

# **BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY**

**Weekly Bulletin  
September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

*The weekly bulletin will be sent by email when our database is up-to-date for 2015-2016*



**From Principal Berndt's Desk....** It has been such a pleasure having the students back in school. We look forward to working with each of your children, as well, as you throughout this school year. Our opening days have gone very smoothly and the children seem to be adjusting to the new school year well. Welcome Back!

Also, a big welcome to our new staff: First grade: Mrs. Leamy; Fourth Grade: Mrs. Cappiello; Fifth Grade: Mrs. Isenhart; Social Worker: Mrs. Shephard; Math Teacher: Mrs. Vanina; Reading: Ms. Colloton and Mrs. Flanders; Teaching Assistants: Mr. Zakriski, Mrs. Etkins, Mrs. Oldendorf, and Ms. Quick

## **From the PTO Presidents:**

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a great deal of fun and relaxation over the summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at this month's upcoming events.

On Friday, September 18th, we will again be a part of the Bike Ride for Missing Children. The riders will stop at our school to greet the children. We will need a few volunteers to help prepare breakfast sandwiches for the riders. If you are available that morning for an hour or two, please let us know.

Our first PTO meeting this school year is Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30pm in the Birchwood Conference Room. Please consider joining us.

JoMarie Ethier and Jan Brown

## **We Want YOU!! Birchwood PTO is looking for volunteers!**

New Parents? Don't be shy! Come give it a try!

If you've never volunteered (especially if you're new to the school), it's a fantastic way to find out more about Birchwood and get to know other parents. Experienced parent volunteers are great resources of information for everything you need to know.

Birchwood's PTO recruits parents and grandparents! We have something for everyone: Home room parent, Media Center volunteer, Fundraising organizer, Webmaster/design, Event chairs or Committee members. You can sign up [online](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094fa9aa2fa46-2015161) at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094fa9aa2fa46-2015161>, [email us](#) at

[birchwood@niskypto.org](mailto:birchwood@niskypto.org) or call Suzanne Brooksby at 378-4025, to volunteer or find out more about a position. The current committee chairs will be happy to answer any questions about what's involved!

# Birchwood Back –to- School BBQ

Friday, September 18<sup>h</sup> 5:00-7:00pm

Thanks to Shop Rite for generously donating food and supplies towards this year's BBQ



Get your orders in early! Just fill out the form below.

Make checks payable to **Birchwood PTO** and return to the main office by Sept 11th

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Choices	Cost	# of meals	Total \$\$
<b>Adult Buffet</b> <b>Hamburgers/ Hot dogs</b> includes plenty of side dishes, dessert and beverage (vegetable burgers also available )	\$7.50 X		
<b>Kids Buffet</b> <b>Hamburgers/Hot dogs</b> includes plenty of side dishes, dessert and beverage	\$5.00 X		

We are still in need of volunteers!

Please visit the Birchwood PTO website page and sign up on line with SignUp Genius / Back to School BBQ **OR** e-mail Lori Lembo @ [lorilembo@verizon.net](mailto:lorilembo@verizon.net) to help out for an hour or two! **THANK YOU!!**

**There will be a homeroom parent meeting TONIGHT -- Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 7-7:30pm.** This is an opportunity for you to meet the other HR parents from your class and discuss the new school year. If you would like to sign up to be a homeroom parent, please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094fa9aa2fa46-2015161>.

Thanks and I hope to see you all there!

Francesca Hill  
Homeroom parent Coordinator

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### **Curriculum (Back-to-School) Night -- Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher, visit their classroom, and learn about the curriculum. You will also have a chance to sign up to help with special activities and parties. These evenings are geared toward parents (not students). Bring your questions for the teacher!

*6 – 6:45pm K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade*

*6:45 – 7pm K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade*

*7-8pm 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade*

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

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**We encourage everyone to register ONLINE to be included in Birchwood's PTO Directory.**

Families that have already registered, thank you! Please review and update your information if required.

You only have to register once; the system will update the grade for your child as they move through the Niskayuna School System. This is an important service for students and families that enables the PTO to connect classmates, families, and friends. Also, the directory contains contact information for your school's teachers, administrators, and office staff. It facilitates communications between families and Homeroom Parents for classroom events planning, and is essential when class projects are assigned. The directory is the PTO's way to connect and organize volunteers, to distribute meeting schedules, calendars, and other important PTO information, included in email broadcasts and the weekly e-bulletin.

Please register at [www.NiskyPTO.org](http://www.NiskyPTO.org) (secure website) so your child and you can be included. Everyone needs to be signed up online by 9/15. You will have an opportunity to review your current information in the directory on Curriculum Night.

Any questions please contact the directory chairs, Shilpa Garde [shilpa.garde@gmail.com](mailto:shilpa.garde@gmail.com) Or Pennie Cuevas [pennie.cuevas@gmail.com](mailto:pennie.cuevas@gmail.com)

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### **Important Dates to Remember**

September 10 – Homeroom Parent Meeting (7-7:30pm)

September 12 – No School

September 15 – Board of Education Meeting (VA, 6pm)

September 17 – Back-to School Night for Parents (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade 6pm; all parents 6:45 – 7pm; 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade 7 – 8pm)

September 18 – Birchwood BBQ (5-7pm)

September 23 – No School

It's the First ever Fall Mum Fundraiser...

**Birchwood PTO has teamed up with  
Coleman's West Shaker Farms**



9" potted mums in burgundy, yellow, white  
or purple  
\$8 ea. or 3/\$22  
(ok to mix & match colors)

Please fill out the order form below  
& return to school w/ payment by 9/17

Questions? Contact Christina at [christinamarienolan@yahoo.com](mailto:christinamarienolan@yahoo.com)

Mums will be at the BBQ on 9/18 for pick up

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Color	Quantity	Subtotal \$
Burgundy		
Yellow		
White		
Purple		
TOTALS		Total \$