

## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 16, 2025

### Upcoming Events:

Wednesday-Friday, May 14-16 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip for 2-5<sup>th</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! 10:30am – 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*

It was another big and busy week here at Birch Grove Community School! We have two weeks of school yet that are full of special events and activities to come!

Volunteers of America-MN, our school authorizer, was on site during the school day on Wednesday and attended the May school board meeting. VOA visits us here two times a year to assess how we are doing, offer support, and gage our performance towards contract renewal. VOA is tough, but the best school authorizer out there. We appreciate our school authorizer and all that they do to support our school!





2nd-5th graders were at the long awaited annual Wolf Ridge trip this week. Reports are that they are having a great time! 2/5 are due back on site today and I can't wait to hear all of their stories (because there are *always* stories)! For some great photos of their trip, please go to the school Facebook page. I have posted a few below.





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



LaBoda Grading, Inc.  
\$500 Sponsorship



Arrowhead Cooperative  
\$250 Sponsorship

**LAMB'S RESORT  
ON LAKE SUPERIOR  
EST. 1922**

Lamb's Resort  
\$500 Sponsorship



North Shore Cubez:  
Nick Olsen & Stephanie Driskell  
\$250 Sponsorship

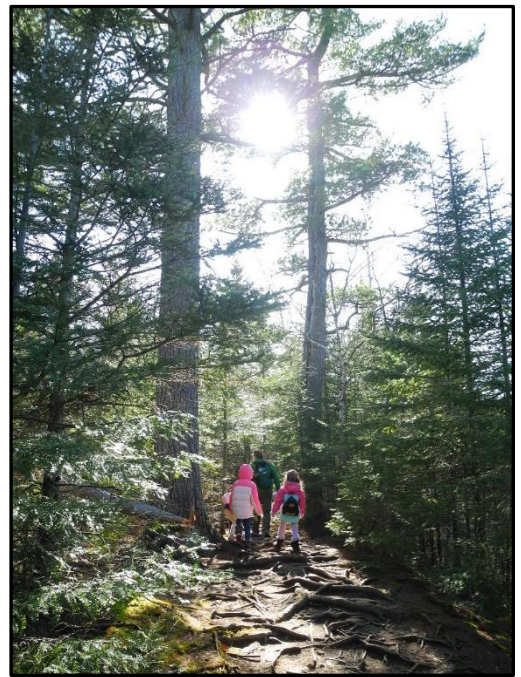


Donek Trucking  
\$500 Sponsorship

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!



The final Birch Buddies ~ spring HIKE! was Cascade River State Park! It was an amazing hike to finish out this year! Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! after school program will return in the next 25-26 school year. Happy hiking! <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Birch-Buddies>



Birch Buddies ~ ART! after school program dates remaining:  
Friday, May 23 ~ *Paper Pulp Bowls*



The Saplings transformed into paleontologists as they triggered a Jurassic eruption while studying dinosaurs. <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Saplings-Program>



The last day of K-5 school is on Friday, May 30 and families are invited to celebrate with us! The End of Year Celebration will start at 10:30, with early release at 12:00. Please take your child home at 12:00 or make pick up arrangements for your child, as there will be no busing available at the end of the school day, ending at noon. Please let us know if this is an issue for you as we may be able to help. Thank you!

Please check at home for any library books that need to be returned to school. We would love to have them back so that other students can check them out next year. Don't forget to look under the bed! 😊



Extra sleep is really important these final weeks of school! Please see that your child is well rested for the fun events and activities that we have coming up ~ it will make for a better end of the school year for everyone! 😊

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 our theme focused on the animals and activities of the Northwoods. The climbing triangle was transformed into a tent, as if they were camping, for the older Seedlings to crawl in and out of and to play hide and seek. While playing in the tent, language skills were practiced as we named their actions with "in/out". To go along with our camping fun, we sang "Camping We Will Go" that is sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell". We sang "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and moved our arms as if paddling a canoe and a kayak to work muscles and increase range of motion. Through the use of picture cards, the Seedlings were introduced to different animals such as bears, moose, raccoons, deer, and mice. Each card also showed the Seedlings what that animal's track looks like.

Our books this week were written by Minnesota authors. We read *Up North at the Cabin* by Marsha Wilson Chall. It is a great book about the memories the author has from her summer trips to her family's cabin in the Northwoods and all the fun activities that included such as fishing, canoeing, and hiking. We also read *Antler, Bear, Canoe: A Northwoods Alphabet Year* and *Tracks in the Wild*, both were written by local Grand Marais artist Betsy Bowen.



We continue to go outside for walks in the morning after snack time and have enjoyed exploring the bike path and using the swings on the big playground. Our time outside has been getting longer as the weather allows so if you wish for your child to wear sunscreen, please send a labeled bottle to be kept at school for them.  
Have a great 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*

A Jurassic journey of *Dynamite Dinosaurs* was embarked on this week, with the Saplings gaining valuable insights into various aspects of dinosaurs, including their names. We also enriched our vocabulary by learning key terms such as extinct, prehistoric, paleontologist, archeologist, carnivore, herbivore, and fossil. A comparative study of dinosaur teeth was conducted, revealing distinct characteristics that differentiated herbivores from carnivores. Herbivores have flat, small teeth, while carnivores possess large, sharp teeth. Interestingly, one of the Tyrannosaurus Rex's teeth measures 6 inches in length, roughly equivalent to the size of each of our heads.

In understanding the world, we discovered one of the hypotheses why dinosaurs no longer exist is due to massive volcanic eruptions. After observing a volcanic eruption, we collectively constructed a volcano and surrounded it with dinosaurs to represent our perception of the dinosaurs' habitat. We discussed facts about lava, including its temperature and potential impact on the dinosaurs.



We incorporated dinosaur manipulatives to reinforce our counting, sorting, and patterning skills. Additionally, we explored dinosaur puzzles and took part in alphabet ordering and matching games. The letter focus was 'D' for dinosaurs. Saplings became Paleontologists and reassembled bones into the letter Dd fossil.

Saplings made use of various mediums to create a range of dinosaur art projects. Playdough was used to create fossil prints by pressing bones, dinosaurs, shells, and leaves. We carried out a simulated archeological excavation in the sensory table this week. Using diggers and brushes, we emulated the role of paleontologists and uncovered dinosaurs in the sand. We incorporated bones and made an attempt to reassemble them.

Please remember to bring mud/rain boots everyday, even if it's not raining there is still mud and water out there.

Saplings this Sunday is National Take Your Parents to the Playground Day! It's the perfect excuse to get outside, laugh a little louder and play a little longer.

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*

K/1 enjoyed a few beautiful and sunny days this week. We spent the day outside on Wednesday and had a special mud kitchen math lesson. We continued to learn about plants and animals this week. We watched our 'Grass Pets' grow and gave them their first haircut! Our caterpillars have entered their chrysalis phase, and we moved them to a new netted home. We have been busy!

We are reviewing all of the math concepts that we learned this year. We played a few different games, like mystery pictures and bingo. In language arts, we are continuing to practice reading and writing.

We only have one week left of school for the students to earn tickets for Tickets to Treasure. Be sure to have your child continue to read and record it on the reading log! All library books need to be returned by next week. Notes will be sent out to those who still have books out.

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*

2-3 are at Wolf Ridge this week! See our school Facebook page for amazing photos!

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*

4-5 are at Wolf Ridge this week! See our school Facebook page for amazing photos!

218-663-0170 ext. 4

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

