

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

# BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

## Weekly Bulletin -- October 31, 2013



**From Mrs. Berndt's Desk:** Our Monster Mash was a fun-filled success! We hope you all had a wonderful time! Thank you all for your help. We couldn't have done it without you! The fun continues this week with our Annual Halloween Parade. It will begin at 1pm today, October 31st. Parents are invited to come a little before then to help their children with costumes (check with your child's teacher for specifics). Families will watch the parade from the parking lot and along the parade route. Be sure to bring your cameras! Note: The forecast looks good, but if it happens to rain we will not have the parade. Keep your fingers crossed!

Please remember: Children's costumes cannot include blood, gore, or weapons of any kind. Costumed adults must be recognizable (no masks). Thank you for helping keep our kids safe.

Brrrr.... It is getting cold! Tomorrow is the first day of November and it is time to bring out the coats and hats and mittens and... long pants! Please dress your children appropriately for outside play. They wouldn't want to miss one of the best parts of the day -- recess!

### **Birchwood's Monster Mash was a Success!**

Thank you to our loyal pumpkin donors: Lansing Farms, Roy Burger Farms, and John Burger Farms, as well as to our general sponsors: Hannaford, Price Chopper, Sam's Club, ShopRite, Target, Dunkin Donuts, and Oriental Trading. A HUGE and heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped out and the families who contributed delicious potluck items to

share.

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

Birchwood earns 10 cents per boxtop. It's easy and fun! Print off the collection sheets or just toss them in an envelope with your child's name and grade/teacher and send them into school. That's all there is to it! There's also a handy green collection bin in the main office. Need more information? Go [HERE!](#)



**How are those reading posters coming along?** Take part in the Media Center's 21st Annual Family Poster Contest in celebration of children's literature. 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](#).

### **Veterans' 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 ideas, but you can include whatever 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

**Entertainment Book Sales** earned about \$1500! Yahoo! Please, please return all unpurchased books as soon as you can. No questions asked!

**The District's Coffee Talk Series**, planned by the Amazing Anita Andersen, continue. Dr. Randy Kale was here last week and shared some secrets of behavior management. He gave excellent advice and talked about great ways to work with children. Please consider attending one of these informative sessions. They usually last about an hour. The next talk -- "Managing Technology: Sensible Ways to Set Limits and Why You Must Do this Now!" -- will be on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am at Craig Elementary School. For more information, check out the [Coffee Talk Schedule](#).

**The Facilities Utilization Advisory Committee** was authorized by the Board of Education last spring to investigate options for school building and grade level configurations, including attendance zones, suitable for meeting student program needs through 2018. The committee has approximately 40 school community members, including five Birchwood parents. The final full committee meeting was held this past Monday. Although there will be no more meetings for the public to attend, the public may like to hear the presentation made by representatives of the committee to the Board at the December 3rd BOE meeting. That meeting will take place at VA at 7 PM. Agendas, minutes, presentations, and materials are posted [HERE](#).

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### Mark Your Calendars!

- October 31 -- Halloween Parade (1pm)
- November 1 -- Popcorn Friday (7am) & School Banking (7:30am)
- November 1 & 2 -- Niska-Game!
- November 5, 7, 13, 22 -- Half Days (10:45am dismissal)
- November 12 -- Picture Retakes
- November 18 -- Coffee Talk at Craig
- November 20 -- PTO Meeting (6:30pm)

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





## Niska-Game is Almost Here!!!

Come cheer on your favorite VA and Iroquois students at this weekend's Niska-Game! This year it will be played on a beautiful new board! Niska-Game takes place on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 1st and 2nd, at Iroquois Middle School. 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!](#)



## Friends of Music

Friends of Music (FOM) has always been a great supporter of Niskayuna's musically talented students. And now Friend of Music needs our support! Learn more about Friends of Music events, achievements, and fundraisers at <http://www.niskyfom.org/>. Interested in joining? Go to [Membership Info](#). More questions? Contact [Tammy Apkarian](#).

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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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