

This week's news from Birchwood Elementary!

BIRCHWOOD

ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- October 4th, 2012

October news from Principal Berndt -- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) This year all students in New York State will be instructed with a new set of standards. The CCSS pertain to the areas of math and ELA which define the knowledge and skills that students from pre-K through 12th grade need to master in order to be prepared, ultimately, for college and their careers. Helpful resources:

Niskayuna Central School District -- [CCSS news & a guide for parents](#)

"Shifts for Students and Parents" downloadable resource -- [engageNY](#)

Emergency early dismissal drill tomorrow (Fri) -- All district schools will be dismissing students 15 min early and notifying families by phone, radio, and TV. This is intended to practice for an unplanned, emergency early dismissal. No ASEP classes.

The Media Center is offering digital access to ebooks, audiobooks and more! Check out titles online, and read or listen offline on PC or Mac®, smartphones, MP3 players, iPads, and eBook readers (Sony® Reader and Kindle®).

<http://capregbooces.lib.overdrive.com>

Student's ID number = their library/lunch number

(Note: if the number is 4 digits, a leading zero (0) must be added)

Contact [Mrs. Disque](#) if you need help.

Also from the Media Center...Remember to work on your reading [posters](#) by Oct. 29th!

The Media Center still needs volunteers--can you spare an hour a week? Grandparents are also welcome! [Volunteer Form](#)

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 **beginning tomorrow, Oct. 5th** (alternating Fridays with popcorn days). Open a youth account with \$1 and this [application](#). Contact: [Fran Hill](#).

Where do you shop? You can earn money for Birchwood at any of these local stores:

- Target RED card -- you get 5% off and Birchwood gets 1% of purchases
- Price Chopper "Tools for Schools" -- the points you save earn free equipment for

Birchwood; also earn extra points when you collect "Labels for Education"

- Hannaford Helps Schools -- for every 4 participating products you buy, Birchwood gets \$3.00
- ShopRite e-Labels for Education -- each "Labels for Education" product you purchase earns points Birchwood can redeem for merchandise

This is the easiest fundraiser! It just takes a moment to set up, and every time you shop, you benefit the school. The cumulative impact is huge. Please visit our webpage for instructions (it's simple!), or just [email us](#) and we'll send them to you.

[PTO Fundraisers](#)

Be a buddy, not a bully! Joseph DiDonna presents "BAND Together: No Bullies Allowed" at the Oct. 10th school assembly.

The Fall Fundraiser is underway--kids can earn prizes OR books by selling food and gifts from the brochures sent home last week (in a large envelope with "Animaland" coloring page on the outside). You can even invite friends and family to order from the "Celebrate the Season" catalog online--go to



<http://www.candhfundraising.com>, click "Online Ordering," and enter the user name & password printed on the bottom of the flier sent home in the package. Sale ends Fri, Oct. 12th and items will be in around Nov. 5th! Questions?

Contact: [Richard Mizenko](#)

October at a glance

Fri., Oct. 5th -- Emergency Early Release Drill (1:55 dismissal) -- NO ASEP

Fri., Oct. 5th -- Picture day (bring order forms)

Mon., Oct. 8th -- NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day)

Wed., Oct. 10th -- School assembly; Last day to order Birchwood clothing ([Order form](#))

Fri., Oct. 12th -- Last day for frozen food and gift orders (Fall Fundraiser)

Mon., Oct. 15th -- Staff Appreciation Breakfast ([Bring a dish](#))

Tues., Oct. 16th -- Summer reading assembly 1:15pm

Tues., Oct. 16th -- Board of Ed meeting re: school configuration, 6:30pm Van Antwerp

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

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

Wed., Oct. 31st -- Halloween parade & Box Tops fundraiser prize drawing

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



[October Lunch Menu](#)



**Remember
to collect
box tops and
labels!**

Turn in as many filled sheets as you can by 10/26 for the 1st drawing! Also, get an additional point for each label from Price Chopper and ShopRite through the [eLabels for Education](#) program if you register your shopper card. Label sheets and instructions are always available here: [Fundraisers](#)



**Monster Mash
Fri, Oct. 26th, 6-8pm**

All the usual crazy, spooky fun, plus a little more...*structure*. Family pumpkin decorating starts at 6pm; carnival and spooky room open at 6:15pm. Potluck dinner at 7:00pm (see sign-up below). Niskayuna District 2 Fire Dept will be on hand with a fire engine! Kids can vote with cheers for their favorite *grown-up* in costume. \$5 admission per child (adults free). Tickets for carnival games & spooky room sold separately (\$5 for 15 tix). Please let us know what you can bring to the potluck and if you can help:

[Volunteer & Potluck Sign-Up](#)

[Print the flier](#)

Feedback? [Click here](#).

To submit information for the weekly bulletin, please email Birchwood@niskyPTO.org by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear.

The Birchwood Bulletin is produced by the PTO Communications Committee in cooperation with the Birchwood principal and staff.

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birchwood.niskypto.org



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