

# **BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY**

**Weekly Bulletin**

**October 3, 2013**

*The weekly bulletin will be sent by email when our database is up-to-date for 2013-2014*

## **What's Happening at Birchwood?**

**BIRCHWOOD'S 21st ANNUAL FAMILY POSTER CONTEST** has begun! This is an exciting Birchwood tradition that is loved by all! Kids create a poster that has something to do with reading in general or a specific book or author. The poster must have a clearly readable theme or slogan written on the front.

Anyone in the Birchwood School community may submit a poster. Students can work alone, with a friend, with brothers and sisters, parents, or any family member. The only requirement is that anyone who helps with the poster must put his/her full name on the poster. Students must include grade and teacher.

Posters may be submitted to Mrs. Furey in the Media Center anytime up to and including Friday, November 1. See more details at <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>.



**Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Niskayuna Central School District!** The district is putting together a committee to plan a celebration for the district's 60th anniversary. They would like a parent representative from each school. If you are interested, please contact Deb Foley at [deb.foley4@gmail.com](mailto:deb.foley4@gmail.com).

**Friends of Music** has always been a great supporter of Niskayuna's musically talented students. And now FOM needs our support! Learn more about Friends of Music achievements, fundraisers, and events at <http://www.niskyfom.org/>. Interested in joining? Contact Tammy Apkarian at [tapkarian@transtechsys.com](mailto:tapkarian@transtechsys.com).

**Birchwood Directories** will be distributed by mid-October. Order yours for \$5 (cash or check). Still need to order? Contact Shilpa Garde ([shilpa.garde@gmail.com](mailto:shilpa.garde@gmail.com)) or Shereen Tate ([fivetates@nycap.rr.com](mailto:fivetates@nycap.rr.com)).

**School Banking** will begin on Oct 4th. Did you know your child can open a real bank account at school with just \$1? Through Birchwood's partnership with CapCom Federal Credit Union, kids learn to save money while actually earning money for learning. The bank will deposit \$10 for each good report card and \$30/yr for winter and summer reading programs. Your child can deposit money into their account at school every other Friday from 7:45-8:30am beginning Oct. 4th. Questions? Please contact Francesca Hill at [francesca.hill@yahoo.com](mailto:francesca.hill@yahoo.com).

**Do Your Kids Need a Little Motivation?** Noted psychologist Dr. Randy Cale will be running an engaging and informative workshop entitled "Secrets to Getting and Keeping Children Motivated, Focused & On Track for Academic (and Personal) Success." The workshop will be held at Hillside Elementary School on October 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 7pm. Can't attend? Check out Dr. Cale's ideas at [www.TerrificParenting.com](http://www.TerrificParenting.com).

## Entertainment Books

Entertainment Book sales continue! Don't forget to point out all the BOGO deals: Ski passes to Jiminy Peak, green fees at various golf courses, and fun family nights of bowling! Additional savings include coupons to some of your favorite stores like The Children's Place, Gap, Dick's Sporting Goods, and many more. Good luck salespeople! For more info visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/niskypto.org/birchwood/pto-fundraising>. Questions? Kim Lewis at [kewis628@gmail.com](mailto:kewis628@gmail.com).

**The Arts in Education Committee** is looking for a few good members. This committee works with Birchwood staff to organize all of the fabulous special events that happen at Birchwood. Interested? Contact Cheryl Gerstler at [cherylgerstler@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylgerstler@yahoo.com). Why should you join? Current committee members respond:

### **The Top 5 Reasons You Should Join the Arts in Education Committee**

5. You get to watch the really awesome performers and educators who visit our school!
4. It's an easy way to be connected with your child's education at Birchwood.
3. It doesn't take a lot of time! (Even if you can't attend performances, you can help coordinate via email.)
2. You get to know our great staff and faculty even better!
1. It's fun!

- ▶ **Picture Day** is coming Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>! Volunteers needed! If you would like to help out on picture day, please contact either Millie Gnatek at [bradleycleo@gmail.com](mailto:bradleycleo@gmail.com) or Tiffanie Wood at [woodiesroundup@hotmail.com](mailto:woodiesroundup@hotmail.com).
- ▶ **Birchwood's Staff Appreciation Breakfast** will be October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is when we show our appreciation – with food -- for all that Birchwood teachers and staff do for our children! If you would like to help and/or donate goodies, please e-mail Tiffanie Wood at [woodiesroundup@hotmail.com](mailto:woodiesroundup@hotmail.com).
- ▶ **The Monster Mash Committee** is gearing up for Carnival Crazyness 2013! This year promises to be better than ever with fun games, delicious food, and an exciting storyteller. We are looking for volunteers to help create and run game booths, sell tickets, and generally help out the night of the event. Please email Tara McKenna if you can pitch in: [taralmckenna@gmail.com](mailto:taralmckenna@gmail.com). Help make it happen!

## Mark Your Calendars!

- ▶ Fri. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – Popcorn Fridays!
- ▶ Mon., Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – Last day to order Entertainment Books
- ▶ Thurs., Oct. 10th – Picture day (bring order forms)
- ▶ **Fri., Oct. 11th – Emergency Early Release Drill (1:55 dismissal)**
- ▶ **Mon., Oct. 14th – NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day)**
- ▶ Wed., Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – Birchwood PTO Meeting 6:30pm
- ▶ Fri., October 25 – Monster Mash 2013!!!

**Looking for information?** Bookmark these websites for Birchwood info anytime at a click!

- <http://www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood/index.shtml> -- **Birchwood Elementary School**
- <http://birchwood.niskypto.org/> -- **Birchwood PTO**

Bulletin information is online at:

<http://birchwood.niskypto.org/>

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 (write "bulletin item" in the subject line).

The Birchwood Bulletin is produced by the PTO Communications Committee in cooperation with the Birchwood principal and staff.