

Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

April 11, 2024

Dates to Remember:

Friday, April 12 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop Day

Tuesday, April 16 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting @ 4:00

Tuesday, April 16 ~ Kindergarten Round Up!

Tuesday, April 23 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5th

Wednesday, April 24 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5th

Thursday, April 25 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5th

Friday, May 3 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop Day

Monday, May 6 ~ Climb Theater show for K-5

Tuesday, May 7 ~ MAP testing for K-5

Wednesday, May 8 ~ MAP testing for K-5

Thursday, May 9 ~ MAP testing for K-5

Wednesday, May 15 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip 2-5th

Thursday, May 16 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip for 2-5th

Thursday, May 16 ~ 911 for Kids! - Saplings & K/1

Friday, May 17 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip 2-5th

Saturday, May 18 ~ Gala for the Grove!

Mission Statement:

Birch Grove Community School will promote academic excellence utilizing our unique natural setting to prepare students to become socially and environmentally responsible, self-directed, life-long learners.

From Ms. Diane Blanchette:

School Director, Birch Grove Community School

Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

Another week has gone by quickly! Please remember that there is no school tomorrow, Friday, April 12, as it is a scheduled teacher professional development/workshop day. We look forward to seeing our students and Saplings back on Monday of next week.

Next week, Tuesday, April 16, is Kindergarten Round Up day! It's not too late to register! Call 218-663-0170 or email birchgrove@boreal.org if you or someone you know is interested in sending their child to experience a ½ day of kindergarten at Birch Grove Community School. Yee haw!

Along with Kindergarten Round Up, our current students will be "stepping up" to experience what next year may look like for them. The current kindergarteners will share their room with the newbies from Kindergarten Round Up, the current first graders will move to the 2/3 room, etc. Each student will either be moving to a new classroom, or they will become top dogs in their room with "new" students coming in. Step-Up Day starts right away in the morning and ends after recess. This is a day that many students look forward to!

Winter gear is no longer needed – for sure no snowpants! Send your child in layers though if you can, then children can take off layers if they are too hot! Warmer jackets are still advised.



Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! special after school program "spring session" is full. We look forward to spring adventures!

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Birch-Buddies>

Thank you so much to avid hikers Sara Knottski, K/1 teacher, and Gayle Grinnell, paraprofessional and LPN, for creating Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! Your enthusiasm for North Shore hiking adventures is positively affecting our K-5 students and the Birch Buddies program!

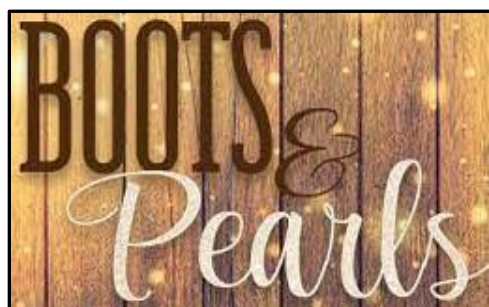
Incredible! We posted earlier in the year that the Tofte General Store donated fresh fruits and fresh vegetables to the BG hot lunch program the months of November-January. They doubled down and continued to provide this and then announced that they will be doing so until the end of the school year. Wow! That's almost an entire school year of free fresh fruits and fresh vegetables for BGCS! Thank you so much TOFTE GENERAL STORE!





Look who stopped by BGCS today! Lloyd Chase and Deonn Cicak donated \$500 to Birch Grove Community School. Thank you so much for your support! If you see them, thank them again, please! The West End support this year has been incredible!

The Grand Marais State Bank - Tofte is the first sponsor to the Gala for the Grove 2024 with \$1,000 sponsorship! Thank you so much! More sponsors are needed for the event, so if you know of a business or couples/individuals that may like to sponsor this fundraiser (there are varied sponsorship tiers), please call 218-663-01760 or see more information at: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove> Sponsorships come with tickets that you can use or give away!



Saturday, May 18! Ticket/meal choice forms are now available: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove> This spirited fundraiser for Birch Grove Community School, is semi-formal and held in the beautiful Lakeside Ballroom at Surfside in Tofte. The theme this year is "Boots & Pearls!" - think fancy Western! Enjoy champagne, appetizers, a fine dinner with wine, and an enthusiastic live auction. Join other supporter for a great night out in support of BGCS!

Please have your child read (or be read to) a minimum of 20-30 minutes per day/night. If there is one thing that you can do at home that has a huge positive impact on your child's academic growth, this is it! Happy reading!



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

birchgrove@boreal.org ~ 218-663-0170

Website: www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftware.com/> You can use GRAB15 for 15% off and free shipping for orders over \$125



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**From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

It feels like spring here at Birch Grove and the Saplings have been noticing extra bird activities, the sprouting of daffodils, emergence of worms and warmer temperatures. They are definitely noticing the meltdown and seem eager for the new season!

Special guest and community member, Dave Gustafson, joined us for some musical experience this week. The Saplings practiced singing songs with him and started to write a song about their experiences during this school year. He left feeling pretty impressed by their singing skills and said "we might have some future musicians on our hands"!

As usual, social emotional learning and friendship building skills have been occurring daily with various books, activities, gym and outdoor play. The Saplings also explored the letter "O" this week, as we continue on our alphabet journey.

Next week on Tuesday April 16, Kindergarten Round Up will take place and those that will be 5 by September 1 are gearing up for it with enthusiasm. Those Saplings registered will join our elementary program for the first half of the day and will return to the Saplings class in the afternoon - it will be a big day!

Have a good weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

This week started poorly with the weather ruining our solar eclipse party. Nevertheless, the students learned a lot about the moon and the solar eclipse. They learned about the different phases of the moon and how the moon changes on a 28-day cycle. They made a moon phase book! Ask them about the different phases of the moon!

In math, K/1 is learning about time and money, and adding and subtracting. This is a good time of the year to get refreshers on what we learned at the beginning of the year. We will review number lines, place value, telling time to the 5 minutes, and counting all change.

In language arts, we are practicing our writing. We are really focused on the mechanics of writing such as capitalization, correct letter formation, spacing, spelling, punctuation, etc. I have seen big gains from the beginning of the year!

We have had a major winter meltdown this week! This has led to puddles! Make sure your student is equipped with rain boots, a jacket, gloves, and a hat so they can play! A lot of children are going home wet because they are playing hard! Please check their clothes and make sure to send them back dry the next day.

Please continue to work with your child on reading, writing, and math needs that we discussed at conferences! Together we can ensure success!

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

It has been such a great week. It feels like we have hit a groove as we prepare for testing that is coming up. Students are expressing so much excitement about learning new material and the last month of school. We are wrapping up our big research project and they have started to present this week!

In math, third grade has been prepping for MCA testing with old testing questions while reviewing concepts for the next grade. This has been exciting and rewarding as they prepare themselves for the first year of taking this state test. Second grade has continued to multiplication concepts and has intrigued the students. I can't wait to keep building upon these skills and understanding the rest of the year.

In language arts, we have been hitting the vocabulary words hard this week. We spend a lot of time building semantic mapping with the words, using them in sentences, and building connections to increase understanding. We paired this week's reading with a timeline graphic organizer that highlights sequence of events while helping students check their own comprehension while reading. We continue with small group readings and independent instruction where students need to refresh on skills.

Enjoy your weekend!

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From Ms. Laurie Roberts

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

As the teacher of the 4/5 classroom, I have a bit of a problem. But I think that you will agree with me that it is a good problem to have! The “problem” is that most of the kids in the class come to school every day with chapter books that they enjoy reading. I don’t mean just one book, but they are into reading a STACK of books, all at the same time! They enjoy the challenge of following more than one storyline at a time. I am not sure how they keep track of it all, but they do. They also enjoy discussing what they are reading with each other, and have inspired their classmates to read what they are reading. The students are often seen sharing and trading books. I know that they would be thrilled if I would just throw my lesson plans for the day out the window so that they can just sit and read! Hopefully in mid-May, when testing is over, I can make their wish come true, even if just for an hour or two. I have never seen a class that loves to read quite as much as this one, and it is a wonderful problem to have!

As testing season nears, (MCA’s 4/23-4/26, MAPS 5/8 & 5/10) we will be reviewing language arts and math concepts daily. Students are feeling proud of themselves and more confident as they are starting to realize how much they have learned this year, and how far they have come. I plan to have “Student/Teacher” conferences this week and next to show each student some data about their progress this year in reading and math. It is important for them to see that when they come to school and do their work each day, they do make progress!

Have a good weekend!

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