

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- March 12, 2015



Message from the Co-Presidents

We have lots of fun going on at Birchwood these days. We will be kicking off our Spring Fundraiser this week. We've chosen several vendors that we hope you'll find interesting. We are excited that three of the four vendors for this fundraiser are local.

Tomorrow is the Fun Fair, and, besides it being, well, fun, parents will have the opportunity to view and sample items we are offering in the Spring Fundraiser. Those of us at the last PTO meeting were able to sample the food items and, seriously, you won't want to miss out.

It's not too late to sign up to help out at the Fun Fair. Why are we asking for help the day before? Well, the Fun Fair committee STILL needs some more volunteers to help make the evening a success! Never volunteered at an event before? Please step on up and give it a try...it really is a lot of fun! Click [here](#) to sign up.

Our fun continues on with an Orchestra Performance for the 5th graders at Proctors on the 25th and the 4/5 Drama Club performance of Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory on the 26th. So if we are looking a little frazzled these days, don't worry, we really don't mind the work when the result is a super Fun Fair, a successful Fundraiser, our children performing on the Proctors stage, and, really, what is more fun than Willie Wonka???

JoMarie and Deb



Friday the 13th...the perfect night for FUN FAIR 2015!

Never fear, there's no bad luck at Fun Fair! Everyone's a winner at this favorite Birchwood family event, so plan to attend tomorrow night from 6-8 PM. Come check out some of the new carnival games we've added and exciting new special activities we have scheduled from 6-7:30 PM. This year some of Niskayuna High School's most talented art students will be doing caricature drawings and face paintings. We'll also have a professional balloon artist joining us. At 7:30 PM, we're all in for a treat as members of Birchwood's Drama Club will be giving us a *special sneak peek preview of their upcoming performance of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*...followed by the much anticipated annual Staff Raffle! Check out the [flyer](#) for more information. See you next week!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We still need LOTS of volunteers to help with Fun Fair! Please [volunteer](#) to help out for an hour that evening. Giving an hour of your time really does make a difference and ensures the success of this event. Thank you!

After School Enrichment MAKE-UPS

Because of the seemingly endless snow at the beginning of each week so far in 2015, we need a bunch of ASEP make-up classes. They have been scheduled as follows:

Cooking & Painting -- March 24

Chemistry & Kickball -- March 16, 23, 30

Chess -- March 17



Spring Fundraiser

Please keep an eye out for our Spring Fundraiser packet coming to your home via backpacks over the next few days. Your PTO has carefully chosen vendors to partner with that we think you will appreciate.

Pure Mountain Olive Oils & Vinegars

I Dream of Jewelry

Gatherer's Granola

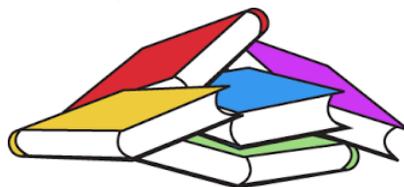
Mixed Bags

Orders will be due back in on March 31. Please consider purchases for upcoming Mother's and Father's day.

On April 30th, Birchwood welcomes Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss for our Author Visit Program. Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss are award-winning authors and seasoned presenters who have been winning audiences and critical acclaim around the world since 1980. Renowned for their dynamic presentations of world tales and their work in teaching storytelling, this husband-and-wife team, also known as 'Beauty & the Beast Storytellers,' will not only get students excited about reading, but also inspire them to tell tales in an engaging manner and to make up and write their own stories. Their specialty is tandem storytelling where they combine their contrasting styles, swapping lines and impersonating characters.

Check out their informative Web site to learn about their books and presentations: www.beautyandthebeaststorytellers.com

Please return book order forms to classroom teachers with checks made out to The Open Door Bookstore by April 2 (before April Break).



Orchestra Festival at Proctors – Big Stage, Great time! But you know it can't happen smoothly without volunteers!

Please, if you have a performer in the 5th Grade Orchestra, consider volunteering. Stacey McClenon is organizing this huge event. On behalf of our musicians, Thank You very much!

Please sign up for one of the volunteer positions using one of the links below (note the number of volunteers is from all the schools district wide – not just Birchwood; but we need to do our part too). Thank you Birchwood Parents! Please help make this an incredible evening for our students!

Volunteer Opportunity #1: [This sign-up sheet](#) is for the morning rehearsal on March 25. **We'll need a total of 25 volunteers that morning from 7:30 until 11:30 a.m.** Buses will leave from NHS and transport students to Proctors Theatre. More details are included on

the sign-up sheet.

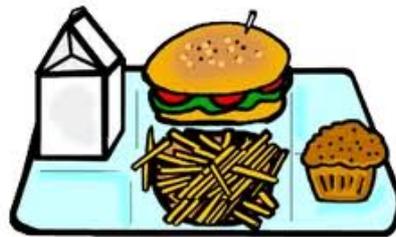
Volunteer Opportunity #2: [This sign-up sheet](#) is the for evening performance on March 25 at Proctors Theatre. **We'll need a total of 36 volunteers that evening starting at 6:00 p.m.** (Volunteers may choose to sign-up for the morning, evening, or both.) More details are included on the sign-up sheet, and Stacey will also contact the volunteers regarding specific assignments. All parent volunteers will be able to see their student perform. Evening volunteers are encouraged to bring a small flashlight and cell phone.

Thank you parents! Please contact [Tammy Apkarian](#), Friends of Music Liaison, with any questions!



Mark Your Calendars!

- March 12: Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- March 12: Conference Day (10:45am dismissal)
- March 13: Popcorn Friday and School banking
- March 13: [Fun Fair](#) (6-8pm)
- March 19: Birchwood 1,000 Book Kickoff (6pm)
- March 20: No School
- March 24: BOE Meeting (7pm, VA)
- March 25: District Orchestra Festival (Grades 5-12) at Proctor's
- March 26: Willie Wonka 4th/5th Grade Play



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



Order Your Yearbook Now!

Yearbook order forms are coming home in your child's backpack. Lost your form?

Print from [here](#) or try easy online ordering [here](#) (no checks to send in!). The code for Birchwood online orders is 10694315.

In order to take advantage of the discounted price, yearbook orders must be paid in full by March 24.

5th Grade ORCHESTRA Families:

Please mark the following dates for your child -- Festival Orchestra Practice:
Mondays March 2, 9, 16, 23

Students will ride a BUS to high school each Monday (2:10 PM). Students will need a RIDE HOME (3:45PM)

Niskayuna Orchestra Festival: March 25, 2015 (AM rehearsal @Proctors)
Evening Concert at PROCTORS!

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 by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear.

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