

Early dismissal today; budget breaking news; Fun Fair tomorrow. Plus what to do with your child's artwork, and more.

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- March 7th, 2013

TODAY -- 10:45am dismissal for all elementary schools.

Breaking news on the school budget: At their meeting Tues. night, the Board of Education requested that the superintendent and her cabinet develop a new and different list of potential spending cuts. To give them more time, **tomorrow's Community Budget Forum has been postponed.** The Board made it clear that they are responding to input from parents and the community, and that closing a school should be considered only as a last resort. Your voices are being heard, and the Board remains "highly interested in public input." The new list of potential reductions will be outlined at the next budget work session--Tues., March 12, at 7pm at Van Antwerp. Please attend if you can! If you haven't been following the district's budget process, here's a great place to catch up: [Budget Calendar & Information Archive](#). Also, the district has a new webpage for [Commonly Asked Questions](#) about the budget.

TOMORROW night, Fri., March 8th, is the FUN FAIR, 6-8pm. We are excited! We expect this year's event to be better than ever. We can still use volunteers at the food stations if you're willing to help out for an hour: [Volunteer Sign-Up](#). Kids can buy raffle tickets (10 for \$5) tomorrow (Fri.) during lunch or at the Fun Fair. Questions? [Paulette](#) or [Tara](#). **See you there!**



Has your child mentioned Paws for the Park? Your \$1 donation will go toward gardening supplies for gardens being planted at Birchwood in the spring. We'll hang up a "Buddy Paw Print" with your name to thank you for your support! Available at the Fun Fair. This is a grass-roots effort organized by Birchwood students.



Looking for a cool way to show off your child's artwork? How about on a puzzle, a water bottle, or even your iPad case? The [artwork fundraiser](#) is coming--samples will be available at the Fun Fair, and an order form will be coming home in backpacks soon. Items will arrive in time for Mother's Day!

Order your yearbook by April 1st! Yearbooks are printed in full vibrant color and are packed with great Birchwood memories from the year. Your child will love having their friends sign it the last week of school. Cost is \$18, with option for a personalized cover with child's name & portrait (+ \$5). You can order at the Fun Fair! (Note: Family ads



have sold out.)

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

More info and confirm your [HERE](#)



Report cards went home yesterday (Wed.). Remember your child can earn \$10 for their report card through the school banking [Great Grades](#) program. If they don't have a bank account yet, you can open one any time! Birchwood earns \$5 for every new account in March. Next school banking Friday: 3/15. More info on [PTO Programs](#). Questions? Contact [Fran Hill](#).

Good luck, chorus singers! Birchwood's chorus will perform along with choirs from all of Niskayuna's schools at Proctors Theater in Schenectady on Wed., March 13th, 7:00pm. [MORE INFO](#). Break a leg!

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon is next Wed., March 13th. A bountiful feast is shaping up--thank you, parents, for your fantastic generosity. Please bring your item to Birchwood by 10:00am on the 13th. Questions? [Lori Lembo](#). Click here to check or add to sign-ups:

[Staff Lunch Sign Up](#)

Next Thurs., 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).

Haven't gotten around to advocating for better school funding yet? We'll make it easy. Stop by Birchwood on Wed. evening, March 13th between 6-8pm for a letter-writing campaign. We'll have all the materials ready, plus coffee and snacks. A daytime session is coming soon. (See advocacy resources [HERE](#).)

ASEP (After School Enrichment Program) update...Make-ups for the classes affected by snow days will be Mon., March 18th and Fri., March 15th. Also, you can still enroll your child in Mr. West's ASEP classes--Baseball starts Monday, March 18th (grades 2-5), and Run for Fun starts Wednesday, March 20th (grades 3-5). To sign up, print p. 7 of the [Winter 2013 ASEP Schedule](#) (hard copies available in the main office). Questions? [Pam Ober](#) or [Dawn Farrell](#).

March at a glance

TODAY, Thurs., March 7th--10:45am dismissal (conferences*)

Fri., March 8th, 6-8pm--Fun Fair ([INFO](#) | [VOLUNTEER](#))

Tues., March 12th, 7pm--Board of Education budget meeting, Van Antwerp ([INFO](#))

Tues., March 12th, 6:30pm--1,000 Book Kid Program Kick-Off ([INFO](#))

Wed., March 13th--10:45am dismissal (conferences*)

Wed., March 13th--Staff Luncheon ([INFO](#) | [SIGN UP](#))

Wed., March 13th, 7pm--Choral concert @ Proctors

Wed., March 13th, 6-8pm--Advocacy letter-writing at Birchwood

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)

** Only those requested by parent or teacher.*

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



[March Lunch Menu](#)

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.

Copyright © 2013 Birchwood Elementary School PTO, All rights reserved.



Contact us:

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

Birchwood PTO homepage:

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

Birchwood school homepage:

www.nisk.k12.ny.us/birchwood

Niskayuna School District:

<http://www.niskayunaschools.org/>

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)