

Nature Club seed planting next Tuesday; school budget ADOPTED; Fun Fair is finally coming; artwork fundraiser and more!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- April 11th, 2013

The Birchwood Fun Fair is coming up! Didn't we already have that? No! How quickly you forget the SNOW! The NEW *no-snow* date for the Fun Fair is **next Friday, April 19th, 6-8pm.**



Face painting, Victor the Clown, magic show by Jim Snack, food and snacks, 5th grader-led games in the gym, and of course the amazing staff raffle! Free admission; tickets for games and food (50 cents each). Kids can also support Birchwood Nature Park by donating \$1 to "Paws for the Park." Grown-ups can win cash in the 50/50 raffle. Don't miss this awesome Birchwood event!

Volunteers, we hope you can still help out. If you didn't sign up before but can help for one hour during the event, please contact [Paulette Doudoukjian](#). Thank you!



Calling Birchwood gardeners and nature-lovers! Join us next Tuesday (4/16) after early dismissal to plant vegetable, herb, and flower seeds in compostable containers which you can take home to nurture until it's time to plant them at Birchwood later this spring! There will be other Earth Day-themed activities as well. This a free event. Register on the [PTO website](#) or return the flier/permission slip by Monday!

[Birchwood Nature Club Seed Planting](#)

Tues., April 16th, 10:45-11:45am

Questions? [Kim McClive-Reed](#) or [Deb Foley](#)

Budget update...The 2013-2014 school budget was adopted at Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting. Read about it [HERE](#). Thank you to everyone who has spoken up throughout this process! Fortunately, school closure is NOT on the list of budget cuts. However, the school budget must be **PASSED BY 60% of Niskayuna voters on May 21st**, or deeper cuts and a school closure are back on the table. Please plan to vote! Also, it's not too late to [contact your elected officials](#) to lobby for better funding for our school district.

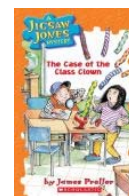
Popcorn Friday tomorrow! 50 cents for popcorn at snack time.

School banking tomorrow, 7:45-8:30am. Our CapCom representative will be there, so you can [open new accounts](#) (Birchwood will earn \$5!), and kids can enter the [Police Week Drawing Contest](#) to support local police departments. Eight winners will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Deadline for entries is April 30th. Remind your kids to stop by school banking tomorrow to pick up an entry form or deposit money! Questions? [Fran Hill](#)

Due to budget cuts, the school district's print shop is likely to be eliminated next year, making **school directories** (which contain contact information of students' families) more expensive for PTO's to print. The district would like your feedback about directories:

[Take the survey](#)

Author James Preller is coming to Birchwood on April 30th! Preller is the author of the popular Jigsaw Jones mystery series and other great chapter books and picture books (preview them [HERE](#)). Order forms for Preller's books will come home in backpacks--order one, and your child can have him sign it! Questions? [Mrs. Disque](#) or parent volunteer [Kyra Zonderman](#).



April at a glance:

Tues., April 16th -- 10:45am dismissal (professional development)

Tues., April 16th, 10:45-11:45am -- Nature Club Seed Planting ([INFO](#))

April 16, 17, & 18th -- NY State Assessments in ELA for 3rd-5th grade

Fri., April 19th, 6-8pm -- Birchwood Fun Fair ([INFO](#))

Mon., April 22nd -- After-School Book Club meeting ([INFO](#))

Tues., April 23rd, 7pm -- Board of Education meeting ([INFO](#))

Wed., April 24th -- Last day to order for Kids' Art/Photo fundraiser ([INFO](#))

April 24, 25, & 26th -- NY State Assessments in Math for 3rd-5th grade

Tues., April 30th -- Visiting author James Preller

See all events on the [school calendar](#) or PRINT the [April school calendar](#) (pdf).



[April Lunch Menu](#)



The kids' artwork fundraiser is underway! Order forms went home in backpacks and you can print an extra copy here (print p. 2):

[Kid Art / Photo Fundraiser order form](#)

Also note these [guidelines for artwork and digital image submission](#).

Have your child's artwork or photo printed on lots of cool items including iPad cases, coasters, keepsake boxes, puzzles, and more! Samples will be available at the Fun Fair. Orders are due April 24th, and items will be delivered the week of May 6th (in time for Mother's Day, so these are great gifts for moms and grandmothers!). Questions? Contact parent volunteers [Kim McClive-Reed](#) or [Brian Meservey](#).



The NEW After-School Book Club will meet Mon., April 22nd from 2:15-3:00pm in the Media Center. All Birchwood readers are welcome to join! Just return this [permission slip](#) to the Main Office by next Thurs., April 18th. April's book is "The Mysterious Benedict Society" by Trenton Lee Stewart. Questions? [Pam Ober](#) (ph. 785-8729).



Remember NYS Assessments in the areas of English Language Arts and Math take place in the next two weeks for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Please avoid planned absences if possible, and make sure your child is well-rested and ready to do their best!

ELA: April 16, 17, 18

Math: April 24, 25, 26

If you have questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher or [Principal Berndt](#).

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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