



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

March 2, 2023

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, March 16 ~ School Authorizer Site Visit
Friday, March 17 ~ Snow Day Make Up-School Is In Session!
Tuesday, March 21~ BGCS School Board Meeting 5:30
Monday-Friday, March 27-31 ~ No School, Spring Break
Friday, April 7 ~ No School, Scheduled Staff Workshop
Tuesday, April 11 Kindergarten Round Up

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:

Director, Birch Grove Community School

Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic conducted hearing and vision screenings on Tuesday for Saplings and K-5. If your child was flagged for a re-screen, you have been notified by email. Please be sure to let us know if there is anything that we should be aware of after the re-screen with your family physician.



Kindergarten Round Up has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 for children that will be starting kindergarten next year (must be 5 by September 1). All children in the Saplings program that are eligible for kindergarten next year have received invitations via Take Home Folders. If you know of a family that has a child eligible to start

kindergarten next year, please refer Birch Grove Community School to them. We appreciate endorsements from our families – you are our best PR! Please help spread the word. Thank you!

Thank you to the North House Folk School for inviting 4/5 to the Textile Traditions program. The students learned much and had a great time. Many thanks also to Joy & Company for the lessons in pastels. Go to the school Facebook page to see pictures of kids in action! You don't have to have a Facebook account to see the school page. <https://www.facebook.com/birchgrovecommunityschool>

BGCS is looking for a Saplings or K-5 parent to join the school board. It is important that we have parent representation on the board. New board member must start training within 6 months of being seated and must complete training within a year - training is provided, as is on-going training. Board members must be able to attend monthly meetings. Board meetings have just recently been changed to the third Tuesday of each month. If you are interested, please call 218-663-0170 and we can discuss it. We look forward to adding another BG parent (or two) to the board!



Picture of the Week!

For more great pictures go to our Facebook page!

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

One of the joys of living up North -
Every Friday is "Flannel Friday" at Birch Grove!
Join us by having your child wear flannel too!



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 ~ Birch Grove Community School Email

bgcommunityservice@boreal.org ~ Community Service Email

218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

Website: www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Coupon Link: <https://www.logosoftwear.com/coupons.php>

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



From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield

Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

This week the Saplings chose to learn about basketballs. We perused some basketball books together, noticing how strong basketball players look and some different moves that they do when they are playing. We went over some basics on how to play a basketball game as well. In our ABC center the Saplings were able to practice writing the word "ball" on the chalkboard! In our art center, Saplings had the choice to make a basketball out of a paper plate, orange chalk, and black paint. During free play this morning I had some Saplings start playing with a small squishy basketball, and well as you can imagine, more wanted to join in! After a minute of facilitation, the Saplings created their very own safe system of how everyone could join in and play this game. I loved seeing the teamwork as they figured this system out! After lunch each day we went to the gym and tried out bouncing basketballs, shooting them in the hoops, and passing to each other. What a great and busy week we have had!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

We are still enjoying winter! We went to build forts with the new 'sticky' melting snow. Remember to still pack winter gear for the next month. It will still be snowy and wet for a while longer.

This week, Kindergarten learned about the letter V! They have been busy learning 6 new sight words a week for the last 3 weeks. We are practicing blending words and reading every day. We are getting better at fluency and understanding. Keep practicing at home! 1st grade read a story, "Rabbit's Tale" that is similar to Chicken Little. We used those two stories to practice comparing and contrasting. We practice identifying the parts of a story. We also learned about dialog. In math, Kindergarten is finishing a unit about 3d shapes and adding and subtracting. 1st grade started a unit about time!

K/1 is recycling! In the last few weeks, we have learned about why need to recycle, what we can recycle, and what else we can do. We bought recycling bins and gave presentations around the school to promote recycling at Birch Grove. The students have learned a lot and are now recycling pros!

As a reminder, students have a lot of resources they can access at home. They have assignments that are more tailored to each student in Freckle. Students can practice reading on Raz Kids. Make sure to keep logging reading and math practice for Tickets to Treasure!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

We spent our week reviewing our phonics rules and syllable patterns as we continue to look at more complex words and growing our skills and how to decode them. The kids enjoy learning this code where they can separate and sound out long unfamiliar words.

In math, third graders have thoroughly jumped into learning about fractions. This has been more fun than I remember in the past, and I'm not even using candy. Second graders are taking the next step in place value knowledge as we look at thousands and ten thousands. Next week we will be adding and subtracting with three and four digit numbers

Our anchor text or main book of the week is a nonfiction book about trees. We've enjoyed learning about different kinds of trees that do not grow in Minnesota and but also see some favorites. In our nonfiction texts this week we've learned to help build the connection between the graphics and the text, and how they support each other to help us with understanding.

Our landmark research project is well underway we are all working on our final draft. After our final drafts are complete, we will be creating our landmark at school with clay or at home with any materials children would have at their disposal. More info is being sent home. Also coming home today is an information sheet about an art and science activity. We will need adult help with dates of our important life events

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From Mr. Jeff Hoffman

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

This week we were back into routine after enjoying ourselves at North House Folk School and Joy and Co. last week. We had the chance to read stories about robots and the perils of traveling westward during the California Gold Rush. We also started working in Scratch, a coding website run

by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). I was lucky enough to obtain Scratch coding cards during my time as a student at St. Scholastica, which allows us to be guided through different projects on the website. I have also encouraged students to experiment with different features, outside of the projects we are working on. Our math focus turned towards the aspects of measurements of time, and converting days into hours, weeks into minutes, etc.

Next week we will begin doing some of our practice work for the MCAs, which we take at the end of April. While my goal is to keep all of this preparatory work in school, I cannot completely rule out having to send some work home, especially as we get into the month of April. Our spelling and reading for next week is lesson 22. In math we will be learning more about perimeter, area, and volume. For science, we will continue to learn about energy and how it is transferred.

Don't forget to keep logging those reading minutes for Tickets to Treasure!

Have a wonderful week! Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

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