

All the news from Birchwood Elementary for the week!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly Bulletin -- November 7, 2013



From Birchwood's PTO Presidents:

Facilities Utilization Advisory Committee update to highlight November 20 Birchwood PTO Meeting

Hopefully all of our Birchwood families are aware that the district created a Facilities Utilization Advisory Committee (FUAC) to look at the district's use of our 5 elementary schools and 2 middle schools. You can find meeting minutes and information about the committee's work at <http://www.niskayunaschools.org/district/FUAC/Facilities-Utilization-Advisory-Committee.htm>. At the next Birchwood PTO meeting on November 20, the five current Birchwood parents who served on the FUAC will be present to provide a brief overview of the committee's work, outline the three options that will be presented to the Board of Education, and mostly importantly, do their best to answer any questions that you may have. FUAC is offering 3 configurations for consideration by the Board, all of which require re-districting. Here is a very short summary:

1. Close an elementary school (specific school to be determined); redistrict all elementary students; and keep 2 middle schools as is.
2. Close 1 elementary school (TBD) to create 4 elementary buildings for grades K-4; VA would house grades 5-6; and Iroquois would house grades 7-8.

3. Create a Rosendale-Iroquois middle school campus housing grades 6-8; VA would close; all elementary students would be redistricted to the remaining 4 elementary schools.

FUAC will present their recommendations to the Board on December 3 at 7 p.m. in the VA auditorium. It will then be up to the Board to take any action. They may adopt one of FUAC's recommendations; they may create a completely different configuration; or, they may opt to make no changes at all to the building usage. This and all Board of Education meetings are open to the public. We strongly urge you to attend the Birchwood PTO meeting on November 20 at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about the FUAC and the presentation and the options that will be presented. This will be the main focus of the PTO. We hope to see many of you on Wednesday, November 20!

Deb and David
Your Birchwood PTO Co-Presidents

October's winners for the Box Top and Labels for Education collection contest have been drawn. Congratulations to Gloria Doudoukjian (5J), Luke Mendrysa (4C), and Megan Ruggiero (KB)! Many thanks to our local sponsor -- Barnes and Noble in Mohawk Commons -- for their donation for October's prizes. Keep collecting those Box Tops and Labels for Education and sending in completed sheets or labels in sealed envelope with your child's name and classroom for our NEXT month's drawing.....sponsored by Sweet Frog!

FYI: Did you know that Birchwood would earn almost \$3,000 this school year if each student completed just one Box Top sheet per month? Easiest. Fundraiser. Ever.

Please use these attachments for November: [Basketball Fun](#) or [Point Collection Sheet](#).

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](#).

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](#).

The Tardy Brothers, a high energy juggling act, will performing an all-school "Character Building" assembly at Birchwood on Tuesday, November 19th starting at 8:15am. Check them out at [TARDY BROTHERS](#).

 SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIRS

Birchwood's Fall Book Fair will be December 2 - 6! This year we're trying something new -- Our teachers will make their own wish lists for their classrooms. What a great opportunity to help supply the books for our children's classrooms.! And, as you know, you can *never* have too many books! Keep an eye on backpacks for an information flyer.

Did you know your child can open a real bank account at school? 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. Open a youth account with \$1 and this [application](#). Contact: [Fran Hill](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

- November 7, 13, 22 -- Half Days (10:45am dismissal)
- November 8 -- Popcorn Friday (7am) & School Banking (7:30am)
- November 12 -- Picture Retakes
- November 18 -- Coffee Talk at Craig
- November 19 -- Tardy Brothers School Assembly
- November 20 -- PTO Meeting (6:30pm)

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





Coffee Talk

The District's Coffee Talk Series continue. 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 18th at 8:15am at Craig Elementary School. For more information, check out the [Coffee Talk Schedule](#).



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](#)

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 by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear.

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