

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- October 25th, 2012

Vote for Birchwood! No, we're not running for president, but we have entered a national grant competition for \$50,000 and we need your vote!

What's our school's dream? To develop Birchwood's once-loved but long-forgotten nature trail and forest classroom into a Nature Park where our students can get their hands dirty while learning principles of ecology and conservation. The grant would allow us to build vegetable beds, a butterfly garden, composting and rain water harvesting systems, and even a solar-powered greenhouse. To enhance the outdoor learning experience, grant funds would be used to boost the library's nonfiction book collection and purchase tablet computers for outdoor research and data collection.



Birchwood Greenhouse, circa 1961

The Clorox corporation will award 7 grants, 4 of which are based on the number of votes received. So let's mobilize, folks! **Voting begins Mon., Nov. 5th and runs through Dec. 12th. You can vote as often as once a day!** The [PTO website](#) will have all the instructions on how to vote online or by text message and will be updated regularly. Ask your friends, family members, and co-workers to vote too! (Must be 13 yrs of age or older.)

Get your ghosts and goblins ready...the Monster Mash is tomorrow night! This year the event is re-vamped for even more family fun. Decorate a pumpkin - Bring a dish and share in a potluck dinner - Visit the spooky room, with carnival-style games provided by Birchwood families and groups - Jump aboard a fire engine for a tour - And don't forget to wear your own costumes, parents! Your kids will love cheering for you in the costume contest.

Fri., Oct. 26th, 6:00-8:00pm at Birchwood

\$5/child admission (activity tickets sold separately)

[Potluck sign-up sheet & volunteer form](#) --or--

[Potluck sign-up sheet & volunteer form](#) (PRINT pdf)

[Monster Mash flier](#) (PRINT pdf)



More Halloween fun--Birchwood students will parade around the school neighborhood at 1:00 on Wed., Oct. 31st. You're invited to come watch the fun! Remember, keep those costumes kid-friendly and avoid face-covering masks. Please keep fire lanes and the parade route clear--you may have to park on a side street.



Congrats summer readers! At last week's summer reading assembly, 145 students, 25 staff, and 4 parents were recognized for their stellar participation. Together, Birchwood students read 2,944 books! Several 5th graders and 3 staff members received Birchwood Reading t-shirts for their long-term participation. After the assembly, all readers celebrated their accomplishment at a party. Thanks Mrs. Disque, and good job readers!

Speaking of reading, turn in your [reading posters](#) to the Media Center by Monday (10/29)!

Calendar at a glance

Fri., Oct. 26th -- Monster Mash ([Info](#) | [Sign up](#))

Fri., Oct. 26th -- Label & Box Tops sheets due for 10/31 drawing ([Print sheets](#))

Mon., Oct 29th -- Media Center Poster Contest Entries are due ([Info](#))

Mon., Oct. 29th -- 10:45am dismissal (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Wed., Oct. 31st – Halloween parade 1:00pm

Fri., Nov. 2nd -- 10:45am dismissal (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Tues., Nov. 6th -- 10:45am dismissal (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Wed., Nov. 7th – PTO meeting, 6:30pm at Birchwood

Thurs., Nov. 8th -- 10:45am dismissal (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

See all events (and click to copy to your Google calendar) on the [school calendar](#).



[October Lunch Menu](#)

Niska-Game 2012

November 16-17 at
**Iroquois Middle
School.** Niska-Game is
a life-sized version of a
"Niskayuna" Monopoly
game. Mark your
calendars! This is N-
CAP's ([Niskayuna
Community Action
Program](#)) only fundrasier.



Print your
[Box Tops are a-MAZE-ing sheet](#)



Print your
[Labels for Education 1-pt sheet](#)

For 5-pt & 10-pt sheets and lots
more information, go to:

[PTO Fundraisers](#)

School News Quick

Links:

[Birchwood PTO](#)
[Birchwood Elementary
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[Niskayuna School
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