

Next year's PTO officers...REVEALED! Early dismissal TODAY. And a host of other end-of-year reminders (don't be frightened...).

# **BIRCHWOOD**

## **ELEMENTARY**

### **Weekly bulletin -- June 6th** *Special Edition...Next year's PTO preview!*

Good news--we have filled all PTO leadership positions for 2013-14! Thank you to these parents for stepping up. Read on to learn a little about each of them. Officers must be confirmed by a vote at the last PTO meeting--**Mon., June 10th, at 7pm**. All parents welcome to attend! We also extend our thanks to the many, many parents who have volunteered to help next year ([view list](#)). And thank you to Pam Ober for taking on next year's Birchwood weekly bulletin!

Co-President: Deb Foley

Co-President: David Apkarian

VP for Programs and Services: Sonya Ward

VP for Fundraising: Lynn Boler

Treasurer: Jenn Sargent

Secretary: Tracy Lasek

**Deb Foley** is seeking a 2nd term as Co-President. She and her husband Mike have two children, Faith (3rd grade) and Connor (1st grade). In addition to volunteering for a variety of Birchwood PTO committees, Deb serves on the Russell Sage College Alumnae Association Board of Directors as secretary and volunteers with the Girl Scouts. An advocate for enriching the elementary school experience and Birchwood Elementary, Deb is looking forward to continuing her work with fellow parent volunteers to make 2013-14 another great year for our kids.

**David Apkarian** has been nominated for the position of Co-President. He is CEO of TransTech Systems, Inc., and sits on a number of national and local Boards. He has two children at Birchwood: Abigail (5th grade) and Zachary (2nd grade). His wife Tammy is also an active PTO volunteer and will step in for David when his work requires him to be out of the country. David feels it's important to be involved in the community and imperative to support local schools. He feels Birchwood is one of the best!

**Sonya Ward**, originally from Germany, has lived in Niskayuna since 2006. She has two children, Andrew (4th grade) and Susan (1st grade). To stay involved in her children's education, she began volunteering in the library, classroom, and for the Birchwood yearbook. Continuing all these roles, she then stepped up to serve as PTO Co-President this year. She looks forward to continuing her involvement and supporting the PTO next

year as VP for Programs and Services. She has found it a pleasure to work alongside a talented pool of parent volunteers and the Birchwood staff, and has made great friends along the way.

**Lynn Boler** has been nominated for the position of VP of fundraising. She works part-time as an ophthalmologist at the Veteran's hospital in Albany. She and her husband, Jim, have four children including three at Birchwood: Sophia (3rd grade), Erin (2nd grade), and Allison (Kindergarten). They also have a three-year old boy, Thomas. Lynn believes in supporting education in any and every way possible.

**Jenn Sargent** is the accounting manager for ReEnergy Holdings, LLC. She has been working in accounting for 15 years and is seeking a 2nd term as Treasurer for the Birchwood PTO. She has a 2nd grader at Birchwood, Justin, and stepped in mid-year last year to serve as PTO Treasurer, despite being relatively new to the school. She and her family look forward to many great years ahead at Birchwood.

**Tracy Egan Lasek** has held the position of PTO Recording Secretary since the spring of 2010. She has two daughters attending Birchwood: Jackie (5th grade) and Catie (4th grade). Tracy is a former elementary school teacher who now teaches college courses. She enjoys her role as the Recording Secretary because it allows her to be a part of the PTO team and to have an active role in shaping a productive and enjoyable experience for her daughters at Birchwood.

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**TODAY -- 10:45am dismissal.**

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**TOMORROW (Fri., June 7th, 6-8pm) is the Ice Cream Social!** Bounce house, giant slide, baked goods, face painting, and lots of outside fun...Everything is FREE! Just bring money if you want to shop at the book fair. In case of rain, outdoor activities will be canceled, but the event goes on! Kindergarten and 3rd grade families are asked to bring baked goods.

Questions? [Pam Ober](#) or [JoMarie Ethier](#)  
[Flier](#) | [Volunteer Sign Up](#)

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**Today and tomorrow are buying days at the "Buy-One-Get-One-Free" book fair!** You are welcome to come in during your child's class buying time. The book fair will also be open at the Ice Cream Social for more great deals (but note that items are only available while supplies last). Questions? [Fran Hill](#)

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June at a glance:

**TODAY, Thurs., June 6th -- 10:45am dismissal (professional development)**

June 5th-7th -- "Buy-One-Get-One-Free" Book Fair ([VOLUNTEER](#))

Fri., June 7th -- Ice Cream Social ([INFO](#) | [VOLUNTEER](#))

Fri., June 7th -- All library materials due

Mon., June 10th, 7:00pm -- Special (short) PTO meeting at Birchwood

Tues., June 11th, 8:15am -- Volunteer reception

Thurs., June 13th -- Birchwood Field Day (rain date: Fri., June 14th)

Tues., June 18th -- School budget re-vote

**Fri., June 21st -- Last day of school, 10:45am dismissal**



[June Lunch Menu](#)



**Two important notes from  
Birchwood's Health Office:**

1. Encourage your child to drink lots of water! Most children only drink a few ounces at lunch time. Poor hydration is a major source of headaches. Avoid sodas and fruit juices which add excess sugar and caffeine. Also, a healthy breakfast (even a shake or healthy drink) kick-starts your child's metabolism in the morning. Skipping breakfast can lead to nausea, headaches, irritability and belly pain. It's true: breakfast is the most important meal of the day!

2. Parents of children entering Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 4th grade: New York State Education Law mandates that students at these levels have a physical examination. This may be done by the student's own physician or by the school district's physician. Exams done any time in the past year (after Sept. 4th, 2012) can be accepted. Questions? [Laura Henniger](#), school nurse.



**Niskayuna budget revote is  
June 18th.**

**Revised tax levy is below the cap.  
The budget still needs 50% to pass!**

You can learn more at a public meeting on June 11 at 7:30pm in the Van Antwerp auditorium. Information will also be shared via the School News Notifier System ([SNN](#)), the district's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/NiskayunaCSD](http://www.facebook.com/NiskayunaCSD)) and their website ([www.niskayunaschools.org](http://www.niskayunaschools.org)).



**Thank you, 5th graders!**

The 5th grade class is using funds they raised to donate a maple tree to Birchwood, plus a gift card to the school's new [Nature Park](#).

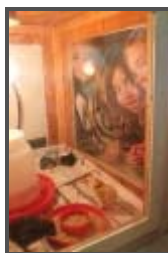


**ATTENTION BIRCHWOOD  
PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

All parents who volunteered at Birchwood during this school year are invited to a reception on **Tues., June 11th at 8:15am.** (*PSSST....You won't want to miss this event. Your child might not be telling you about it, but you'll be delighted by the special performance they are planning.*) Birchwood school loves its parent volunteers!



**TOMORROW  
School banking  
- and -  
Popcorn Friday!**



**What's your child's favorite  
Birchwood memory?**

Submit their drawings (pencil, colored pencil, or markers) to decorate next year's school directory! Scan and email them to: Shereen Tate ([fivetates@nycap.rr.com](mailto:fivetates@nycap.rr.com)) - OR - [PRINT](#) and return to the Main Office. The school directory is an immensely useful resource



**Elementary Instrumental Music  
Program**

Next year's 4th and 5th graders are invited to join beginning band, orchestra, and music lessons. If you missed the information night last night, you can contact Mrs. Brown ([jbrown@niskyschools.org](mailto:jbrown@niskyschools.org)).



**Relay for Life is Friday night, June 14th!** You can still walk with the "Birchwood PALS" in this American Cancer Society event at the Niskayuna High School track. Or contribute to the team's fundraising effort!

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

Questions? [Deb Foley](#)



**Field day is next Thursday, June 13th** (rain date is June 14th). Lots of outdoor fun for all grades! Please remember to apply sunscreen and have your child bring lots of water (in a labeled water bottle). They can wear a swimsuit under their clothing. Lunch options same as regular days (buy or bring). Thanks to the Mirkovic family for sponsoring a visit from

with contact information for all school families, as well as class lists, faculty and staff names, school calendar, and more. If you need to update your contact information, click here: [Birchwood Directory update](#) - OR - [PRINT](#) and return to the Main Office.

Mr. Ding-a-Ling!

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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