

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- May 29, 2014



Birchwood's Poetry Open Mic Night is TONIGHT 6-7:30pm!

Students can write their own poems or share one of their favorites!

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

Feel Like Stepping Up? With current PTO Co-President Dave Apkarian assuming a role on the Board (way to go Dave!), the Birchwood PTO needs to fill his slot for next year. Parents interested in serving in this role 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

Please 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 Teachers'

Classroom Wish List that was such a hit during our last book fair! We are in need of a few more volunteers, especially on Friday 6/6, 9:30 to 10:30 and during the Ice Cream Social!! If anyone is able to help, please email [Francesca Hill](#) or fill out and return this [volunteer form](#).



The Class of 2017 will be hosting a bottle drive: May 31, from 9 am - 1 pm, in the High School parking lot. Help them out -- and get rid of all your cans and bottles -- at the same time!

**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.

Summer -- The perfect time to READ! Check out Birchwood Media Center's Catalog at [OPALS!](#) It's easy for your children to take out lots of great e-books! Learn how at [Birchwood's Media Center Page](#).

Head to the [Niskayuna Library](#) for lots of exciting events and activities planned for summer reading fun.



Mark Your Calendars!

- May 29: Poetry Night (6-7:30 pm)
- May 30: [School Banking](#) and Popcorn Friday
- May 31: Class of 2017 Bottle Drive (High School, 9 am - 1 pm)

- June 3-6: [Birchwood's Book Fair](#)
- June 6: [Ice Cream Social](#) (6-8 pm)
- June 6: [School Banking](#) and Popcorn Friday
- June 9: Birchwood PTO Meeting (6 pm) and Meet the Superintendent (7 pm)
- June 10: Volunteer Reception (8:15 am)
- June 10: [BOE Meeting](#) (7 pm, VA)
- June 11: Half Day (10:45 am dismissal)
- June 13: Field Day (6/20 - Rain Date)

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

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

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



Help Birchwood Fight 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. Don't forget to fill them out and turn them in June 15.



Do you want to be included in the 2014-2015 family 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 to share.

Click here to learn more and [register](#). If you have already registered, we thank



Library Update!

- All books are due back on June 6th (except for things needed for projects/research in school).
- We currently have over 300 overdue books that we are hoping to get back.
- There are a ton of books here in the library that are students' personal books. Since they are not labeled, we have been unable to return them to rightful owners. Are you missing any books? Come check out the pile!

you! For questions, contact Shilpa Garde at shilpa.garde@gmail.com



Author Coleen Paratore visited Birchwood on May 14 for our annual Author Visit. Mrs. Paratore did some writing exercises with the students, helping them think with both their heads and their hearts. She also talked about her life as a writer and how coming up with ideas is like "catching fireflies in a jar." The children very much enjoyed the interaction and visit.

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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Our mailing address is:

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Niskayuna School District:

<http://www.niskayunaschools.org/>

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