

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

# **BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY**

## **Weekly Bulletin -- October 24, 2013**



### **Birchwood's MONSTER MASH is Friday, October 25!**

The Halloween spirit will hit Birchwood Friday night with the annual Monster Mash. Kids of all ages look forward to this fun-filled two hour evening at Birchwood where they can play games, decorate pumpkins, hear spooky stories by a professional story teller, and judge parents on their costumes! Check out our [flyer!](#)

In order to make this event a success, we are in desperate need of more parent volunteers, please! Especially the 6:30-7:30 time shift in various areas from game supervisors to story teller chaperones, pumpkin decorating, and ticket sales. Email [Paulette Doudoukjian](#) and let her know how you can help.

The pot-luck dinner format was so well-received that we are going to do it again! Each grade is responsible for certain foods.

- **Kindergarten & 5th grade families** = Salads
- **1st & 2nd grade families** = Appetizer or Hot Dish
- **3rd & 4th grade families** = Cookies or Brownies ONLY

Let's work together, as always, to make this year's Monster Mash one to remember!

Remember, the same costume guidelines apply to the Monster Mash and the Halloween Parade -- No weapons, blood, and/or gore. Adults may dress up, but should not cover their faces. Let's keep it safe... and fun!

### **What time is it? It's Box Top Time!**

Welcome back to another year of Box Tops and Labels for Education clipping! These great programs allow the Birchwood PTO to raise money and purchase items needed for our school. Last year's collection got the kids that handy playground cart to hold all of the

wonderful balls and toys for recess, lots of art supplies for several classrooms, and over \$500 to use on school projects and events. This year we want to continue the tradition of helping.

We are once again holding MONTHLY drawings with prizes donated from great local businesses such as Sweet Frog, Barnes and Nobles, the Scotia Theater, Stewarts, and MORE. For each 10 labels/box tops (or one of the collection sheets filled and submitted), your child will earn one entry in to the monthly drawing. [Print off the collection sheets](#) and just toss them in an envelope with your child's name and grade/teacher and send them into school. It's that easy! There's also a handy green collection bin in the main office. This month's drawing is OCTOBER 30, and prize giveaway on HALLOWEEN! So start collecting those points!

### **The Fall Fundraiser has begun!!**

Let the selling continue! This year, not only will each seller earn individual prizes, but for every 10 items sold, the seller is entered for a chance to win one of two Family Night Packages containing pizzas, pretzels, cookie dough, and cinnamon rolls. On top of that, the top selling class wins a pizza party and any class with 50% participation wins a cookie party! Invite friends and family to check out the products online by registering your seller at [www.joecorbi.com](http://www.joecorbi.com). Click on *Seller Login*, enter our *Online Group Code 14BIREs* and complete the registration form. Joe Corbi offers home delivery too, truly making this a fundraiser available to people near and far. Sale ends October 25th and orders are scheduled to be delivered November 20th, just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas!! Questions?? Contact [Stephanie Fusco](#) for more information.

### **BIRCHWOOD'S 21st ANNUAL FAMILY POSTER CONTEST**

This exciting, and literary, Birchwood tradition 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](#).

**It's that time again for the Annual Concerned for the Hungry Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive.** This year, we have been asked to provide specific items that will help provide a little more than a Thanksgiving meal -- spaghetti sauce (NO GLASS CONTAINERS), macaroni & cheese, juice (NO GLASS CONTAINERS), canned tuna, hot cocoa, and cake mix. The deadline is November 21st. We will place boxes outside the cafeteria so that students may drop off their donations either as they arrive in the morning or when they go to lunch. Let's teach our children to help others in our community. Want more details? Click [HERE](#).

**Veteran's Day is Approaching...**

We will be creating a Veterans' Day Bulletin Board for the upcoming holiday. Mrs. Henery and Mrs. Knickerbocker will be helping with this display. If you would like to remember a special person who has or is serving in the military, please consider participating in this bulletin board. Participation is purely voluntary. If you wish to participate, please get a paper star from your teacher and include some, or all of the information below. These are suggested pieces of information, but you can include the information you would like.

- name of veteran (either former or active duty military)
- how the veteran is related to the Birchwood student (parent, cousin, etc.)
- what branch of service they serve(d) in
- approximately when they served
- any other interesting fact about their service

**The Staff Appreciation Breakfast was a success!** A special thank you to Suzanne Brooksby, Katrine Rush, Jenn Ruggiero, Laura O'Connor, Jodi Polisinelli, & Paulette Doudoukjian for serving on the breakfast committee. Thank you to all the wonderful families at Birchwood who donated the delicious breakfast treats or made a monetary donation to support the event! We thank you kindly!

**Many thanks to all of the teachers, staff, and families** who sold or purchased Entertainment Books this year! The PTO earned \$ 1,560 thanks to your support. All of your orders have been fulfilled, so if you were supposed to receive a book and did not, please contact [Amy Jasiewicz](#). Prizes are being ordered and will be sent home via backpack next month. If you are reading this and just realized that you haven't returned your book yet, you can still return books or payments to the Main Office. Enjoy your savings!

**The Facilities Utilization Advisory Committee** welcomes parents to observe meetings. Interested in what's going on? Check it out at [HERE](#).

**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](#).

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

Come cheer on your favorite Middle Schoolers! 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! Contact the N-CAP website at [www.ncapnisky.org](http://www.ncapnisky.org) for more information or email us at [info@ncapnisky](mailto: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!](#)

## Mark Your Calendars!

- October 25 – Monster Mash 2013!!! (6-8pm)
- October 31 -- Halloween Parade (1pm)
- November 1 -- Popcorn Friday & School Banking
- November 1 & 2 -- Niska-Game!
- November 5, 7, 13, 22 -- Half Days (10:45am dismissal)
- November 12 -- Picture Retakes

[Click HERE for October's Lunch Menu](#)



## Help Your Kids Save!

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 reading programs. Your child can deposit money into their account at school every other Friday from 7:45-8:30am. Open a youth account with \$1 and this [application](#). Contact: [Fran Hill](#).



## Friends of Music

FOM 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](#).

Feedback? [Click here](#)

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*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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