

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- October 10, 2013

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 [HERE](#).

Birchwood's Staff Appreciation Breakfast will be October 21st. 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. To learn more about the event click [HERE](#).

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? Go to [Membership Info](#). More questions? Contact [Tammy Apkarian](#).

The After School Enrichment Program is up and running! There have been some date changes -- Be sure to check with your child's ASEP instructor for up-to-date information! Questions? Contact [Pam Ober](#) or [Dawn Oppe](#).

Birchwood Directories will be distributed by mid-October. Order yours for \$5 (cash or check). Still need to order yours? Contact [Shilpa Garde](#) or [Shereen Tate](#).

Happy 60th 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](#).

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 15th starting at 7pm. Can't attend? Check out Dr. Cale's ideas at www.TerrificParenting.com. This workshop is the first of many district-wide "Coffee Talks." The next one -- "When Kids Won't Cooperate:

Secrets to Behavior Management" -- will be at Birchwood on October 23rd at 8:15am. Workshops are open to all Nisky parents.

Common Core -- How You Can Help Your Child -- The Niskayuna CSD has embraced the academic shifts in both ELA and math required by the New York State Education Department. As we come to fully understand the depth of content expectations, all teachers and parents will need to work together to ensure the success of students. To support your children at home, NYSED has several suggestions. In reading, parents are asked to supply more non-fiction texts for kids to read, find books that explain how things work and why, and discuss non-fiction texts and their ideas. In math, advice includes being aware of what your children struggled with last year and how this will impact ongoing learning, and to push children to know, understand, and memorize basic math facts. To learn more, visit the [NYSED website](#).

The Yearbook Committee is looking for pictures of Birchwood students on the first day of school. This would make such a nice addition to our beloved yearbook. Please send pictures to [Sonya Ward](#).



Want to help create the 2013-2014 Birchwood yearbook? Your kids are already making memories at school, and the Yearbook Committee is capturing them! We can use page designers for the following classes (no experience necessary):

- K - Biewlawski
- 4th - Castren
- 5th - Johnston

Please contact [Millie Gnatek](#) if interested.

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](#).

Niska-Game is Coming!! Niska-Game is Coming!!

ALL Middle School students from VA and Iroquois are invited to participate in Niska-Game! This year it will be played on a beautiful new "board" and we are so excited to show it off!

Don't miss out on the fun, the prizes, the songs, the dances! This year's game takes place on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 1st and 2nd at Iroquois Middle School. What a perfect setting for your team's Halloween theme!

High School students are needed as coaches - remember when YOU played in the game?

Elementary grade students (in 5th grade especially) are encouraged to come and root for their favorite teams!

It's a blast! It's a hoot! It's sure to be a frighteningly good time!

Contact the N-CAP website at www.ncapnisky.org for more information or email us at info@ncapnisky.

Niska-Game is a fundraiser for N-CAP, Niskayuna Community Action Program. All proceeds benefit N-CAP sponsored programs.

Check out the Niska-Game Flyer [here!](#)

CAPCOM School Banking Earns You Money! CAPCOM student bankers are eligible for several rewards programs that can add up to \$50 a year to your student's account! Students can become CapCom School Bankers at any time. Your child can stop at the School Banking table in the cafeteria on School Banking Fridays, or you can visit any [CapCom](#) branch to sign up. The next banking date is October 18th.



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. See our flyer [here](#). Please email [Tara McKenna](#) if you can pitch in. Help make it happen!

Notices From The School Nurse:

- **State Mandated Screenings and Physicals:** New York State mandates the screening of vision, hearing and scoliosis during your child's school year. . Scoliosis screening is mandated for all 5th grade students. Private scoliosis screenings are acceptable but must be done no earlier than July 1, 2013 and must be documented by the physician. New York State also requires that physical examinations be performed on all students new to the district and all kindergartners, second and fourth graders. These must be done no earlier than September 4, 2012. To view a chart that shows what screenings each grade level and new students will need see this handy dandy [GRID](#).
- **Attendance Procedure:** If your child will be absent or tardy, please call the School Nurse at 344-2910. Please leave a message stating your child's homeroom teacher, the date and time and the reason for the absence or late arrival. You can also email [Mrs. Henniger](#).
If you signed up for the voluntary "Call Back System" you will be notified if your child is not in school and we have not heard from a parent.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Friday, October 11 – Emergency Early Release Drill (1:55pm dismissal)**
 - **Monday, October 14 – NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day)**
 - **Wednesday, October 16 – Birchwood PTO Meeting 6:30pm**
 - **Friday, October 18 -- CapCom Banking AND Popcorn Friday!**
 - **Tuesday, October 22 -- Professional Development Half Day (10:45am dismissal)**
 - **Friday, October 25 – Monster Mash 2013!!!**
 - **Thursday, October 31 -- Halloween Parade (1pm)**
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[Click HERE for October's Lunch Menu](#)



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

Birchwood school homepage:

www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood

Niskayuna School District:

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