

Poetry Open Mic Night, orchestra concert TONIGHT, Preller pics, May lunch menu, and more!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- May 2nd

**Coming to a cafeteria near you...Birchwood's 3rd Annual Poetry "Open Mic" Night!
Thurs., May 16, 6:00-7:30pm**

Birchwood's Poetry "Open Mic" Night
It should be quite a sight.
Come one, come all,
It doesn't matter if you're big or small.
We'd love to hear what you have to say.
In the café on the 16th of May!

Students are invited to read their favorite poem or write one of their own to share. Family, friends, and staff are welcome to attend (get your snapping fingers ready!). Please return the sign-up form by Wed., May 8th:

[Poetry Open Mic Night Sign Up](#)

The After-School Book Club continues this month with book-talk, games, and snacks! May's book is "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" by Jacqueline Kelly. The group meets Thurs., May 30th, 2:15-3:00pm in the Media Center. All students are welcome! If your child would like to participate, just return this [permission slip](#) by 5/28. Questions? [Pam Ober](#).



Last night Matt Bourgeois, Asst. Superintendent for Business for Niskayuna Schools, spoke to Birchwood parents and staff about the proposed school budget. If you missed the meeting, read (and share!) the [budget fact sheet](#) and please mark your calendar to **VOTE on Tues., May 21st at Niskayuna High**. Polls will be open from 7am until 9pm. [READ MORE](#)

Thank you to everyone who contacted elected officials to advocate for better school funding...**IT WORKED!** Mr. Bourgeois reported that advocacy efforts got the attention of legislators and the press, and as a result, our school district will be awarded an additional \$100,000 in state aid.

Birchwood's team--the "Birchwood PALS"--will be walking in the Relay for Life on June 14th. The American Cancer Society event honors cancer survivors and lost loved ones, and raises awareness about cancer prevention. If you'd like to PARTICIPATE or

DONATE, visit the team webpage:

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

Questions? [Deb Foley](#)



Good luck tonight, 5th grade orchestra students! Our musicians will be performing at Niskayuna High School at 7pm. The concert is free and open to the public. (4th grade student musicians will perform during school on Wed., May 15th.)

Thanks for your input on the Fun Fair! We're still collecting responses (and yes! we've learned the face-painting line was too long and the playground ban was a bust), so please complete the survey if you haven't already. Tell us your faves about the Fun Fair and your suggestions for improvement!

[FUN FAIR SURVEY](#)

Birchwood students have raised \$88 with Paws for the Park! Thank you to everyone who has donated! Check out the colorful display of "paws" hanging in the cafeteria. You can still get a paw by enclosing \$1 (labeled "Paws") in an envelope for Faith Foley--3 S. The students would love to reach \$100!

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



Need a little help with those seedlings? Learn about [caring for seedlings indoors](#). The Nature Club will be announcing a planting event soon!

May at a glance:

TONIGHT, Thurs., May 2nd, 7pm -- District Orchestra Concert, Niskayuna HS

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

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

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

Wed., May 15th -- Box Tops sheets due ([PRINT](#))

Thurs., May 16th, 6:00-7:30pm -- Birchwood Poetry Night ([INFO](#))

Sat., May 18th -- Niska-Day

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

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

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

Thurs., May 30th -- After-School Book Club ([INFO](#))

A calendar for the month of May 2013 from Niskayuna. It lists various lunch items for each day of the week, including options like 'Turkey Sandwich', 'Chicken Sandwich', 'Salmon Sandwich', 'Pasta', 'Sandwich', 'Salad', 'Pizza', 'Burger', 'Hot Dog', 'Taco', 'Burrito', 'Smoothie', 'Milk', 'Apples', 'Bananas', 'Grapes', 'Oranges', 'Carrots', 'Cucumbers', 'Tomatoes', 'Lettuce', 'Onions', 'Garlic', 'Herbs', 'Spices', 'Nuts', 'Seeds', 'Grains', 'Legumes', 'Dairy', 'Meat', 'Fish', 'Eggs', 'Vegetables', 'Fruits', 'Breads', 'Desserts', 'Drinks', 'Snacks', 'Miscellaneous'.

[May Lunch Menu](#)



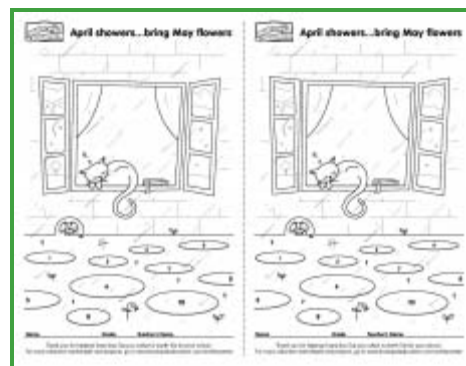
Congrats to Birchwood's winners in the Niskayuna Co-op Brown Bag Art Contest

Nature club kids decorated brown bags for the co-op contest last week, and these students won gift cards for TCBY. If you shopped at the co-op on Earth Day, you may have had your groceries packed in one of the colorful bags decorated by local students!

- Gwen Biaglow (Kindergarten)
- Susan Ward (1st Grade)
- Jane Biaglow (2nd Grade)
- Jessie Reed (3rd Grade)
- Ronan Menon (4th Grade)
- Madeleine Castle (5th Grade)



Birchwood students listen to author



BOX TOPS MAY COLLECTION

We all know

[April Showers Bring May Flowers](#), right?

Clicking the link, printing the sheet, and filling it with Box Tops logos will bring \$2 to Birchwood! AND it's fun (especially if you color it in). AND you might win a prize!

Only two more drawings this year--the next one is May 17th, so turn in sheets by Wed., May 15th.



Look for me on grocery items!

[Click to see where you might find me!](#)



A few lucky students had dessert with

James Preller (Jigsaw Jones, Along Came Spider, etc.) on Tuesday.

Preller in the Media Center. Thanks to Mrs. Disque and parent volunteer Kyra Zonderman for organizing his visit!

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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