

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- May 22, 2014



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. There will be poetry available for last-minute attendees. Please bring a chocolate treat to share!

Residents went to the polls on Tuesday to vote on the 2014-15 Niskayuna School District budget and elect members to the Board of Education. Thanks to the support of voters both the budget and bus proposition passed by more than 60%. The district also welcomes two new Board of Education members, our very own David Apkarian and Rosemarie Perez Jaquith. We look forward to working with both David and Rosemarie throughout their terms and thank them for their service to the community.

With David assuming a role on the Board, the Birchwood PTO needs to fill his slot as PTO co-president. Parents interested in serving in this role for the next school year should email the PTO at birchwood@niskypto.org by May 30. All candidates will be presented and voted on at the June PTO meeting.

Who Loves Ice Cream? We love Ice Cream!!!

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!

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](#).

**You're Invited to a Special and Important Birchwood Community Meeting
Monday, June 9th at 7pm in the Birchwood Cafeteria**

Please join us for an evening with John Yagielski, Interim Superintendent for the Niskayuna Central School District.

At this Birchwood community only event, we will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Yagielski and learn a little about his experience helping school districts grow and work through administrative transitions. This special meeting is taking place at the request of Mr. Yagielski. As Interim Superintendent, he wants to get to know members of the Birchwood community and most importantly listen to what we have to say about our school and our hopes for the future of our district.

Don't miss this great opportunity to talk about Birchwood with our Interim Superintendent! We look forward to your participation in this important conversation.



Nature Park Seed Planting Time!

On May 14th, several of the 70 budding gardeners who requested and received a Birchwood PTO custom-made planting kit brought their seedlings back to plant in our NEW raised vegetable beds in the [Birchwood School Nature Park!](#)

If you didn't get to plant your seedlings, you can plant on your own in the appropriate designated area or it's also fine to keep it yourself, and make a little garden at home!

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



Help Birchwood in the Fight Against Cancer

Team members are still needed for the Birchwood PAALS Team for the upcoming [Relay For Life](#) Niskayuna event on June 20. Students, families, teachers, staff, and friends are all invited to join our school team and help raise funds and support in the [American Cancer Society's](#) fight against cancer. Join the team online or support our team or a current team member with a donation. You can support our Relay Recess Coin Drive at school by sending in your spare change. Mr. West also gave students [physical activity logs](#) to fill out to raise awareness of the importance of healthy lifestyles. Don't forget to fill them out and turn them in following completion on June 15.

Mark Your Calendars!

- 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)
- June 9: Birchwood PTO Meeting (6 pm) and Meet the Superintendent (7 pm)
- June 10: Volunteer Reception (8:15 am)
- June 11: Half Day (10:45 am dismissal)
- June 13: Field Day

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

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



Birchwood Cares

From May 19-30 several parents are 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.

Collection boxes are located in the school entry. Please see [flyer](#) for more information.



Your Fundraising Dollars at Work: At the Birchwood PTO meeting this month, those in attendance approved the purchase of several items for the school. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Birchwood parents and friends, the school will be receiving a new sound system for the stage/cafeterium to replace unreliable or broken equipment. This purchase includes wired microphones (for hanging above the stage and handheld use), wireless microphones (both handheld and clip-on), speakers/amps, soundboard, and MP3 plug-in. Thanks go out to Brian Meservey and Mr. Garrison who will be installing the new equipment in time for the numerous end-of-year school activities we have coming up. Other items also approved at the meeting were new wipe boards for kindergarten students and a new world map for the hallway. Thanks again to all those who have supported our fundraising efforts throughout the year, making these purchases and other enrichment and academic opportunities throughout the school year possible!

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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