

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD

ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- January 30, 2014



Message from the Birchwood PTO Co-Presidents:

We would like to extend our thanks to the many Birchwood parents, district alumni, neighbors, and friends who attended and participated in the Board of Education meeting Tuesday evening. Thanks also to Assemblyman Phil Steck for attending and briefly addressing those in the auditorium. Following a presentation by district administration on the proposal to close Birchwood Elementary, the Board listened to the comments, questions, and concerns of approximately 40 Niskayuna district residents who spoke on all sides of the issue. Info from the meeting can be viewed on the [district web site](#). **The Board will continue its deliberations on school building configuration and utilization this week and reconvene, with a meeting on February 4 at 7 p.m. in the VA Auditorium. It has been stated that the Board will vote at this time. It's extremely important that we continue to communicate with the Board up until that point and that we are in attendance at the meeting on February 4th.** Contact info for each Board member can be found on this web site: <http://www.niskyschools.org/district/BoardofEd/boardmain.htm>

Dave and Deb

Call For Action!

STILL in fiscal peril, region's schools will hold January 30 forum on school funding crisis.

The 47 schools in our region have lost \$387 million in state aid to the Gap Elimination Adjustment over the last four years. Niskayuna alone has lost \$12 million - and our schools stand to lose another \$2.9 million under the Executive Budget Proposal. **Want to help? There's room for YOU on the Niskayuna stakeholder team attending the regional advocacy forum at Colonie Central High School THIS EVENING.** Visit <http://www.niskayunaschools.org/district/news/2013-14/regional-advocacy-event-010614.htm> for complete details. And, give the Superintendent's Office a call to let them know you are coming! **Call 377-4666, ext. 50706.** Currently, Sonya Ward, and Elisha Tomko have stated that they will attend tomorrow night. Please contact Sonya if you would like to carpool. Thanks to all who are able to go tomorrow night and learn more about what we can do to help. Look in the Birchwood Bulletin next week for an update on advocacy.

Message from PTO Council Co-President:

Nisky Folks, Please get educated on this. Community efforts need to be focused on working together to help get our district some more state funds. We are an average wealth district, but get treated like a high wealth district. We do not have a commercial tax base and get punished for that. We get one of the least amounts from the state in the Capital Region. Write to your legislators and the governor.

Nicki Foley

The Birchwood Chorus and Orchestra Concerts have been rescheduled to Thurs., Jan 30th so that concerned parents could attend the Board of Ed meeting on the 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!



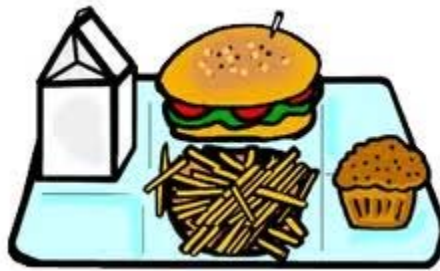
Birchwood's After School Enrichment Program is Underway! Children are loving their exciting classes! Don't forget, no ASEP on half days. For all class dates, please refer to the [Winter ASEP Booklet](#). Remember, pick up is at 3:15 at the ASEP class location. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Ober at 785-8729.

Mark Your Calendars!

- 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)
- February 7: Popcorn Friday & [School Banking](#)
- February 17 - 21: Winter Break

Check out the comprehensive calendar including all Birchwood and District events [HERE!](#)

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



FREE YOGURT FOR A CAUSE

Become a Friends of Music member, and



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

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), your Birchwood Friends of Music Liaison.

This offer ends January 31st.



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Book Club!

Our next Birchwood Book Club meeting will be Friday, February 28, from 2:15 - 3pm in the Media Center!

This time around you can read any book you want that has something to do with friendship.

Please come prepared to share the book you have read!

More information (and registration forms) next week!

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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You are receiving this email because you are listed in the Birchwood directory and have not opted out.

Our mailing address is:

Birchwood Elementary School PTO
897 Birchwood Lane

for lots of balloon fun and a mime show!



BOX TOPS!!!

Create a bouquet of Box Tops -- for Birchwood! Our school gets 10 cents for each box top turned in. Easy AND fun!

Use our [Valentine's Day Bouquet](#) page for extra fun! More Box Tops info and tons of different and fun sheets available [here!](#)

CONGRATULATIONS to Ian Jacques from Mr. Parisi's class and Thomas Hildreth from Mrs. DiRienzo's class! They both win prizes from Sweet Frog!

Contact us:

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

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www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood

Niskayuna School District:

<http://www.niskayunaschools.org/>

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