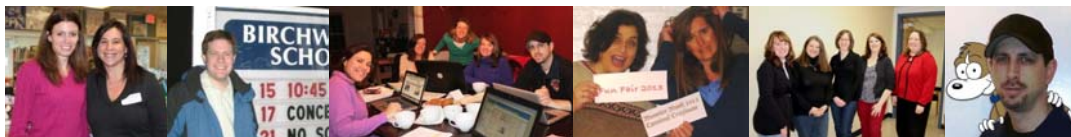


Claim your volunteer spot now; character education; yearbook ads, Box Tops sheets, lunch menu, and more--oh my!!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- January 31st, 2013



Birchwood isn't just a school, it's your child's community...

Your participation makes a difference!

All parents are encouraged to find at least one way to volunteer at school next year. You can help plan a one-time event like the BBQ or Monster Mash, or contribute a few hours throughout the year in the library or on popcorn Fridays. Time commitments vary greatly, so choose something that fits your schedule. Partner with your spouse or a friend (or meet someone new!) and share the work. A paper [sign up form](#) went home in backpacks on Tuesday, or you can sign up instantly online:

[View open positions and sign up online](#)

We understand it's hard to make a firm commitment this far in advance--that's OK! Filling volunteer positions is a critical part of the PTO's planning and budgeting process for 2013-14, which is underway now. You'll get the best selection if you sign up now!

Questions about a position? Explore the [PTO website](#) or email us at:

birchwood@niskypto.org. Please select your position by Thurs., Feb. 28th.

Feature position: Arts in Education Co-Chair

Grab a friend--this program can use two new co-chairs! In collaboration with the principal, you check out entertaining and educational acts to book for Birchwood's school assemblies. Whether you always wanted to be in show biz--or just love the excitement your kid comes home with after a school assembly--this is a great position. Work on your own time and attend the assemblies (2-4/year) to help artist with set-up. Moderate-to-low time commitment, varying throughout the year.

Feature position: Spirit Wear committee member

Weigh in on what Birchwood clothing we should sell in the Spirit Wear fundraiser. Loved the tie-dye t-shirts and red fleece vests this year? What else would look great with Buddy the Beagle or Birchwood's logo embroidered on it?? As a committee member, you play a supporting role; work begins in the summer and is mostly around one or two sales during the year. Low time commitment



and you can admire your work whenever Birchwood kids and families show their school spirit!

PTO meeting next Wed., Feb. 6th, 9:00am at Birchwood. All parents are welcome to attend. (Note the morning meeting time.)

[PTO Meeting Agenda](#) -- Feb. 6th

Meeting minutes from 1/3 will be posted on the [PTO website](#) shortly

Popcorn for sale tomorrow (Fri.!)!



School Banking tomorrow (Fri.), 7:45-8:30am. Your kids can deposit money into their own bank accounts right at Birchwood, and even earn money from CapCom for [book reports](#) and [good grades](#). Open an account any time at a [branch location](#).

Has your child told you about "character education"? Students at Birchwood have been learning about character traits that will help them in academics and in life. This year's focus is on:

Perseverance -- sticking with something even when it gets hard

Self-Discipline -- doing what needs to be done even when you don't feel like it

At the first meeting, students from intermediate and primary classes paired up to create encouraging slogans about perseverance, like "Believe in yourself" and "Don't stop trying." You and your child might find examples of perseverance and self-discipline at home, in books, or in people you know. Talk about them! The character education program is planned by the Shared Decision Making (SDM) Team. Questions? Contact [Mrs. Berndt](#). (Note...Birchwood needs a parent representative to work with teachers on the SDM Team next year! See [Volunteer Sign Up](#).)



Are you ready for Spring? You will be when you start perusing the brochures for Gertrude Hawk Chocolates and Dutch Mill spring bulbs coming home in your child's backpack soon!

February at a glance

TONIGHT, Jan. 31st -- Regional School Budget Forum ([INFO](#))

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

Wed., Feb. 6th -- Morning PTO meeting, 9am ([INFO](#))

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

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



[February Lunch Menu](#)

[Letter to Parents about School Lunch Program](#)



Box Tops for Education

Click to print the Feb. sheet and create a bouquet of Box Tops!



[MORE INFO](#)

Box Tops for grown-ups! Did you know all of [these retailers](#) award e-BoxTops when you shop online? No clipping required! Sign up takes less than a minute. [CLICK HERE](#)



**FUN FAIR 2013
Fri., March 8th
6:00-8:00pm**

- Pizza, hot dogs, cookies, and beverages
- Balloon Art
- Face Painting
- Staff Raffle
- Awesome games led by awesome 5th graders

Have you marked your calendar??



Labels for Education

Click to print a 1-pt Labels for Education sheet & fill it up with UPC's from [participating products](#).

And here's another cool option--register your PriceChopper or ShopRite cards with [eLabels for Education](#) and you electronically collect an *additional* point on every participating product!

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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