

Upcoming events at Birchwood--poetry reading, ice cream social, Niska-Day parade and more!

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Weekly bulletin -- May 9th

Has your child chosen or written a poem for Birchwood's 3rd Annual Poetry Open Mic Night? Thurs., May 16, 6:00-7:30pm...You can still turn in a [Poetry Open Mic Night Sign Up](#) sheet tomorrow (Fri)!

*Roses are red, violets are blue
If you are bored, write a poem or two
Share them on Birchwood's Open mic night
You will then see that we are right.
All will snap their fingers for you...
In the cafeteria, May 16th, in full view...*

Another fun Birchwood event is coming up--the Ice Cream Social is Fri., June 7th, 6-8pm! Join us for a relaxing and sweet end-of-year gathering. The event is free--we just need some parents to help out (set up, serve from 6-7pm, serve from 7-8pm, clean up), so let us know if you can volunteer.

[Ice Cream Social Volunteer Sign Up](#) (print & return to main office)

- or - [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up online



Birchwood loves its parent volunteers!

...And there are still some leadership positions open for next year--for instance, you could be VP of Fundraising, help coordinate the 1,000 Book Kid or School Banking program, or help organize a fun school event like the Back-to-School BBQ or Monster Mash. You could even be PTO Co-President! To step up to one of these positions, go to the [2013-14 PTO Volunteer Sign Up](#). If you'd like more information, explore the [PTO website](#) or just [email the PTO](#) and we can help you find a place. Check out all the folks who have volunteered already!! [2013-14 PTO Volunteers](#)

Calling all next year's chairs and coordinators! There will be a 2013-14 PTO Planning Meeting next Wed., May 15th at 7pm at Birchwood. Please come! This is the time to review a preliminary budget for next year, learn a few procedures (even if you are continuing in your current position), and collectively strategize our requests for donations

from local businesses. Committee members are not required to attend, but are welcome—as are any parents who are interested in planning for next year! RSVP to Deb Foley (deb.foley4@gmail.com) by Monday.

At today's "Slapstick Science" school assembly, Dr. Quinton Quark will creatively teach students about energy, simple machines, and how simple machines can do "Much Work with Little Effort." Ask your child what they learned!

On Wed., May 15th at 9am, **4th grade strings** players will present a mini-musical for the school called Aunt Rhodie's Appetite...with special faculty guests!

How many people do you know in Niskayuna? How can you remind them ALL to vote on the school budget on Tues., May 21st? Polls will be open from 7am - 9pm at the high school. Voting "yes" will raise our taxes (by about \$23/mo. on a \$250,000 house) but voting "no" will result in drastic cuts in the school budget and possibly school closure.

[Budget Fact Sheet](#)

Also at the polls on May 21st, you can cast your vote on three Board of Education seats. Learn about the candidates [HERE](#).

Niska-Day is coming up on May 18th, and Birchwood kids are invited to march in the parade! [Permission slips](#) went home this week. If you'd like to help "corral" kids during the parade, email Kim McClive-Reed (kmcclive@yahoo.com).

The Buy-One-Get-One-Free Book Fair is coming June 5-7th. Students get great deals on summer reading! The book fair will be open at school and during the Ice Cream Social on Fri. evening, June 7th. We'll be seeking a few parent helpers (nothing cuter than helping eager readers make their strategic choices!)—look for the flier coming home in backpacks.

School banking tomorrow (Fri.), 7:45-8:30am. Read about CapCom's school banking program [HERE](#).

The After-School Book Club will discuss "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" by Jacqueline Kelly on 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](#).



May at a glance:

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, 7pm -- 2013-14 PTO planning meeting

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

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

Sat., May 18th -- Niska-Day (parade at 10am) ([Permission Slip](#))

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](#))



[May Lunch Menu](#)

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](#)



BOX TOPS MAY COLLECTION

[April Showers Bring May Flowers,](#)

Turn in your Box Tops (stuck to this sheet or even in an envelope!) to the Main Office by Wed., May 15th.

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 by Sunday night of the week you want it to appear.

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