

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY



Weekly Bulletin September 22, 2016

The weekly bulletin will be sent by email when our database is up to date for 2016-2017

View the bulletin online for clickable links: <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>

From the PTO presidents:

The Back to School BBQ was a blast – we hope you all had as much fun as we did. A huge thank you to Lori Lembo and Katie Cowley-Cooper for co-chairing, and to all the BBQ volunteers and grillers. Also – it was great to see all the beautiful mums on the way into the BBQ – thank you to all who supported our Fall mum fundraiser!

Jan Brown and Erin Cassidy-Dorion

Parents Back to School Night TONIGHT (9/22)

- 6:00pm - Parents of kindergarteners through 2nd graders meet in classrooms with teachers
- 6:45pm - All Parents meet in gym
- 7:00pm - Parents of 3rd through 5th graders meet in classrooms with teachers

Look for the PTO/directory table to pay your \$5 dues and reserve your copy of the directory. There will also be representatives there with information about Friends of Music, Boy Scouts (Gr. 1-5), Girl Scouts (Gr. K-5) and School Banking with CapCom!

A Message from Tammy Apkarian (tapkarian@transtechsys.com), Friends of Music Birchwood Liaison:



Friends of Music – Be a Winner for Music

Music begins in Kindergarten and continues through 12th grade. The foundation of our music program starts with your children. Friends of Music is a volunteer organization that supports your child's music journey. Please consider joining FOM to help support the music program within Birchwood, and all the schools within the district.

As Birchwood's FOM liaison, I will be holding a raffle for a chance to win 1 of 2 gift cards for Amazon (valued at \$50 each). If you, your child, or entire family joins FOM, you will be automatically entered to win one of these gift cards! It is that simple. Complete the attached membership with payment (or pay on-line at

www.niskyfom.org – make sure to indicate your child attends Birchwood) and you will be entered. Return paper forms with payments to the Birchwood office, attention to FOM!

FOM has purchased new drumming sets for the general music class at every elementary school, provided the rugs in the classrooms, and provided other support to our general music program. I hope you have a chance to see the drums at Back To School night. The kids just love them!! Thank you for your continued musical support!

I hope to see you on Thursday!

ASEP

Registration for ASEP is now closed. Please make sure all payments are sent in by Friday, September 23, as classes begin Monday the 26th! Checks should be made out to Birchwood PTO and have your child's name and the class written on them. Please refer to the online catalog for all class dates, as not all classes are running for five consecutive weeks. Thank you!

Popcorn Friday

Last call for prepaid popcorn option! Final Deadline to send in money is Tuesday, September 29th. Pay \$8.50 for the whole year, no more running to school with money on Friday mornings because you forgot to send it in. Pay for 17 weeks and get 19! If you'd like to take advantage of this option, please send your money or check made out to Birchwood PTO. (*Disclaimer-* because this is a fundraiser, we are unable to issue a refund for days missed due to sickness or weather- thanks for your understanding!)

Popcorn is still available for 50 cents for those not participating in the prepaid option.

9th Annual Ride for Missing Children (<http://rideformissingchildrengcd.com>)

On Friday, September 30, the ride for missing children will be stopping at Birchwood again this year! Riders will talk to the children and teach them about being safe. We'll be cheering on our own Mrs. Luyckx and Mrs. Mirkovic! Volunteers are needed to help make breakfast sandwiches from 7:30-8:15 am. Please contact Suzanne Brooksby at 378-4025 or suzierunsl8@gmail.com if interested.

Monster Mash Pizza Party

SAVE THE DATE! This year's Monster Mash will be on Friday, October 28. Please consider volunteering to help out - sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094fadac2ba02-monster1>

Birchwood Directory Artwork

The PTO would like to incorporate some of the kids' drawings in our directory as we have done in the past, so please encourage your young artists to draw a picture showing what they like about Birchwood! Please use standard size paper and ensure they use markers/pens (not pencil) so that when it gets scanned it will print correctly; keep in mind the directory will be printed in black and white, so colorful sketches will come out in two tone. Your child's name and grade needs to be written on the artwork. Please submit scanned drawings to birchwood@niskypto.org, or send in to the PTO mailbox with Attention: School Directory Artwork. Artwork due 10/7.

Mark your calendar!

- September 22 - Back to School Night – *just for parents* (6pm Grades K-2, 6:45pm All School, 7pm Grades 3-5)
- September 26 - ASEP classes start
- September 28 - Board of Education Meeting at Van Antwerp Board Room (6pm)
- September 30 - Ride for Missing Children
- September 30 - Popcorn Friday and School Banking
- October 14 - Popcorn Friday and School Banking
- October 28 - Monster Mash & Pizza party (6pm)

FRIENDS OF MUSIC



Supporting Niskayuna Music since 1961

What is Friends of Music? FOM is a volunteer organization dedicated to fostering the music education, performance and enjoyment of all students at Niskayuna. FOM provides support at concerts and special events, but also supports the students and their classrooms at all levels – not just the organized band, orchestra and chorus groups, but also the general music classes that teach our children during the school year.

There is much more information about the FOM organization on the website at www.niskyfom.org.

Become a FOM supporter and you will be entered to win one of two \$50 gift cards for **Amazon!**
There are 2 easy ways to become a member...

- Option 1:** Visit the website at www.niskyfom.org. Select “Membership” and provide your information, with payment via credit card or PayPal
- Option 2:** Complete the information below, and return to me with a check (payable to Niskayuna Friends of Music).



Either option will get you registered to **win one of two FREE Amazon gift cards (\$50 each)!!!**
If you have any questions about FOM, you may contact me at tapkarian@transtechsys.com.

Birchwood Parents and Staff - Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Your Birchwood FOM Liaison, Tammy Apkarian

****Thank you Birchwood PTO for the donation of the gift cards****

***Select One Option Below – Return all forms to the main office, Attn: FOM
Register by October 14, 2016 – Drawing to be held by October 17, 2016***

I registered online Donation/Membership Enclosed

Print your name (as you would like it listed in the program): _____
(Only complete below if you are enclosing your membership donation):

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Level (Choose One):

- Student/Alumni (\$10) Benefactor (\$25) Impresario (\$50)
- Maestro (\$100) Virtuoso (\$250)

If you would like your donation in honor of another, please enter that information here:



Niskayuna FOM is part of the GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program! Register your matching gift online today at www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts or by phone at 800-305-0669.