

Fun Fair photos, budget Q&A at Birchwood, Relay for Life, upcoming concerts, visiting author, May calendar, and more!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- April 25th



Fun, fun, fun! Thanks for coming to the Fun Fair! We hope you and your family had a great time. Thanks to parent volunteers Paulette Doudoukjian and Tara McKenna for their time and devotion in pulling the whole event together (twice!). Photos and more thank-you's below.

Please tell us what you thought! Your feedback will help us make future Birchwood events even better.

[FUN FAIR SURVEY](#)



Come hear what Birchwood musicians have accomplished this year. The Elementary District Orchestra performs next Thurs., May 2nd at 7:00pm, and the District Band concert is the following Wed., May 8th at 7:00pm. Both concerts take place in the Niskayuna High School auditorium, and are free and open to the public. Enjoy an evening of music and be proud of our 5th grade music students!

School budget Q&A at Birchwood next Wed., May 1st at 6:30pm--you're invited! The Superintendent of Schools, Susan Kay Salvaggio, will be presenting information about the school budget at next week's PTO meeting. As you may know, **the school budget goes to a vote on Tues., May 21st**, and will only pass if 60% of Niskayuna residents vote "YES". If the budget doesn't pass, deeper cuts and school closures will have to be considered again. Please come next Wednesday to learn about this important vote.

[READ MORE](#)

[Budget fact sheet](#)

(printable 1-page pdf...print it / share it / post it!)

Join the "Birchwood PALS" team for Relay for Life on June 14th! This American Cancer Society walking event takes place at the Niskayuna High School track--opening ceremonies at 7pm. Join at least 28 other teams to honor cancer survivors, remember lost loved ones, and raise awareness about cancer prevention. If you'd like to PARTICIPATE or DONATE, visit the team webpage:

[Relay for Life--Birchwood PALS](#)

Also, if you're picking up or going out for dinner tonight (Thurs.), head to UNO's [with this flier](#) and 20% of your bill goes toward our team fundraising goal! Questions? [Deb Foley](#)

Mmmm...popcorn! 50 cents for popcorn at snack tomorrow,



Popcorn Friday.



School Banking tomorrow--new accounts welcome! Your child can [start earning money](#) with their spring report card. Need convincing? Ask a student with a bank account how much they love earning and saving their own money! Also, turn in drawings for the [Police Week Drawing Contest](#) tomorrow (or at a branch location by April 30th) to support local police departments.

Author James Preller visits Birchwood next Tuesday! Time to re-read a Jigsaw Jones book, or check out Preller's [blog](#).



Are your seeds sprouting? If your child attended the seed planting event last week, remember to keep watering and nurturing those seedlings!

Remember you can listen to two of Mr. Parisi's first graders recite the **Pledge of Allegiance at 6am on WGNA 107.7** tomorrow (Fri) and Mon. You can also listen to Ms. Castren's class sing their anti-bullying song on [WGNA.com](#).

Missing something? Please check Birchwood's lost and found table in the front hall before next Wednesday, when a big load will be taken to Goodwill.

Mr. West's ASEP "Run for Fun" make-up class will be May 1st.

PTO at work... If you've ever ventured into the staff lounge, you might have noticed the staff's refrigerator was held together by duct tape...thanks to a PTO "intervention" and a generous donation from [Marcella & Son](#), the staff refrigerator has been replaced!

May at a glance:

Tomorrow, Fri., April 26th -- Last day of NY State Assessments for 3rd-5th grade

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

Wed., May 1st, 6:30pm -- Birchwood PTO meeting -- Budget Q&A

Thurs., May 2nd, 7pm -- 5th Grade District Orchestra Concert, Niskayuna High

Tues., May 7th, 7pm -- Board of Education budget hearing, Van Antwerp MS

Wed., May 8th, 7pm -- 5th Grade District Band Concert, Niskayuna High

Thurs., May 9th -- "SlapStick Science" school assembly

Thurs., May 9th, 6:00pm -- Kindergarten orientation

Fri., May 10th -- Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea

May 13th-14th -- Kindergarten screening

Thurs., May 16th, 6:00-7:30pm -- Birchwood Poetry Night

Sat., May 18th -- Niska-Day

Tues., May 21st -- School Budget Voting at Niskayuna High, 7am-9pm ([INFO](#))

Fri., May 24th -- 5th Grade Friendship Games

Mon., May 27th -- NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)

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



[April Lunch Menu](#)



**THANK YOU FUN FAIR
PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

Patty Bateman, Laura Biaglow, Colleen Abercrombie-Castle, Tim Castle, Ivy Cooper, Jenn DiCerbo, Stepanos Doudoukjian, Cheryl Gerstler, Charles & Jane Farina, Deb Foley, Daniel Fromowitz, Stefanie Harrison, Amy & Tom Jasiewicz, Carolyn Kerr, Paula Negri, Michelle Mendrysa, Richard Mizenko, Kris O'Brien, Laura & Kevin O'Connor, Gina Potfora, Dave & Michelle Rosowsky, Katrine Rush, Jennifer Sargent, Bella Schiavi, Deb Toy, Kathleen Vermilyea, Stephanie Vernoooy, Sonya Ward, and popcorn-poppers Jill Appert, Diane Schroeder, and Connie Rumsey.



FUN FAIR - SPECIAL THANKS

To Laura Henniger (School Nurse) and Kristen Schiavi (parent volunteer) for organizing the staff raffle, and a HUGE thank you to all the Birchwood staff who donated great prizes!

To Amy Jasiewicz, Kitchen Coordinator.

To Laurie St. Jeanos, Tracy Lasek, and Pam Ober for coordinating games, and all the awesome 5th grade students who ran them! Thanks to Laura Mirkovic and the Cross Fit gang.

To the 3rd graders who devoted time at the "Paws for the Park" table, and thank you to everyone who donated for a paw!

To Birchwood staff for making the Fun Fair possible: Principal Berndt, Beth Disque, Barbara SanAngelo, Susan Dorries, Al Garrison, Sara Tiffany, Cindy Vogel



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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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