

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- June 19, 2014



From the Principal:

It's hard to believe we have completed another terrific year of learning together at Birchwood! Thank you for all of your support and enthusiasm throughout the year. We are so lucky to have the students we do and the supportive parents too.

Everyone here at Birchwood wishes you all a wonderful summer and cannot wait to see you in the fall! Good luck to our fifth graders in middle school!

Check out next year's school calendar [here](#).

From the PTO Co-Presidents...

Dear Birchwood Parents, Volunteers, and Staff:

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us this school year! Your assistance goes a long way toward bringing so many great activities and programs to our school and we sincerely appreciate your important contributions! Our school becomes a better place every day when you are there to lend a hand and give support.

It was our pleasure to serve the Birchwood community as PTO Co-Presidents this year.

Again we saw increased parent involvement both at Birchwood and at the district level (through emails, letter writing, and attendance at Board meetings and forums). Please know that these efforts are appreciated and truly made a difference! Thank you for all your support! We continually strive to make improvements to the PTO and will work to do so with new members to our leadership team in 2014-15 as well.

Our team of PTO parent volunteers who work on our many activities and events are simply the best and Birchwood would not be as strong as it is without them! We would also like to say a special thank you to our teachers and staff at Birchwood. At a time when you are faced with an increased number of demands, you continue to support our PTO initiatives and work tirelessly to give your students the best possible school experience. We value you and appreciate all you do for our children!

Thank you again to everyone. We wish you a great summer vacation that's full of fun!

Deb Foley and David Apkarian
Birchwood PTO Co-Presidents

Time is Running Out to Support Birchwood PAALS in Relay For Life

Tomorrow, June 20th, 24 Birchwood PAALS team members will participate in Relay For Life at Niskayuna High School. We are a little more than half way to our goal of raising \$2,000 to support the work of the American Cancer Society. If you want to help us reach our goal, please visit our team page to donate now [here](#). Thanks to all our supporters!

Exploring Nature After School

Yesterday students in grades K-2 explored nature and learned ways to bring items from the garden to the table. Birchwood mom Stephanie Vernooy led students in exploring the stream along the nature trail. They discovered a large crayfish, 2 toads, beetles, bug larvae, water striders, and numerous other gems of nature. Students also spent time indoors where another Birchwood mom, Lori Lembo, showed kids how to take items found in our very own Birchwood Nature Park gardens and turn them into delicious treats. They cut and mixed to create different kinds of pesto for veggie dips and a tasty fresh green bean salad. Thanks to additional volunteers: Millie Gnatek, Jan Brown, Katie Cowley-Cooper, Jill Canestrari, Cheryl Gerstler, Sonya Ward, and Faith and Deb Foley for their help in making the event a success. Today students who registered for the grades 3-5 event will be exploring nature as well. Wonder what they will find?

Want to lend a hand at Birchwood next year? There are still **volunteer positions open**: Go [online](#) today to see what you can do to make a difference.

Please give us your feedback about this year's PTO programs and events. Please click now--the survey will take you under three minutes to complete! Your opinions and

suggestions are extremely valuable.

[PTO SURVEY](#)

Fun-filled Field Day Pictures!



Mark Your Calendars!

- June 20: Relay for Life (6 pm)
- June 23: Fifth Grade Moving Up Ceremony (12:30pm)
- June 24: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! (10:45 dismissal)
- June 24: BOE Meeting (VA, 7pm)

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

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





Summer -- The perfect time to READ!

Check out Birchwood Media Center's Catalog at [OPALS!](#) Families can take out lots of great e-books! Learn how at [Birchwood's Media Center Page.](#)

Birchwood school is open this summer for "green bag" book exchanges from 6:30am-2:30pm, except holidays.

Please call the main office ahead to verify hours (344-2910).



Birchwood had TEN winners for this month's Box Top Drawing!

Congrats to:

Bradyn Lewis in KB
Elena Martin in KA
Abby Paderon in 1P
Luke Scherbryn in 2Q
Caroline Krugg in KA
Ava Smith in 5D
Simon Stone in 3O
Jackie Reffelt in 3O
Julia Cropsey in 3O
Luke Mendrysa in 4C

Yahoooo!!!

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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