

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

# BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

## Weekly Bulletin -- January 23, 2014



### From Birchwood's PTO Presidents...

At the Board of Education's strategic planning meeting held on Tuesday night, **the Board announced that it would vote next Tuesday, January 28 at 7 PM, in the VA Auditorium to either close Birchwood Elementary or redistrict the K-5 population (with no building closure)**. At the request of the PTO, the district has agreed to reschedule the Birchwood Concert that was to take place that evening and now have it take place on January 30 so parents can attend the Board meeting and make public comment on January 28.

**An emergency meeting of the Birchwood PTO will take place this Friday, January 24 at 6:30 PM, in the Birchwood Cafeteria to discuss the Board's decision making. A member of the Niskayuna administration will be at the meeting that night and we encourage ALL Birchwood parents to attend.**

For more background on this topic, please visit our [PTO District News](#) page or the district's website at <http://www.niskayunaschools.org/>.

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**The Birchwood Chorus and Orchestra Concerts have been rescheduled to Thurs., Jan 30th** so that concerned parents may attend the Board of Ed meeting on Tuesday, January 28th. The evening concerts will take place at the High School at 7 PM, following a 1 PM concert at Birchwood with the younger grades as the audience!

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**Registration for Birchwood's After School Enrichment Program ends today!** All children were sent home with the [Winter ASEP Booklet](#) at the beginning of last week. Be sure to put your children's classes on your calendars! Remember, pick up is at 3:15 at the ASEP class location.

The following classes are full: Cooking, Star Wars Lego, Physics, and Candy Mania. Harry Potter has been cancelled. A second Cooking with the Chef class is being offered on Thursdays. Interested? Please contact [Pam Ober](#).

Confirmations will be emailed out over the weekend. Classes start next week!

If you have any questions please contact Pam Ober at 785-8729 or [oberstone3@yahoo.com](mailto:oberstone3@yahoo.com).

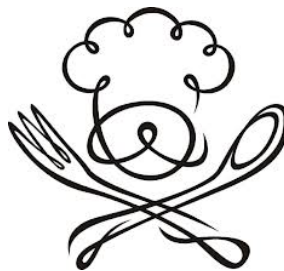
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### **FREE YOGURT FOR A CAUSE**

Become a Friends of Music member, and you will be entered for a chance to win (1) of (2) \$50 gift cards to Sweet Frog.

See the [FOM flyer](#) for details! Questions? – please contact Tammy Apkarian ([tapkarian@transtechsys.com](mailto:tapkarian@transtechsys.com)), your Birchwood Friends of Music Liaison.

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**Tired of cooking? Would you like someone else to cook for you?** Coming January 28th, Birchwood's Chef Ryan will be there for you. You will be able to order and pick up your Tuesday dinners right here! Dinners will serve 4-6 people and include the entree, salad, and bread. January 28th's entree will be chicken parmesan. Delicioso! Meals must be pre-ordered. Please call Chef Ryan at 344-2910 (ext. 10705) or email him at [rvannostrand@niskyschools.org](mailto:rvannostrand@niskyschools.org).

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**Save the Date -- [Birchwood's Fun Fair](#) will be March 14!** Join friends for games, treats, and our traditional staff raffle. This year we welcome Victor the Clown for lots of balloon fun and a mime show!

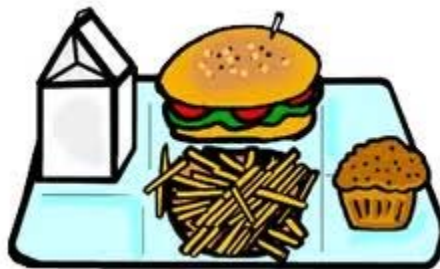
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### Mark Your Calendars!

- January 24: Emergency Birchwood Meeting (Birchwood, 6:30pm)
- January 24: Kindergarten Registration
- January 24: Popcorn Friday & [School Banking](#)
- [January 28: Board of Education Meeting](#) (VA, 7pm)
- January 30: [Birchwood Concert](#) at High School (7pm)
- February 4: Half day (10:45am dismissal)
- February 4: [Board of Education Meeting](#) (VA, 7pm)
- February 5: Birchwood PTO Meeting (9am)

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

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





### Can you help at the Birchwood Concert?

The music faculty needs some extra help before each concert in the warm-up rooms and during the transition to the stage. We are also looking for a few folks who can help usher and serve refreshments. Volunteers should arrive at the high school at approximately 6:15 p.m. Volunteer duties should not interfere with parents seeing their child's performance.

If you can assist with this important effort, please contact [FOM](#) President, Diane Hartig, at [diane.hartig@gmail.com](mailto:diane.hartig@gmail.com) or 810-7966.

Birchwood's concert starts at 7:00 pm at the High School and is on Thursday, January 30.

**Please sign up to help!**

#### Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/RdVKDi>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!



### WE LOVE SNOW DAYS!

But how will you know if it *is* a snow day? Cancellations, delays, and early releases will always be posted at the [District Website](#), on local TV and radio stations, and on the district's [FaceBook](#) page.

Closing information can also 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](#).



Birchwood has recently begun a student initiated and student run compliments board in the front foyer of the school. This was started when Mrs. Santandrea's third grade class wrote persuasive letters to the principal explaining that they used an "I'm

Thank you parents for helping make  
January 30th a success for our  
children!

Proud Board" in their classroom and  
wanted to expand it to the whole school.  
The letters were quite convincing and  
we've decided to move forward with the  
plan. As of January 6th students have been  
on the lookout for positive happenings in  
our school. Check out our cafeteria doors  
for compliments written by students about  
students.

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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<http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>

**Birchwood school homepage:**

[www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood](http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood)

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