

A special invitation for Dec. 7th; help with the new math program; earn \$10 for good grades; fundraising results; and more!

# BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

## Weekly bulletin -- November 29th, 2012

*You're invited...*

*To a nature park rally, holiday shoppe, and book fair at Birchwood on Friday, Dec. 7th starting at 4:00pm. Wear jackets and boots for outdoor activities; then come inside and warm up while you shop for books and other holiday gifts. Here's the schedule:*



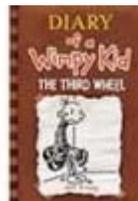
**Nature Park  
Rally**  
4:00-5:30pm

Come meet a wildlife rehabilitator and her birds of prey, take a guided tour of Birchwood's nature trail (while daylight lasts), learn from a wildlife expert from [CMOST](#), get your hands dirty at the gardening station...and that's just the beginning! Don't miss the nature rally--you may even get on the local news! Cookies and cocoa provided by local scout troops. Keep [voting daily](#)



**Children's Holiday  
Shoppe**  
5:30-8:00pm

Your children can pick out lovely gifts (in the \$5 range) for friends and loved ones. We'll even help them shop if they want to surprise you. Please bring cash (no credit cards or checks). Coordinator Amy Jasiewicz could use one more volunteer--let her know if you can help: [amytjaz@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amytjaz@nycap.rr.com).



**Media Center  
Book Fair**  
5:30-8:00pm

Everybody gets excited about reading while perusing the fun selection of books at the fall book fair--you'll find popular children's titles as well as grown-up items. Books also make great gifts and donations! If you can volunteer, contact librarian [Beth Disque](#) or parent coordinator [Jill Canestrari](#).

[More info](#)  
[Volunteer](#)  
[Shop online](#)



**Birchwood  
Open House**  
5:30-8:00pm

Your child can give you a tour of the school--all classrooms will be open. Have them show you their desks, artwork, favorite reading spot, and tell you all about their days at school. (Teachers will not be present.)

for our grant  
proposal, so we  
can make outdoor  
education part of  
the Birchwood  
experience!

(12/7-14 only)

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**School banking TOMORROW (Fri.), 7:45-8:30am. Submit a copy of your child's report card and have \$10 deposited to their account!** Or scan and email it to [greatgrades@capcomfcu.org](mailto:greatgrades@capcomfcu.org) or bring it to a [branch location](#) (e.g. Balltown Rd. entrance to Hannaford). Still haven't opened an account for your child? Do it tomorrow! A CapCom rep (and our lovely parent coordinator [Francesca Hill](#)) will be happy to help.

[Youth application](#)

(submit at Birchwood on 11/30 or anytime at a [branch location](#))

[CAP COM School Banking](#)

[PTO Programs](#)

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**Got questions about the new math program?** You're not alone. Principal Berndt (a math teacher herself) will present "Bar Modeling & Other Math Strategies" for parents on Wed., Dec. 12th, 6-7pm. Please rsvp by 12/5 with the form sent home on Monday. (Click [HERE](#) to print).

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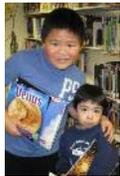
**Thirty-six Birchwood families are now using a Target RED card**, and have already earned \$200 for Birchwood this year! Thank you! Apply for a RED card in person at Target or [online](#), and designate Birchwood as your school [HERE](#). Ask grandparents, aunts and uncles to do the same--doesn't matter where they live!

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**Donations of new, unwrapped toys are being collected at Birchwood for Toys for Tots.** (Buy 'em at Target and help two causes at once!)

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**Pre-school story hour and gym program needs a coordinator!** This wonderful outreach meets once a week to get local pre-schoolers ready for their Kindergarten debut.



Help welcome new families to the Birchwood community (and watch adorable pre-schoolers pal around with 4th grade buddies). It will warm your heart and brighten your week! If you can't volunteer, maybe you know a pre-school parent who might be interested? Starts soon! Contact Sonya Ward:

[mward22@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mward22@nycap.rr.com).

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The Birchwood Fall Fundraiser was a big success! **Students sold more than \$7,500 in foods and gifts**, earning more than \$3,200 for Birchwood! Congrats and a huge thank you to our salespeople and customers.

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**Haven't voted for Birchwood's nature park proposal yet?** It's not too late! There are

20 days left--you can vote daily by text and online. Every vote counts!

**Text 1780pbf to 95248**  
**Vote online:** [Nomination page](#)  
 More info: [PTO Grants](#)



Birchwood students recently explore the forgotten nature trail.

Approximately 120 ice cream sundaes were enjoyed by poster contest winners on Tuesday. Thank you to the many parents who attended and volunteered. Thanks to Tara McKenna for arranging ShopRite's generous contribution. Birchwood students love the Media Center's programs! Read [Mrs. Disque's wrap-up and thank you's](#).



December at a glance

- Dec. 4th-7th -- Media Center Fall Book Fair ([Info](#) | [Volunteer](#))
- Dec., 7th -- Birchwood's Nature Rally, Holiday Shoppe, & Open House, 4-8pm
- Wed., Dec. 12th -- Math Strategies talk for parents, 6-7pm @ Birchwood
- Wed., Dec. 19th -- Last day to vote for Birchwood's nature park proposal ([Info](#) | [Vote](#))
- Mon., Dec. 21st - Tues., Jan 1st -- Winter Break**
- Wed., Jan. 2nd -- Classes resume**
- Thurs., Jan 3rd -- PTO meeting, 6:30pm (no Dec. meeting)

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

Niskayuna Central School District [NEWS](#)



[December Lunch Menu](#)

Feedback? [Click here](#).

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.

*The Birchwood Bulletin is produced by the PTO Communications Committee in cooperation with the*

*Birchwood principal and staff.*

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

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