

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- December 19, 2013



Happy Holidays to You and Yours!!!

From the Principal's Desk

I'd like to wish everyone Happy Holidays! I hope you find time to relax and enjoy time with family. Please note that we will return to school on Thursday, January 2nd. We would also like to say thank you for your generosity this holiday season. Both the Concerned for the Hungry and Toys for Tots collections were great successes! Many families will benefit from our collective efforts.

As you are aware, our district and Board of Education are considering three options regarding the use of building facilities for next year. I encourage you to attend Board of Education meetings and to visit the [district website](#) frequently to stay informed on this very important topic.

Important dates:

- [Board of Education Meetings](#): January 7th and January 21st at 7pm.
- [Budget round table discussions](#) : January 21st and February 4th at 6:30pm.
- [Birchwood PTO Meeting](#): January 8th at 6:30pm.

Birchwood's Preschool Program for incoming Kindergarten students is starting soon! The program will begin on Tuesday, January 7th, and end on April 8th. Children will enjoy story time at the media center and gym time. There will be a party at the end as well as the much-anticipated practice bus ride. Children love getting to know their school! For more information go to the [Birchwood Website](#).



Birchwood's Holiday Shopping Event was a fabulous success! Even with the snow, families still went shopping! Couldn't make it out of your driveway? **The good news is you can STILL help out by shopping at Barnes & Noble -- in the store or online. TODAY IS THE DEADLINE, so jump online after you read this bulletin and place your order for that last minute Holiday gift.** Just use the following Birchwood code: 11243565. For more information check out the [B&N FLYER](#).

We are still waiting for the final tallies but the Chipotle part of the fundraiser was a HUGE success -- we made \$701.50 for Birchwood!

As always, none of this could have happened without our fearless coordinators - Laura Mirkovic, Lynn Boler, and Dede Hildreth, as well as the many parent volunteer gift wrappers at Barnes & Noble. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Need school information? Whether you're looking for a link, lunch menu, or Labels for Education sheet, you'll find it on the [PTO Website](http://birchwood.niskypto.org) (birchwood.niskypto.org). It's even searchable! Just plug in a key word to find what you're looking for. Wondrous Webmaster Kim McClive-Reed diligently keeps the site up-to-date.

Saw it in the Weekly Bulletin? Save past bulletins in a folder in your inbox for easy reference, or find current and past bulletins on the [PTO Website - Bulletin](#). Online sign-up sheets and email links minimize what you need to print and send in by "backpack courier." (Printable order sheets are still necessary when payment is required.)

We'd love every Birchwood family to read the Birchwood Bulletin!

Do your kids miss going to the library during the break? If you have an e-reader, you can check out books online:

<http://capregboces.lib.overdrive.com>.

Just click "sign in" and select Niskayuna as your school district; then enter your child's library/lunch number. (Note: if their number is only 4 digits, add a zero (0) to the front.) If you have questions, Mrs. Furey would be glad to help. Once you're signed in, you'll find grade level links at the bottom of the "Browse Collections" column on the left. *Voila!* A new book to read.

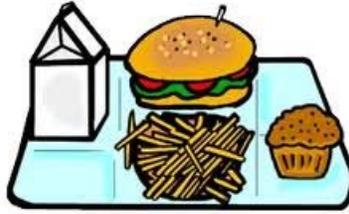


Mark Your Calendars

- December 21 - January 1: Holiday Recess (School resumes on January 2)
- January 7: [Preschool Story Hour Program](#) begins
- January 8: [Birchwood PTO Meeting](#) (6:30pm)
- January 10: Popcorn Friday & [School Banking](#)

- January 10: [Coffee Talk](#) at Glenclyff (8:15am)
- January 21: [Board of Education Meeting](#) (VA, 7pm)
- January 24: Kindergarten Registration

January's Menu is posted [HERE](#).



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 winter recreation offerings from the great Town of Niskayuna [HERE](#)!



Coffee Talk

The district's popular series will continue on January 10th with "4 Weeks to a Quieter, Healthier Home" at Glenclyff Elementary School (8:15am).

The presenter for these workshops will be Dr. Randy Cale. 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.

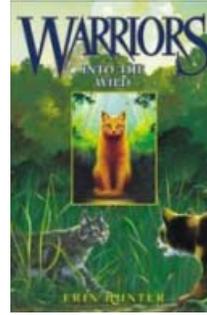


From the Art Room

Starting in January, Mrs. Manuta and Mrs. DeSoyza will begin preparing artwork for upcoming art shows, including the District Office Elementary Art Show which begins January 30th.

While many families are used to receiving art portfolios before the December break, this year all of the artwork will remain in the art room.

Students will design their portfolios in the spring and take artwork home in June.



Looking for a good book to read over vacation?

Read Erin Hill's "Into the Wild," an exciting fantasy book loved by boys and girls all over! Then come to Birchwood's Book of the Month Club on January 15th for games, snacks, and book talk!

Birchwood's Book of the Month Club is for students of all ages. It's perfect for children who have read or are reading the book of the month, but everyone is welcome.

For a permission form and more information about the club and the book, please see the flyer [HERE!](#)

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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