

New Fun Fair date announced! Plus vote today, advocacy letter writing tomorrow, eat at Chipotle for Birchwood, and happy St. Patty's Day from Buddy!

# BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

## Weekly bulletin -- March 14th, 2013

**Announcing the new date for the Fun Fair--Friday, April 19th, 6:00-8:00pm.** (Who knew there were SO many school and community activities to plan around??) We regret the postponement due to last Friday's weather, and hope you can make the new date. The Fun Fair will be better than ever! Thanks to the hard-working parent volunteer coordinators, all the entertainment acts will be still be there--Magician Jim Snack, Victor the Clown, and a face painter. Of course, food, games, staff raffle, and (hopefully) volunteer schedule remains the same. Thanks for your patience!

[NEW Fun Fair Flier](#)

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**Drop by Panera in Mohawk Commons tomorrow morning (Fri., 3/15) between 9-11am to write an advocacy letter for school funding.** Bring your laptop or writing material, and we'll supply samples and suggestions. State legislators are making budget decisions NOW, and every letter sends the message that our children's education must be a priority. Don't underestimate the influence of our collective voices! Questions? [Email the parent work group](#). If you prefer to write a letter on your own, contact information and advocacy resources are available [HERE](#).

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**The new date for Community Budget Forum is this Sat., March 16th, 9:30-11:30am, at Van Antwerp.** It will cover the NEW list of proposed reductions (view presentation [HERE](#)). These still include "likely" cuts like Birchwood's full-time librarian position and other changes that impact our kids. Let the Board hear what you think! Budget updates and school news can be found on the [Niskayuna Schools homepage](#).

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**This has to be the easiest fundraiser ever!** Eat at Chipotle Restaurant in Mohawk Commons on Sun., March 24th, between 12:00-4:00pm and hand them this flier...Birchwood will get 50% of all sales! (Fliers will go home in backpacks next week.)

[Chipotle Fundraiser Flier](#)

Hand them out to all your friends! Post on Facebook!

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**TODAY, March 14th, please VOTE** on the school district's [purchase of the bus garage](#), which could save the district \$4.8 million over the next 15 years. Polling hours 7am-9pm at the high school (use the main entrance and follow signs for voting).



**Remember the Back-to-School BBQ?**  
**You will if you ordered your yearbook! ([INFO](#))**  
Not sure if you've ordered? Check [HERE](#).



Cost is \$18, or \$23 if you'd like your child's name and photo on the cover ([view example](#)). Order deadline is April 1st. We'll have a table at ASEP pick up time (3:00-3:30pm) today, tomorrow, and Mon., if you'd like to see samples and order. (Bring a check to "Birchwood PTO.") You can order online anytime:

[2012-2013 Yearbook Order Form](#) (enter ID# **10694313**)

**UPDATE: Yearbook Family Ads.** Yes, they sold out (as promised!). However, because of the high demand, we are considering *adding pages to the yearbook* to accommodate more ads. These would sell at a premium price of \$25 (original price was \$15) to cover the cost of the extra pages. If you're interested, please email [Amy Jasiewicz](mailto:amyjaz@nycap.rr.com) (amyjaz@nycap.rr.com) BY MONDAY (3/18) so we can make a decision. Thanks!

**Parents of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders...**Remember that New York State Assessments in the areas of English Language Arts and Math take place next month. These are not tests students can study for, but you can prepare your child by encouraging sustained reading (30-60 min) at home on most days. This builds their stamina for test-taking as well as supporting their growth as life-long readers. Please avoid planned absences on these dates:

ELA: April 16, 17, 18

Math: April 24, 25, 26

A good night's sleep before and a healthy breakfast on test day will go a long way! Contact [Principal Berndt](#) if you have questions or concerns.

#### **What your child can earn tomorrow (Fri.) at School Banking:**

- \$10 for copy of their good report card, due 3/15 (read about [Great Grades](#))
- \$3 per book report up to \$15, due 3/31 (read about [Reading Programs](#))

If you want to open an account, you can do so tomorrow (Fri), 7:45-8:30am. Our [CapCom](#) rep will be there to take new accounts (and Birchwood earns \$5 for each!). Remember if you have a Birchwood graduate, they can still do their banking at Birchwood on banking Fridays. Questions? Contact [Fran Hill](#).

**Artwork on your iPhone cover?** Yes, it's coming--the children's [artwork fundraiser](#) runs March 27th - April 24th. Order forms will go home in backpacks March 27th, and samples will be available at the Fun Fair (4/19). Start saving your child's masterpieces!

**Box Tops for Education...**Print the [Top O' The Boxtops](#) sheet for March--keep collecting, winning prizes, and earning money for Birchwood!  
Thank you!

Buddy says wear green and don't get pinched on Sunday!



[March at a glance](#)

Fri., March 15th, 9-11am--Advocacy letter-writing at Panera Mohawk Commons

Sat., March 16th, 9:30-11:30am--Community Budget Forum, Van Antwerp ([MAP](#) | [INFO](#))

**Thurs., March 21st--10:45am dismissal**

**Fri., March 22nd--NO SCHOOL (staff development)**

Sun., March 24th, 12-4pm--Chipotle Mexican Grill fundraiser ([INFO](#))

**Fri., March 29th--NO SCHOOL (Good Friday)**

See all events on the [school calendar](#) or [print the March calendar](#).



[March Lunch Menu](#)



Birchwood teachers and staff enjoyed the Staff Appreciation Luncheon yesterday! A full list of thank you's coming in next week's bulletin.



Birchwood students took the stage at Proctor's theater in Schenectady last night as part of the district-wide Choral Festival. They played to a full house and sounded fantastic! Congratulations, Birchwood singers, and thank you to Mrs. Johnston and all our music teachers.



Birchwood's 5th graders show off their vast knowledge of our country to proud parents and grandparents tomorrow at the States Fair... Good luck and have fun, 5th graders!

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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