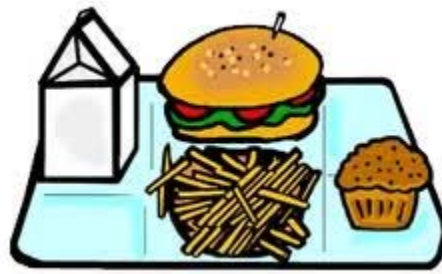
The District's Coffee Talk Series will continue on January 10th with "4 Weeks to a Quieter, Healthier Home" at Glenclyff Elementary School. The presenter for these workshops will be Dr. Randy Gale. He is a licensed psychologist, author, speaker, and parenting expert. These workshops are timely, focused and filled with practical advice. See the [COFFEE TALK SCHEDULE](#) for more information.

The next BOE meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m. in the VA Middle School auditorium. The Board plans to make a decision in terms of building usage, including possible closure of any of the five existing elementary buildings and/or VA Middle School, by the end of January. This means there are only two BOE meetings remaining before a decision is expected. It's a busy time of year, but it is crucial that parents stay informed, connected, and involved! **It's important for the Board to know what is important to you regarding your child's education and school experience! Please consider attending!** See more BOE information [HERE](#).

Mark Your Calendars

- December 13: [Fiddle Club](#)
- December 15: [Birchwood Shopping Event -- Barnes & Noble Book Fair \(10am-4pm\), Chipotle \(12-4pm\), and Sweet Frog \(1-9pm\)](#)
- December 17: [Board of Education Meeting](#) at VA (7pm)
- December 21 - January 1: Holiday Recess (School resumes on January 2)
- January 7: Preschool Story Hour Program begins

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



Winter Fun!

Looking for exciting (and free) things to do with your family this season? Want to know the best sledding hills, cool places to skate, and where to go caroling?

Check out [Kids Out and About](#) for a whole lot of local fun!

Introduce your children to hockey or teach them how to ice skate with fun lessons at [The Schenectady Country Recreation Facility!](#)

Check out what the town is offering this winter [HERE](#).



Poster Contest Sundae Parties

Approximately 94 ice cream sundaes were enjoyed by the poster contest winners on Tuesday, November 26!

It wouldn't have been possible to serve all those sundaes without the help of so many wonderful parents! Thanks for your hard work! Also thanks to Mrs. Dorries and Mr. Garrison for help with set up and clean up and to Mr. VanNostrand for his helpfulness in storage of items and accepting all the disruption to the cafeteria and kitchen routines.

A very special thank you to the Vly Road Stewart's shop for supplying the ice cream, sprinkles, sauces, bowls, and spoons. Thanks to Mrs. McKenna and Mr. Apkarian who were instrumental in securing this for us and everyone from the PTO who helped make the party

possible. Please take a look at all of the wonderful posters in the hallways and in the Media Center! They are super!

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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