

# **BIRCHWOOD**

## **ELEMENTARY**

### **Weekly Bulletin -- March 19, 2015**



#### **Message from the Co-Presidents**

The Fun Fair was a great success with a profit of \$2200. Thank you to co-chairs Tara McKenna and Deb Foley for planning and organizing a fantastic night for the children. Thanks to our teacher's generous donations, the staff raffle was a great success as well as great fun for the children. We appreciate our teachers for all of the ways that they support our children and our school. Last week was the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, kudos to Francesca Hill and Suzanne Brooksby for their creative approach to thanking our staff. If you hadn't heard, in addition to organizing and implementing a lovely luncheon, Francesca and Suzanne sewed tote bags for each of our Tote-ly Awesome Staff.

Here's hoping for a beautiful day off tomorrow to celebrate the first day of Spring,

JoMarie and Deb

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**Spring Fundraiser:** By now you should have received your PTO Spring Fundraiser packet. Help to keep our PTO strong, please support this fundraiser. Orders will be due back in on March 31. If you have any questions regarding this sale, please contact PTO VP of Fundraising Lynn Boler at [fraterrl@hotmail.com](mailto:fraterrl@hotmail.com).

Have you seen the new world map mural in the hallway between the cafeteria and the

gym? It was purchased with your support of the PTO. Please remember that the success of our fundraisers directly benefits our children.

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### **A BIG Fun Fair Thank You**

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to and attended Fun Fair to make the evening a success. Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who donated to our ever popular Staff Raffle and to our nurse, Nicole Pazro and parent volunteer, Anne Burger for coordinating this! Many thanks to Katrine and Mathena Rush for organizing the Face Painting table - both ensuring that we had fantastic new supplies as well as doing the artwork. It was great to have our talented high school art students support face painting and provide caricature drawings as well! Thank you to Jill Appert, Diane Schroeder, and Elizabeth Reffelt for making popcorn all night for Fair goers. The 5th graders did a great job running the midway games and we appreciate the 4th graders and Birchwood alumni who also pitched in to help with game coverage. Thank you to Lisa Luyckx and the 4/5 Drama Club for providing our entertainment and preview of Willy Wonka. What a treat! Thanks to the parents and friends of Birchwood who helped supply new games for Fun Fair - including the Dutcher, Tomko, and Leto families. We also can't forget to thank Sue Dorries, Al Garrison, and Maria Lasher for their constant support! Last but not least, thank you to the numerous parent and teacher volunteers who helped set up; staffed ticket, raffle, cafeteria, and spring fundraiser sample tables; and pitched in for clean up!

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**The 2015-2016 school calendar has been posted.** Check it out [HERE](#).

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### **Last Chance.... To Order a Yearbook!**

Yearbook order forms were sent 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.

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**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

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### **On April 30th, Birchwood will welcome 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](http://www.beautyandthebeaststorytellers.com)

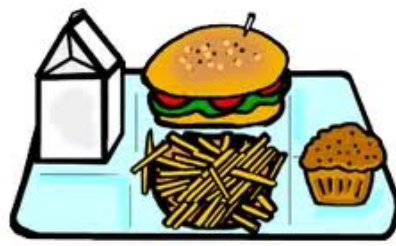
Please return book order forms to classroom teachers with checks made out to The Open Door Bookstore by April 2 (before April Break).

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### **Mark Your Calendars!**

- March 19: Birchwood 1,000 Book Kickoff (6pm)
- March 20: First Day of Spring (Yahoo!)
- 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
- March 27: Popcorn Friday and School Banking



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

## Birchwood Elementary School

### After School Enrichment MAKE-UPS

Because of the seemingly endless snow we need to schedule a bunch of ASEP make-up classes.

They are as follows:

Cooking & Painting -- March 24

Chemistry & Kickball -- March 16, 23, 30

Chess -- March 17



### 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](mailto: Birchwood@niskyPTO.org) by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear.

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Birchwood Elementary School PTO  
897 Birchwood Lane  
Niskayuna, NY 12309



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[Birchwood@niskyPTO.org](mailto: Birchwood@niskyPTO.org)

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