

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

**Weekly Bulletin
September 19th, 2013**

The weekly bulletin will be sent by email when our database is up-to-date for 2013-2014

From Principal Berndt's desk... We had a smooth first week of school. Students have made new friends and rekindled old ones while starting the new year. We have all enjoyed seeing everyone return to school and we welcome our new families. Thank you to all our parents for supporting us as we welcome our students back. We look forward to seeing everyone at our Back to school BBQ on the 20th.

Just a reminder: please be sure to return your student information card and be sure to include your email address.

Birchwood online... Bookmark these websites for Birchwood info anytime at a click!

- <http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood/index.shtml> -- **Birchwood Elementary School**
This site is for curricular information like classroom links, special subjects, policies, Media Center programs, etc.
- <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/> -- **Birchwood PTO**
This site is for co-curricular information like Birchwood clothing sales, school-wide events like the BBQ, calendar of events, homeroom parent lists, etc.

Note: Please see website photo opt-out form attached.

What's Happening at Birchwood?

Birchwood's After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) schedule is out! If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to check your child's backpack! Lost it? A copy can be downloaded and printed from <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>. All registrations due by Thursday, September 26th.

The Media Center is bustling and could really use your help! A small portion of your time (1 or 2 hour shifts weekly or bi-weekly) can help students take advantage of all the fantastic programs and resources the center offers. No experience necessary! Tasks may include helping students select and check out books, stamping date-due cards, shelving books, mending, and other special projects. Parents, grandparents, and folks from the neighborhood are welcome to volunteer.

You can visit the PTO Media Center webpage for more information. If you have questions, please contact Francesca Hill at francesca.hill@yahoo.com.



Remember, all summer books, videos and DVDs are now due back to the Media Center. Materials may be renewed if needed.

The Bulletin is Going Paperless! Starting in October, this newsletter will be sent via email. Kindergarten parents and families new to Birchwood can provide their email addresses through the Directory link on Birchwood's homepage. Don't miss out!

School menus can be printed from Birchwood's website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/niskypto.org/birchwood/district-information/district-news>.

The school also serves hot breakfast! For \$1.50 kids receive choice of milk, juice, fruit, and hot entrée.

From the Birchwood Health Office...

Physicals: All students entering kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 4th grade -- as well as all students new to the district -- are required to provide physicals to the Health Office. These physicals can be done no earlier than September 4th of 2012, and must be presented to the school within a month of school starting. Go to Birchwood's website at <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/> to download a copy of the NYS health form.

Medications: Medications administered at school must have:

- . Written order from physician including diagnosis, medication, dose, frequency, and time for giving meds
- . Written request from the parent to administer medication as ordered
- . The original labeled bottle from the pharmacy
- . For over-the-counter medication (e.g., Tylenol, Motrin), parents must provide student's own bottle with name labeled
- . A new order and parental permission is required each school year and the medication must be delivered to the nurse by the parent or guardian. Students are not allowed to keep medication on them, unless ordered by the physician for age appropriate students.

Mark Your Calendars!

- ▶ **Birchwood's Back-to-School BBQ** is Friday, September 20th, from 5-7pm. Lots of fun!
- ▶ **Curriculum (Back-to-School) Nights** will be Tuesday, September 24th, 6:30pm for 3rd through 5th grade, and Thursday, September 26th, 6:30pm for Kindergarten through 2nd grade. These nights are meant for parents only. (Note: The dates in the first Bulletin were incorrect.)
Be sure to bring your calendars so you can sign up to help at classroom parties.
- ▶ **Picture Day** is October 10th! Order forms will be coming home with students soon.
- ▶ **Get ready for Monster Mash 2013 -- Carnival Craziess!!!** This super fun extravaganza will run from 6-8pm on Friday, October 25th. The Monster Mash committee is looking for families to plan and run a carnival-style game booth at the Monster Mash. Contact Tara if you can help! taralmckenna@gmail.com



Bulletin information is online at:

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

To submit information for the weekly bulletin, please email Birchwood@niskyPTO.org by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear (write "bulletin item" in the subject line).

The Birchwood Bulletin is produced by the PTO Communications Committee in cooperation with the Birchwood principal and staff.

Website Opt Out Form (2013-2014)

Return to the Main Office (only if you wish to opt out)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Each year we add and revise content on our Birchwood Elementary and Birchwood PTO websites:

<http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood/>

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

Often we post recent photos of PTO and classroom events such as Kindergarten secret reader, school plays, class projects, etc., and sometimes great examples of student writing and projects as well. We want our website to showcase our school and be a resource for parents and students, but **we are also very conscious of internet safety**. Individual students will never be identified in photographs, and first name or initials only will be used for writing samples if there is a need to identify authors.

Please complete this form if you DO NOT want your child's photo or work posted on the website.

- Please ask me before you put any pictures of my child/children or writing samples on the websites.
- Please do not include any pictures of my child/children on the Birchwood web sites.
- Please do not include any writing samples by my child/children on the Birchwood web sites.

Child's Name _____ Class _____

Child's Name _____ Class _____

Child's Name _____ Class _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Preferred contact (phone, email) _____