

Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

April 25, 2024

Dates to Remember:

- 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 2nd/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*

3rd-5th graders worked hard on completing the MCA's (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) this week. Thanks to families for seeing that test takers got extra sleep the night before the test! Testers started out their morning with a great breakfast (thank you, Angie) and a pep talk from Data Assessment Coordinator, Sara Knottski. Thanks also to Sara Knottski and Jessica Klemmer test administrators, as well as the rest of the staff for making these days smoooooth. The building was quiet (thanks to Saplings, K/1, and grade 2). Thanks to the classroom teachers for all of the hard work leading up to these days! It was a TEAM effort! Kudos to all the staff and students at Birch Grove!

Please note that the NWEA-MAP testing is coming up soon (see Dates to Remember above). We ask that all families, K-5, see to it that students get extra sleep the night before the tests – it helps if they

are well rested. Breakfast will be served to all K-5 students each morning before testing. We look forward to our students having the opportunity to show off their “big brains”! Please reinforce at home that students should take their time and do their best work – thank you!



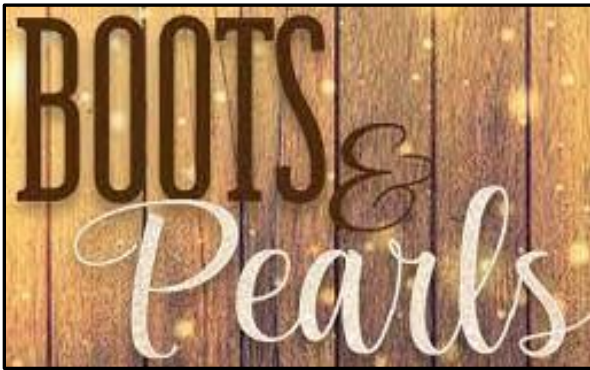
Next week, Wednesday, May 1, will be the last Lantern Lunch (it looks like there is a good possibility of rain all next week). After next week, students will eat outside every Wednesday until the end of the school year (as long as it isn't raining). Please pack a lunch that does not need to be heated on these days. We look forward to eating lunch outside in the fresh air on Wednesdays!

Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! after school program hike #1 was Caribou Falls! It was a great kick off to the spring hike session!
<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Birch-Buddies>



The wood-fired oven has been fired up! K/1 used the oven last week to make personal pizzas! Thank you so much to Tofte Township for letting BGCS use the oven – we appreciated it! 2/3 and 4/5 will be using the oven soon!





Saturday, May 18! Ticket/meal choice forms are 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!

[Sponsorship so far for the 2024 Gala for the Grove:](#)

\$1,000

Grand Marais State Bank-Tofte
Lisa Hemp

\$500

Anonymous
North Shore Federal Credit Union
LaBoda Grading Inc.

\$250

Arrowhead Cooperative
Krevechenko Services LLC
Mark Buckman & Sisa Nikula



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, 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 to employees, friends or family!

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

Face Book: [Birch Grove Community School and Community Services #4145 | Facebook](#)



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**From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

Saplings were immersed in outdoor play this week. With "N" being the letter of exploration this week, Saplings dedicated some of their outdoor time in looking out for bird's nests as well. We have a grouse that has been visiting the Sapling woods regularly and we are almost certain that she is nesting somewhere close. It is so nice to see Saplings giving her space when she makes an appearance. In the picture to the right, you can see a Saplings posing with the grouse! Northwoods learning and living at its finest!



Saplings only have 3 more letters to go to finish out this year and they are very proud of their achievement. We have also started preparing for their end of the year celebration which will be happening on Wednesday, May 29th at 10:00 AM in the Saplings backyard. Please save the date and we hope to see you there!

Have a nice weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher



Sunshine, flowers, and fresh air have been wonderful for the kids this week. They are feeling spring and gaining energy from the warmer weather! For the rest of the year, we will be spending Fridays outside as long as the weather cooperates. Please ensure your child has enough layers and proper footwear to spend long periods outside. If it is cold we will still go out however we will not go out if there is lots of rain.

This week Kindergarteners are reviewing letters, reading, and practicing writing. We are spending a lot of time ensuring that kindergarten topics are concrete and we are starting to excel in our reading skills. The first graders

reviewed story structure. We read a story and identified characters, setting, the problem, and the solution in the story.

In math, we are all reviewing various topics. We are working on mastering the concepts of time, money, and measuring. We took time to play multiple whole group math games this week. It was a good review and fun!

Every Monday for the rest of the year the students will be able to collect tickets and drop them into the prize boxes. Please send their log sheet on Mondays and remember to continue to record all the hard work they have done at home!

Have a great weekend and remember to read!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

*2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week has been super odd with testing and half of the students participating in that. We have adjusted well and it was a great time to focus on skills with just one grade! I am super proud of all the 3rd graders that participated in testing this week! It was so rewarding to see how smart they all are.

We focused our week on multiplication, division, and 4-to-5-digit addition and subtracting. This was a great review week for all the second graders and we got to practice our skills. We will continue doing these 4 things until the end of the year.

The reading strategy we used this week was character traits and identifying point of view. We read a book and then each student created their own character to fit the story. It was fun to see how the story shifted and adapted when students created a character with positive or negative character traits. We spent time with possessive pronouns and longer words with long vowels. As always, we had a focus on our vocabulary words and the series of things that we do each week with them (complex sentences, task card, semantic mapping, etc.).

Lastly, we spent time on weather and climate with a focus on weather hazards and how to keep helping our earth. On Earth Day, we spent time cleaning up trash around the school. We also built weather vanes to monitor the wind. This required some trial and error but was exciting nonetheless. We are ending the week with reviewing sunlight.

Have a great weekend!

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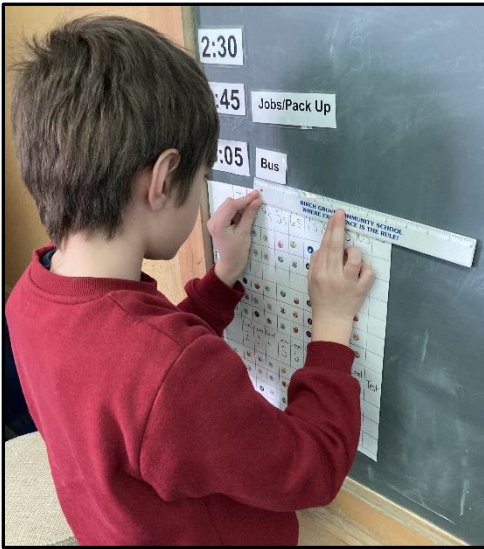
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From Ms. Laurie Roberts

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher



The main event this week for the fourth and fifth graders was MCA testing. The students tested in reading and math. Only the fifth graders tested for science. These tests measure how well students know the MN State Standards in reading, math and science. The students seemed to try their very best each day, and felt proud of their hard work. Families will receive results of the testing sometime in the fall. MAP testing is coming up on May 8th and 10th. These tests measure academic growth from this school year, fall to spring. Families will receive the results of MAP tests at the end of the school year.

We also had time this week for some of our regular academic subjects. In math and science, we are studying measurement in both the customary and metric systems. Students often wonder why we need to learn the metric system here in the U.S., and the answer to that is science! In science, the metric system is almost always used. It also helps to know a bit about the metric system if traveling to other countries. We have started with measurement of length, and will move on to capacity and weight in the next couple of weeks.

It seems that spring has arrived, and around here we all know that can mean mud! We go outside daily, so be sure that your child has outerwear that can repel rain, and boots that can go in the mud.

Happy Spring!

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