

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

# **BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY**

## **Weekly Bulletin -- May 15, 2014**



**Please Vote!** Our community will vote on the budget and two Board of Education candidates on Tuesday, May 20 from 7am - 9pm at Niskayuna High School. **Find out more about the budget** [here](#).

**Out of Town for the Budget/BOE vote?** Click [here](#) to apply for your absentee ballot. Absentee ballots requested in person will be provided through 4 p.m. on May 19. All completed ballots must be received at the District Office by 4 pm on May 20. Call the district clerk at 377-4666, ext. 50712 for more information.

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### **Nature Park Featured on Schenectady Today!**

The [Nature Park](#) got a boost and some great publicity as one of the featured segments of Ann Parillo's local news show, "Schenectady Today," on May 13, 2014. View the segment [here](#) to see some of our very own Birchwood parents and students talk about the Park's history and its present and future activities!

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### **Don't forget Birchwood's Poetry Open Mic Night Thursday, May 29, 6-7:30pm!**

Students can write their own poems or share one of their favorites! Parents, teachers and staff: we want to hear your favorite poems as well. Watch in the coming weeks for sign-up sheets and more information.

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### **Birchwood's 2nd Annual Relay for Life and Relay Recess Programs Starting Up!**

The Relay for Life Program involves several fundraising activities to benefit the [American Cancer Society](#). It's a great way to honor cancer survivors, support your community, and fund research for a cure.

From 5/12-6/15, students can record their daily physical activity on a [Relay Recess sheet](#) (and also contribute change to the Relay Recess School Coin Drive container in

the school office). Kids who turn in a completed sheet will earn a Relay Recess Certificate!

Families who are interested in joining this year's Birchwood PAALS Relay for Life Team to collect donations, walk in the Relay For Life event June 20-21st, or both, can register at the team page [here](#). See this [flyer](#) for more information and registration rules.

You can also go [here](#) to donate to the team, purchase and dedicate a luminaria bag, or just see who's joined the team!

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**Do you want to be included in your school's 2014-2015 parent-student directory?** Traditionally the PTO obtained family contact information from the school district's registrar to create school directories in September. This process is being discontinued! With support from the PTO Council, we have launched an online PTO e-Directory service. This online service allows you to add or edit your family's contact data at any time to make sure it's up-to-date, accurate, and reflects what you want share.

Click here to learn more and [register](#). If you have already registered, we thank you! For questions, contact Shilpa Garde at [shilpa.garde@gmail.com](mailto:shilpa.garde@gmail.com)

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**[Birchwood Cares](#)** -- From May 19-30 several parents will be collecting needed items for families in Schoharie County that are still recovering from the hurricane that devastated their area more than two years ago. The children especially are still in need. Our Birchwood community has always been so generous when it comes to helping others... that's what makes our neighborhood school so special! With that in mind, we are having a drive to collect needed items.

During the two-week period of May 19-30, please bring items and drop in the appropriately marked boxes located in the school entry. These specific items for elementary school-aged children should be either new or very gently used and cleaned. We are working closely with the Schoharie Elementary School to distribute these items to families by the end of the school year. Please see [flyer](#) for more information.

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**The Ice Cream Social is just around the corner!** Bounce houses, baked goods, face painting, and lots of outside fun.... And the best part? It's all FREE! What a wonderful way to celebrate the end of our school year!

## Friday, June 6th, 6-8pm

[ICS Flyer](#)

Questions? [Pam Ober](#) or [JoMarie Ethier](#)

**First and Fourth Grade families are asked to provide baked goods** -- home-made, store-bought, healthy, indulgent...just bring your items to school Friday or before the event in the evening. See you there!

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**Our BOGO Book Fair is coming June 3 to June 6!!** This is a great opportunity to build home libraries with buy-one-get-one on all books! We will also continue the Teacher's Classroom Wish List that was such a hit during our last book fair! If anyone is able to help with set up June 2, take down June 9, or during buying days June 5, 6 plus during the Ice Cream Social, please email [Francesca Hill](#) or fill out and return this [volunteer form](#).

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### Mark Your Calendars!

- May 17: [Niska Day](#)
- May 20: [Annual School Budget Vote](#) & BOE Election (NHS, 7 am-9 pm)
- May 23 & 26: No School
- May 27: BOE Meeting (VA, 7 pm)
- May 29: Poetry Night (6-7:30 pm)
- May 30: [School Banking](#) and Popcorn Friday
- June 3-6: [Birchwood's Book Fair](#)
- June 6: [Ice Cream Social](#) (6-8 pm)

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

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



### Yearbooks are HERE!!!

Get your copies now at \$23 payable to Birchwood PTO.

Yearbooks will be also be for sale at the Ice Cream Social.



### Niska Day is HERE!

The 33rd annual Niska Day, Niskayuna's Community Day, will take place on May 17.

Visit [www.niskaday.org](http://www.niskaday.org), for more information.

And don't forget to bring cans for the [Food Drive!](#)

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 school homepage:

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

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