

Announcing Birchwood's fun fair! Plus concert tonight; backstage passes to CATS at the high school, ASEP deadline tomorrow, and more!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- January 17th, 2013



Announcing the 2013 FUN FAIR! Fri., March 8th, 6-8pm at Birchwood

Join us for a fun school-wide event, featuring carnival-style games in the gym, prizes, refreshments, and the ever-popular staff raffle. Admission free; tickets will be sold for food, games, and raffle. If you have input on this event--or if you'd be willing to help--please contact parent coordinators [Tara McKenna](#) and [Paulette Doudoukjian](#).

Birchwood concert TONIGHT (Thurs.) at Niskayuna High School. Come hear our very own school band, orchestra, fiddle club, and chorus perform at 7pm. Admission is FREE. Your child will get a preview today at the 1:00 assembly!

CATS Matinee Magic -- Behind the Scenes Tour at Niskayuna High School Auditorium is coming up on Sat., March 2nd, 11:30am - 1:00pm. Students ages 6-13 are welcome. Cost is \$5 per student, and one parent or guardian may accompany free of charge. This popular program includes an up-close look at the set of this high school performance, a chance to be on stage in the spotlight, a visit to the make-up and dressing rooms, and a chance to learn a dance from the show with cast members. Refreshments and activities in the lobby afterward.



[Matinee Magic tickets](#) (PRINT and mail in with payment)

CATS tickets are *sold separately* and are not included in the backstage pass. Four performances, including the Sat. matinee. Tickets are \$15 adults and \$10 students. Click [HERE](#) for more info and ticket order form, or contact Kate Carroll at the high school, 382-2511 ext. 21725.

Popcorn Friday tomorrow. 50 cents for popcorn at snack time.

School banking tomorrow, 7:45-8:30am. Don't forget to work on winter reading book reports by March 31st so your child can earn extra money from CapCom. [MORE INFO](#). Questions about school banking? [Francesca Hill](#)

Note from Mrs. Henniger in the Health Office...

Parents of 5th graders: Scoliosis screening is done on students in Grade 5. If your child had a physical exam on or after July 1st, 2012, you can turn in their completed physical exam form with documentation of scoliosis screening to the Health Office in lieu of the school's screening. Questions? Contact Mrs. Henniger (344-2910).

Breakfast Brain Power...You know it's important for kids to have breakfast every day, but *what* they eat is crucial too. Choosing breakfast foods that are rich in whole grains, fiber, and protein, while low in added sugar, may boost kids' attention span, concentration, and memory--all of which they need for learning! Kids who eat breakfast are more likely to get the nutrients they need, have lower blood cholesterol levels, healthier body composition, fewer absences from school, and fewer trips to the school nurse with stomach complaints related to hunger. Start their day off right!



ASEP (After School Enrichment Program) registration deadline is TOMORROW, Fri., Jan 18th. Sign your child up for a fun after-school class that's age appropriate and fits your schedule. Classes run 4-6 weeks and are offered every day of the week (see [Winter 2013 ASEP Schedule](#)) from 2:15-3:15pm. Fees range from \$20-45 per class. If you turned in a registration form and haven't heard from [Pam Ober](#) or [Dawn Farrell](#) about a class being full, your child is in!

January at a glance

TONIGHT, Thurs., Jan. 17th -- Birchwood concert at [Niskayuna High](#), 7pm

TOMORROW, Fri., Jan. 18th -- Last day to register for ASEP classes ([INFO](#))

Fri., Jan. 18th -- Kindergarten registration at Birchwood, 8:30am-1:30pm

Mon., Jan. 21st -- NO SCHOOL (MLK Day)

Tues., Jan 22nd -- Preschool story & gym program begins, 12:50pm ([INFO](#))

See all events on the [school calendar](#) or [PRINT](#) the January school calendar (pdf).



[January Lunch Menu](#)



School testing dates

Please avoid planned absences on these dates if possible. Students typically perform better and are more comfortable taking the tests with their classmates.

Jan. 28-

Feb. 15

MAP math and reading test

April 16-18

NY State Assessment - ELA (Gr. 3, 4, 5)

April 24-26

NY State Assessment - Math (Gr. 3, 4, 5)

May 22 &

June 3

NY State Assessment - Science (Gr. 4)



2012-2013 Birchwood Yearbook on sale

[ORDER ONLINE](#)

(enter ID code: 10694313)

Last day to order: April 1st

(And yes--Buddy the Beagle makes a few appearances...) You can check confirmed yearbook orders [HERE](#).

Reserve space in the family ad section of the yearbook for a special message to your child. Order forms and payment (\$15 per ad) must be turned in to the Main Office by Mon., March 8th, but space may fill up before then.

[Family Ad Order Form](#)

Email photos and your message to [Amy Jasiewicz](mailto:AmyJasiewicz@nycap.rr.com) (amytjaz@nycap.rr.com).

Paper copies of both order forms are available in the Main Office.

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.



The School District wants your input on the budget!

Please take the online survey before Jan. 24th:

[2013 COMMUNITY BUDGET SURVEY](#)

The Board of Education is interested in which programs and services you value most, and your opinion on tax levy and other funding options. Survey results will be shared online and at a Feb. 13th budget forum.

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Contact us:

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Birchwood PTO homepage:

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

Birchwood school homepage:

www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood

Niskayuna School District:

<http://www.niskayunaschools.org/>

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