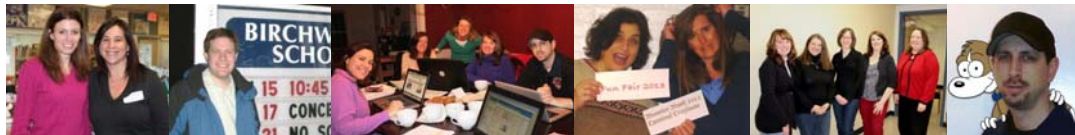


Open PTO positions for 2013-2014; Birchwood concert photos; Nisky School District in the news; back-stage passes to CATS, and more!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- January 24th, 2013

Announcing the 2013-2014 PTO volunteer position openings! We are pleased to report that over 50% of this year's PTO chairs and coordinators plan to continue in their roles for 2013-2014! That still leaves LOTS of open positions, and now is a great time to consider volunteering for one! Whatever your unique talents, interests, and time constraints, there's a place for you to help, and we think you'll find it a rewarding experience. Opportunities are available for everything from top PTO leadership positions to organizing a one-time event or fundraiser, to serving on a committee. We'll feature one or two open positions each week in the bulletin.



[View and Sign Up for Open Positions](#)

Feature position: CO-PRESIDENT

We are very fortunate that both current co-presidents, Sonya Ward and Deb Foley, will continue their work with the PTO next year, but in order to get back on a "staggered" two-year term (one new co-president and one experienced one each year), Sonya Ward will become Vice President, and **a new Co-President will be appointed.**

Why you might consider this position... This is a top-level decision-making position with oversight of all PTO activities. You can really make a difference! And while it may sound like an overwhelming amount of work, you'll be joining an experienced executive team with an array of coordinators and committees to help carry out the work. (As a bonus, this position looks great on a resume, showing leadership and volunteer service.) If you're good at organizing, visioning, collaborating, and want to make Birchwood a better place, step up! Use the sign up sheet above, or let us know if you wish to discuss the opportunity further: birchwood@niskypto.org.



Congrats to 4th and 5th graders for a great concert! Thank you for sharing your music and voices. And thank you to music teachers Mrs. Sausa-Gatta, Johnston, Lamb, and Brown for their hard work with these young musicians.



Birchwood's annual Fun Fair will be held on Fri., March 8th, 6-8pm.

This school-wide event features carnival-style games in the gym, prizes, refreshments, and the ever-popular staff raffle. Admission is free; tickets will be sold for food, games, and raffle. [Tara McKenna](#) and [Paulette Doudoukjian](#) have bravely stepped up to organize the event--if you'd be willing to organize a sub-committee (e.g. raffle, food, prizes), please email them or leave a note in the main office. Thanks!

[PRINT the flier](#)

Has your child told you about Junior Achievement? Each Birchwood classroom has a Jr. Achievement parent volunteer who works with the teacher to schedule fun, activity-oriented lessons about the basics of business. The six-week program is tailored to each grade level and has a theme that fits with the classroom social studies curriculum. [READ MORE](#). Questions? Contact [Renee Michalisin](#)

DISTRICT IN THE NEWS... Read TODAY's front page article in the Albany Times Union about budget woes: [Little help from state school aid boost](#).

TODAY is also the last day to complete the district budget survey--tell the school district what programs and services you value most:

[2013 COMMUNITY BUDGET SURVEY](#)

You can still request a seat at the Jan. 31st Regional Education Forum: "Your Schools in Fiscal Peril - Running Out of Time and Options." [READ MORE](#). There's more information about the school budget on the [PTO homepage](#).

Also in the today's news, the **school board's decision to opt out of the new lunch guidelines** and return to previous menus: [WNYT.com](#) and [Times Union](#). Questions or comments about the school lunches can be directed to [Suzanne Wixom](#), School Lunch Director (377-4666 ext. 50730).



Don't forget to order your tickets to CATS Matinee Magic -- Behind the Scenes Tour at Niskayuna High School on Sat., March 2nd, 11:30am-1:00pm. Kids get to meet the cast and get an up-close look at the set, back-stage, dressing rooms, and even get a chance in

the spotlight! Refreshments and activities in the lobby afterward. \$5 per student (a parent may accompany free of charge). CATS performance tickets are sold separately--[MORE INFO](#).

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

Friday ASEP classes begin tomorrow, and the rest start next week! Remember, pick up is promptly at 3:15. Questions? [Pam Ober](#) or [Dawn Farrell](#).

February at a glance

TODAY, Jan. 24th -- Last day to complete district budget survey ([INFO](#))

Tues., Feb. 5th -- Board of Ed meeting re: budget reductions, 7pm, Van Antwerp ([MAP](#))

Wed., Feb. 6th -- Morning PTO meeting, 9am

Feb. 18th-22nd -- NO SCHOOL, Winter Recess

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



[January Lunch Menu](#)



Fill up a winter Box Tops sheet and earn 10 cents for Birchwood with each one!

Print the [Snowflake Collection sheet](#) or get started on the February [Bouquet Collection sheet](#)

And don't forget [Labels for Education](#)...Clip



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](#).



Buzzable Survey

The school district wants to hear what you think about the Buzzable email notification service:

[A Buzzable Survey](#)



UPC labels on [participating products](#) and paste them to a labels sheet!

[Print a 1-pt labels sheet](#)

For more information, go to the [PTO Fundraisers](#) page. Thanks for your support!

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](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:

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

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