

Daily Gazette article about Birchwood's nature event! Plus event photos, message from the school nurse, popcorn Friday tomorrow, and more!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- December 13th, 2012

Thanks for coming to Birchwood last Friday night! The Nature Park Rally was a big success. Check out the article in today's Daily Gazette! [READ HERE.](#)

We are very grateful to all the [organizations that participated](#) (click to see their websites): [Reptile Adventure](#), Whispering Willow Wild Care, [Childrens Museum of Science & Technology](#), [Bentley Seeds](#), [Kids Out and About.com](#), and [Cornell Cooperative Extension](#) and Colleen Castle (Birchwood parent and master gardener). The event was also made possible by donations from Niskayuna Co-op, Price Chopper, Freihofer's, and Stewart's Shops.



We recognize the efforts of Paulette Doudoukjian, Kim McClive-Reed, and our dedicated PTO co-presidents, Deb Foley and Sonya Ward, in organizing this event and doing everything they can to secure grant funds to make Birchwood a better place. More photos and recognition below.

Thank you for patronizing the Children's Holiday Shoppe and the Media Center Book Fair on Friday night as well--both are valuable fundraisers for the school. (The book fair is still available online until tomorrow (12/14)--free shipping to Birchwood. Click [HERE.](#))

Go ahead, ask your friends and family! Post on Facebook! Send them a link to the Gazette article! There are only **7 more days to vote** for our Nature Park Restoration proposal...That's 7 more votes by text and 7 more votes online per person, including today. Let's finish this rally strong!

Text 1780pbf to 95248

Vote online: [Nomination page](#)

The last day to add new, unwrapped toys to the Toys for Tots collection is Tues., Dec. 18th. These gifts make the holidays a little easier for low-income families in our community.

Popcorn Friday tomorrow--50 cents for popcorn at snack time.

Notes from Mrs. Henniger in the Health Office... Do you have pants at home that your children have outgrown? The Health Office can put them to good use! We're in need of boys and girls pants (elastic or adjustable waistlines appreciated) in all sizes, especially smalls and mediums. Thank you!

In the winter months ahead, please remember the school's policy about keeping your child home for illness. If you have any questions, contact Laura Henniger at 344-2910 (ext. 10704) or lhenniger@niskyschools.org.

Do not send your child to school if he/she has had:

- * Fever, vomiting, or diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- * Chills
- * Sore throat
- * Strep throat (child must have taken antibiotic for at least 24 hrs before returning to school)
- * Bad cold with a very runny nose or bad cough, especially if it has kept the child awake at night
- * Head lice (until your child has been treated according to nurse/doctor's instruction)

If your child was sent home from school for one of these conditions, they should not return the next day. Also, if your child requires medication for illness before school, they are probably not well enough to come. Lastly, it is important to **contact the School Nurse if your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease** (e.g., strep throat, Fifth's Disease, etc.) or lice. Thank you for helping us maintain a healthy student body!

Thank you, Box Tops heroes! Your children are earning funds for Birchwood every time they clip a Box Tops logo from [participating products](#). Paste them to the December sheet and send them to school--the next drawing is 12/19 and more lucky winners will get prizes! ([PRINT](#) | [INFO](#))



Did you know there are short surveys online and activities for kids which earn extra Box Tops credits? Check out [e-Box Tops!](#)

December at a glance

Tues., Dec. 18th -- Final day of Toys for Tots collection

Wed., Dec. 19th -- Last day to vote for Birchwood's nature park proposal ([Info](#) | [Vote](#))

Wed., Dec. 19th -- Box Tops drawing for Dec. prizes

Mon., Dec. 24th - 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](#).



December Lunch Menu



Kim McClive-Reed led a soggy--but very informative--tour of the nature trail, imparting interesting ecological and historical tidbits along the way. Over 30 intrepid students and parents went along despite the rain! Botanist Steve Young has been helpful in identifying the neat collection of species growing on Birchwood's property.



Third graders were interviewed by the Daily Gazette and shared their enthusiasm for nature exploration.



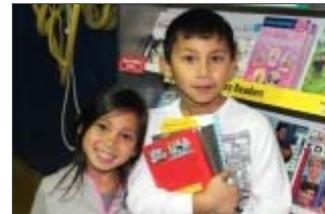
Thank you to the parents and Cub Scouts of Pack 81 for providing free cookies and cocoa. This was a popular table Friday night!



Students met a Barred Owl named Ophelia who was rescued with an injured wing by [Whispering Willow Wild Care](#). Now she's a wildlife ambassador.



Girl Scouts Troop 2496 taught students how to



Students loved shopping at the Book Fair! Mrs. Disque and parent coordinator Jill Canestrari would like to thank the following volunteers who helped out all week and made the book fair a great success. (Sincere apologies to anyone left off.) Everyone's help is appreciated!

- Millie Gnatek
- Lori Lembo
- DeDe Hildreth
- Colleen Castle
- Katrine Rush
- Francesca Hill
- Jenn DiCerbo
- Anne Burger
- Tara McKenna
- Michelle (& Melissa) Rosowsky
- Shereen Tate
- Sirinat Detchprohm
- Heather Koes
- Suzanne Brooksby
- Joanne Ferrara

make their own greenhouses. Thank you to the parents who helped, and who brought supplies for this project! Seeds were provided by [Bentley Seeds](#).

Kristen Schiavi
Katie Cowley-Cooper
Jan Brown
Wen Ma
Kiyomi Ono-Tu
Stephanie (& Sarah)
Vernooy
Faith Foley
...And Susan Dorries, Al Garrison, & Sara Tiffany of the Birchwood staff.

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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Our mailing address is:

Birchwood Elementary School PTO
897 Birchwood Lane
Niskayuna, Ny 12309



Contact us:

[Birchwood@niskyPTO.org](mailto: Birchwood@niskyPTO.org)

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