

## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 1, 2025

### Upcoming Events:

Friday, May 2 ~ Make Up Day due to Snow Day - We are in Session!

Tuesday, May 6 to Friday, May 9 ~ FastBridge Testing for K-5

Wednesday, May 14 VOA Spring Visit and School Board Meeting

Wednesday-Friday, May 14-16 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip for 2-5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, May 15 ~ 911 for Kids! (K and 1<sup>st</sup>)

Saturday, May 17 ~ Gala for the Grove!

Thursday, May 22 ~ Tickets To Treasure Drawing

Friday, May 23 ~ K-5 Field Trip to Black Beach and GrandStay Pool w/Waterslide

Monday, May 26 ~ No School-Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27 ~ Annual COLOR! Day

Wednesday, May 28 ~ K-5 Tofte Park Trip

Thursday, May 29 ~ Saplings and Seedlings Last Day

Friday, May 30 Graduation Celebration! 10:00am - ½ day of school. Release at 12:00.

### 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*

Year end FastBridge testing is next week for all students, K-5. Please ensure that your child gets plenty of sleep each night before testing. We would like our students to be well rested when taking these tests. Please also ask your child to do their best work and show off their big brains!

The end of the school year can get quite hectic and has many special events. Please make sure that your child gets some good sleep so that they are better able to navigate schedules and activities that are not the norm. Please remind your child that these special activities and events, many of them high-energy, still require our normal behavior expectations. 😊

Here is a snapshot of the Seedlings coming in from a stroll this morning after getting some fresh North Shore air! Are these guys cuties, or what? <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Seedlings-Program>

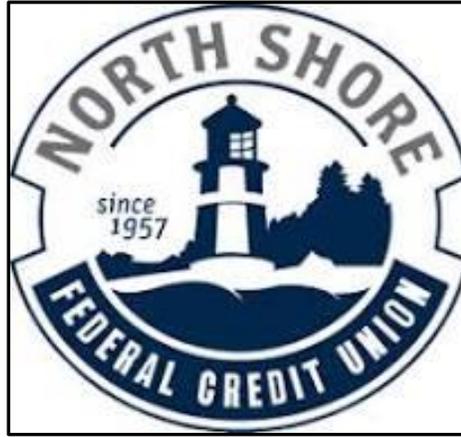


**COLOR! Day is coming!**  
**Tuesday, May 27**

## More Sponsors for the Gala for the Grove 2025!



Mark Buckman & Sisa Nikula  
\$250 Sponsorship



North Shore Federal Credit Union  
\$500 Sponsorship



McKeever Well Drilling  
\$500 Sponsorship



Anonymous through the  
NSFCU Patronage Reward Program  
\$500 Sponsorship



Roger & Jeanne Kegler  
\$250 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 218-663-0170 or see more information at: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove> Sponsorships come with event tickets that you can use or give away!



# WOLF RIDGE<sup>SM</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Going to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is a part of Birch Grove Community School's elementary program for grades 2-5 at the end of every school year! We are so excited to be able to include this incredible trip in our programming. Please look for permission slips and return them as soon as possible. This year's trip is Wednesday-Friday, May 14, 15 & 16.



The Saplings got creative and eco-friendly by transforming toilet paper rolls into bird feeders.    
We hope for many bird visitors in the Sapling's backyard!

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Saplings-Program>



## *Gala for the Grove!*

Saturday, May 17, 2025

This is Birch Grove's biggest fundraiser of the year. We hope to see many at this spirited event to support our elementary school and community service programs all while having a great time out! This year's theme is Back to the 50's!

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>

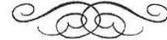
# The Gala for the Grove ~2025

Saturday, May 17



## Back to the 50's

Theme for 2025!



The *Gala for the Grove*, a spirited fundraiser for Birch Grove Community School, is semi-formal and held in the Lakeside Ballroom at Surfside in Tofte. The theme this year is "Back to the 50's"! Dress for the theme or not, the choice is yours - it will be a great time either way!

### 5:00 Champagne Social

Appetizers and champagne will be served. You can purchase tickets for items in the raffle drawing and browse live auction items to see what may catch your fancy. A cash bar is available all evening.

### 6:00 Dinner and Wine

Each dinner choice will include two glasses of red or white wine. Fine dinner choices are listed below. The raffle drawing will take place during the latter part of dinner.

### 7:00 Live Auction

Entertaining auctioneers will auction off special items live!

### Music To Follow



### Menu for the Evening:

A house salad with maple-Dijon dressing, dinner roll, and a choice of:

\* Filet Mignon with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables or

\* Pineapple Orange Baked Cornish Game Hen with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables or

\* Teriyaki Tofu Vegetable Stir Fry with Jasmine Rice

A selection of desserts will be available

To attend, please send this form with check payable to:  
Birch Grove Community School - Post Office Box 2383 Tofte, MN 55615

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest's First and Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number and Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$75 per ticket = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed

Dinner selection - please indicate a choice for each ticket:

\_\_\_ Filet Mignon

\_\_\_ Cornish Game Hen

\_\_\_ Vegetarian Stir Fry

Your tickets will be waiting for you at the door in the names listed above. Questions? Please call the school at 663-0170 or email [birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org). Please use an additional piece of paper to include more guest names if needed.

Interested in being a *Gala for the Grove* Sponsor?

#### Sponsorship

\$1,000 Sponsorship includes 6 tickets

\$500 Sponsorship includes 4 tickets

\$250 Sponsorship includes 2 tickets

Sponsors are recognized the evening of the Gala, in the Cook County News Herald, as well as on the Gala for the Grove page on the school website. Sponsors will also receive tickets to the Gala event itself, so that you, or others of your choosing, can enjoy a night of revelry!

To become a sponsor, please send this form with a check payable to Birch Grove Community School ~ Post Office Box 2383 Tofte, MN 55615

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship Amount (see above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsorship Name (Business, Organization, Individual, Couple, etc.)

Please include what you want to have happen with your sponsorship tickets. Include a name and a meal choice for each ticket received for sponsorship. If you choose to not use the tickets, please indicate this.

Thank you and we hope to see you at the *Gala for the Grove!*

Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! after school spring session #2 was to Onion River. Water, woods, and fresh air accompanied these young hikers on their North Shore adventure!

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



Birch Buddie ~ HIKE! spring session program dates remaining:

Thursday, May 1 ~ Dyers Lake/Cramer Road

Thursday, May 8 ~ Cascade River State Park



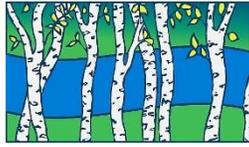
Birch Buddies ~ ART! after school program dates remaining:

Friday, May 2 ~ Moose in Birch Grove

Friday, May 9 ~ Pinecone Owl Family

Friday, May 23 ~ Paper Pulp Bowls

Please have your child read (or be read to) 20-30 minutes per day/night (or more!). 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!



[birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org)  
[www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com)

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftware.com/> You can use GRAB15 for 15% off  
Face Book: [Birch Grove Community School and Community Services #4145 | Facebook](#)



**From Ms. Emily VanDoren**

*Seedling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week was out of this world! We learned about outer space this week. Our window was decorated with planet window clings that caught the Seedlings attention and allowed us to talk about the different planet names and their colors.

We sang songs and rhymes that had references to outer space such as stars and astronauts. These songs allowed us to move our bodies and practice following directions such as "reach for the stars" and to go from sitting to standing after hearing "3,2,1, blast off!". We also read books about the planets, rocket ships, star constellations, and the moon. The older Seedlings also worked on their fine motor skills by coloring planet coloring sheets. This time was also used to introduce color names and to practice asking for "more" and saying "please".

We enjoyed both playtime in the gym this week as well as walks on the bike path. On Tuesday we saw a lot of birds that were searching the ground for worms to eat after Monday's rain. We also had a special treat of seeing a deer walk on the bike path when we took our walk on Wednesday morning. We were able to watch it for a few minutes before it walked into the woods.



Have a good weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 7  
[emily.vandorenbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:emily.vandorenbgcs@gmail.com)



## From Ms. Pam Holm

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

*April Showers Bring May Flowers* was this week's theme in the Sapling's room. It commenced with a fitting rumbling thunderstorm on Monday. I explained to them that lightning is a powerful electrical discharge that heats the air to extreme temperatures, creating a shockwave that we hear as thunder. We made rain sounds by patting our legs and clapping hands, and then imitate thunder with a loud "boom" as the storm intensifies. Given that we didn't have outside morning time, we created an indoor *Puddle Jumping* activity. The objective was for the children to figure out how to cross the puddle (hoop) without getting wet. At intervals, I would exclaim 'FREEZE! PUDDLE JUMPING TIME' and permit them to jump into the puddle.

Saplings refined their writing skills and scanned around the room for objects that began with the letter 'R'. Raindrop suncatchers made a great rainy day activity that they loved! It helped build their fine motor skills. Manipulatives for counting raindrops, lightning bolts, and cloud sizing were available for the Saplings. The writing center included an uppercase to lowercase raindrop matching activity. Moreover, rain theme puzzles were utilized to provide a foundational understanding of fractions.



Wednesday's class began with a reading of Eric Carle's *Little Cloud*, a basic picture book that explores the various shapes of a single cloud. This reading was supplemented by a lesson on the three main types of clouds:

Cirrus clouds are the high, thin, wispy clouds that you can see through.

Stratus clouds are the thick, mid-level clouds that coat the sky like a sheet.

Cumulus clouds are the puffy fair weather clouds that we see on sunny days.

In art, Saplings created their own cloud shapes inspired by *Little Cloud*.

Thursday's lesson was an engaging and interactive exploration of *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett, featuring discussions on fantastical elements, prediction activities, sequencing exercises, and food-themed writing, culminating in an umbrella craftivity with meatballs.

All week we engaged in a conversation about rain, examining the distinct sounds it produces when sprinkling, misty, or pouring. A rain stick demonstration was provided, with each child given the opportunity to use it. Following this, we worked together to craft our own rain sticks.

The end of each season is the start of the next. To celebrate May Day we had a campfire, symbolizing the arrival of spring.

218-663-0170 ext. 6

[pam.holmbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:pam.holmbgcs@gmail.com)

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

The Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders are doing their Fastbridge testing next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Make sure that they get plenty of sleep next week and remind them to take their time and try their best! I am excited to share the results with you at the end of the school year. It is always fun to see growth from the beginning of the school year to the end!

This week, K/1 reviewed all grade-level topics in math. They all did a great job remembering old topics! We played lots of games to review. In language arts, we are continuing to practice reading, writing, and spelling! It is time to focus on perfecting grade-level skills!

We are continuing to learn about plants and animals in science this week. On Monday, we learned about extreme weather and used our weather observing skills to watch the storm and listen for thunder. We explored beak features on different birds and pretended to be birds picking up seeds. We planted grass seeds in cups and are excited to watch and observe them grow over the next month. We are expecting a shipment of caterpillars to come on Friday!

Have a great weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 2

[sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com)

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

This week has been all about reviewing expectations and routines for new students as well as old students! This is all great preparation as we enter into the last month of school and we have lots fun activities planned. We presented our biography slideshows this week to the class and some other classes. It was a great way to finish up that unit. We also finished the Tale of Despereaux and will watch the movie next week after Fastbridge testing. We visited an aquarium (virtually!) and we incorporated underwater reading throughout the day to support this. Wolf Ridge is coming up and packing lists will go home next week!

Reading has focused on lots of comprehension. Second grade read a book about a magical pot that duplicated things. Third grade was reading nonfiction passages and completing



comprehension questions on those. Half of the class is reading "Because of Winn Dixie." We are hoping to wrap that up by the end of the year so we can watch the movie as well.

Second grade focused on learning multiplication and division facts up to 5 this week. We will incorporate more facts next week but I wanted to help create a good foundation for the more complex facts. Third grade focused on rounding, comparing, and writing numbers up to a million. They also practiced adding and subtracting numbers up to a million.

Keep sending warm gear and extra clothes! Students have been playing hard and getting muddy. It can get throughout the day and I want to make sure everyone stays warm and healthy!

218-663-0170 ext. 3

[samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com)

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Stacy Coronis**

*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

Warm weather is just around the corner and we are making our way through the ABC countdown to the end of the school year. We will be celebrating all of our learning this year with some end of the year projects. In reading we are continuing to practice reading fiction, nonfiction and poetry passages while working to use text evidence to make inferences to help us with our reading comprehension. We are applying these skills in our social studies unit about the Midwest Region and in science with animal research. Students are using nonfiction books and kid friendly internet research tools to find details to support main ideas of the animal that they have chosen to research. I love it when the skills we are practicing can apply to all subject areas and we are learning a lot of cool facts about animals!

In math class we are working on area this week using the formula  $A=L*W$  (area equals length times width). Students have practiced measuring the area of rectangles and composite shapes (2 or more rectangles put together). We have applied this skill to everyday life situations like carpeting a room or finding the area of a painted wall by subtracting out the area of a door frame. Since we are at the end of the school year all students who have not mastered their basic math facts are working hard to pass each level of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.



Finally, remind your child to turn in their "Tickets for Treasure" sheets for upcoming raffle drawings for prizes. Look for a packing list for our upcoming Wolf Ridge 3 day field trip!

218-663-0170 ext. 4

[stacy.coronisbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:stacy.coronisbgcs@gmail.com)