

Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 22, 2025

Upcoming Events:

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 @10:00 & Tickets To Treasure @ 1:30
Wednesday, May 28 ~ K-5 Tofte Park Trip
Thursday, May 29 ~ Saplings and Seedlings Last School Year 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 busy week with the end of the school year concluding next week!

Please note that the Tickets To Treasure drawing was rescheduled to Tuesday of next week at 1:30. We look forward to it!

The 2nd annual Color Day! is also next week on Tuesday. Please have your child wear something that is NOT their favorite outfit. While the color that everyone was drenched in last year did not seem to be permanent, there is no need to take chances! 😊 Your child can also bring sunglasses to help prevent getting color in the eyes. We do have goggles to wear, but many children did not want to wear them last year. To participate, students must have eye protection of some sort. If your child knows that they don't want to wear the goggles, send your own goggles or glasses, please. Thank you!





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

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! 😊



2/3 students did a biography research project for a final presentation of things that they learned this year. Every student picked an influential person in history then conducted research on them. After research, they wrote a 5 paragraph essay, did a timeline of their life, drew a portrait of the person, and created a slideshow presentation. Then they presented the slideshow to the school. It was a great way to show off their skills! More pictures are on the school Facebook page.





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! 😊



There is no school on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day!
Have a safe and happy holiday weekend!



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!

K/1 students planted their very own 'grass pets' for the classroom. Each student is responsible for planting, watering, and trimming their grass. They observed through clear cups as the roots grew down and then the grass grew up. K/1 learned about what plants need, the growing process, and parts of the plant! More pictures are on the school Facebook page.



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

www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftwear.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*

Nursery rhymes and folk tales were our focus this week in Seedlings. We read different versions of *The Three Little Pigs* and *Little Red Riding Hood*. While reading *The Three Little Pigs*, the Seedlings practiced taking big breaths and blowing them out. We also utilized hand puppets to “animate” the story. The puppets also provided an object for the younger Seedlings to exercise their visual tracking. A coloring sheet of *Little Red Riding Hood* was given to the older Seedlings to color so they could work on their fine motor skills. We also read a book of Mother Goose nursery rhymes and sang quite a few of them such as *Humpty Dumpty*, *Hickory Dickory Dock*, and *Pat-a-Cake*.

Our walks outside have been continuing every day as the weather allows. The bike path offers freedom and safety for the Seedlings to be able to explore the natural world around them. We are also practicing our listening skills as we walk, such as “stay on the path”. While in the classroom, our climbing triangle is getting a lot of use as the older Seedlings work their gross motor skills to climb up and over to slide down the small slide. The younger Seedlings have been enjoying tummy time to work their core muscles.



Hope you enjoy the long weekend and we will see you on Tuesday May 27th for the last week of the school year!

218-663-0170 ext. 7

[emily.vandorenbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:emily.vandorenbgcs@gmail.com)



~~~~~

From Ms. Pam Holm

Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

Life in and Around Pond was Sapling's theme for the week, focusing on pond life, biodiversity, and ecosystems to foster an appreciation for nature and the importance of preserving pond habitats and their inhabitants. Our exploration encompassed beavers, otters, muskrats, ducks, frogs, turtles, salamanders, lily pads, and cattails. The sensory bin was reimagined as a pond filled with stuffed animals. In the science area, we examined the life cycle of frogs, using plastic frogs and tadpoles, and manipulative tongs to facilitate feeding.

Saplings refined their math skills through exercises of counting with 1:1 correspondence using frogs on lily pads and ducks, categorizing pond life, and recognizing numbers by stacking turtles. Symmetry was explored using pattern blocks to create mirrored designs on turtle shells. Literacy focused on identifying words in a story, finding what is different in a picture, along with frogs on a log letter recognition and pond letter mats.



The Saplings undertook large motor activities, which involved hopping like a frog on lily pads, crawling like a turtle without shedding their shells and mastering the game of *Duck, Duck, Grey Duck*.

As part of their artistic endeavors this week, Saplings constructed a paper beaver and frog, watercolor painting of a mallard in a pond, tempera painting of a salamander and a 3-D tissue paper turtle. These craftivities were highly effective for improving fine motor skills and stimulating creativity.

"Many drops make a bucket, many buckets make a pond, many ponds make a lake, and many lakes make an ocean." - Percy Ross

218-663-0170 ext. 6

pam.holmbgcs@gmail.com

~~~~~

**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

It has been a busy week in K/1. Our caterpillars emerged from their chrysalis and became Painted Lady Butterflies. We are excited to release them next week! We worked on finishing a few end-of-the-

year projects. K/1 did multiple projects that they are excited to share with you! Look for these beautiful pieces of work during graduation and make sure to grab your child's work to bring home! We also filled our week with various fun end-of-the-year activities. We spent time at the camp, played inside, played extra gym games, and fun math games!

Please continue to check backpacks for supplies coming home. We will be cleaning lockers and the classroom and sending home projects and the kids supplies they have here. If you have a library book at home send it back to school!

Have a great Memorial Day weekend,

218-663-0170 ext. 2

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



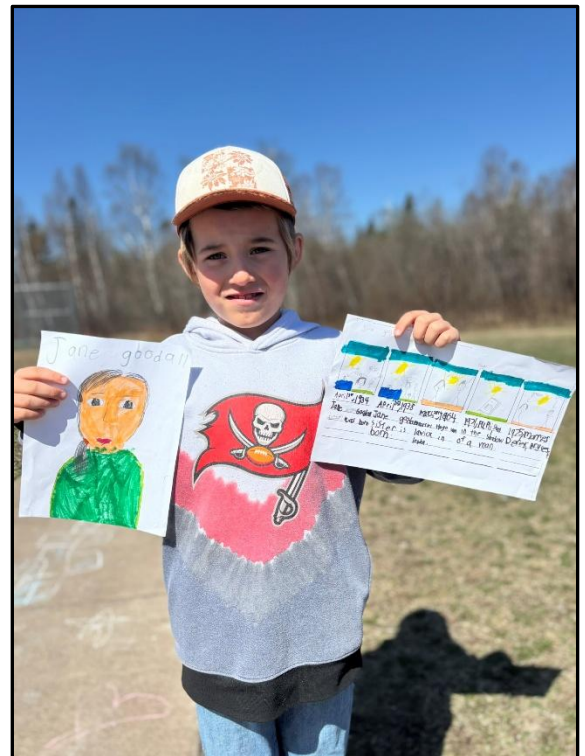
~~~~~  
From Ms. Samantha Forster

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

This week has been all about finishing up projects, enjoying each other's company, and cleaning/organizing our classroom. Students created a background for the poems they created, made a picture frame for their ostrich photo, and completely cleared out their desks and lockers. Students love online whole group quizzes so we spent lots of time reviewing math facts with this engagement tool. We also played games for G Day and read lots of passages about Dinosaurs for D Day. They also created their own dinosaur with a special writing activity. We will end the week with a special field trip to the beach and pool! Next week is fun filled with an activity each day. We will be taking a trip to Tofte Park for the day on Wednesday so please ensure that your child's lunch is not something that needs to be heated. I am so lucky to have been your child's teacher this year and I can't wait for one more week together before summer break! Reach out with any questions!

218-663-0170 ext. 3

samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com
~~~~~





**From Ms. Stacy Coronis**

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

Our Wolf Ridge trip was amazing last week! Hopefully your child told you all about their experiences on the ropes course, dissecting owl pellets, studying animal skulls, canoeing in the fog, learning about constellations in a planetarium and working KP duty in the kitchen! We were lucky with our weather and had amazing naturalists as our class instructors.

Back at Birch Grove our class has been busy wrapping up many of the unit projects this week. During our reading block we have been reading the nonfiction text about the last USA region, the West. We have completed our USA Tour and finished up our USA Passport project which we've been working on for weeks. We have learned so much about the geography, economy, resources and history of our country. In art class the students all created a clay elevation map of the state they are researching. The maps look fantastic and will be sent home next week. In science and writing we have been discussing food webs, food chains and each student has chosen an animal to research. We read many nonfiction books about animals and practiced the skill of note taking. We are completing an animal lapbook report that showcases our learning. We also took our learning about our animal research and each student went through the writing process to write a five paragraph essay about their animal.

We also became engineers over the past week. Our engineering challenge was to continue to make changes to the slope of a car ramp to "park" our car a desired parking space. It was fun to try new designs and make changes based on the results of our trials. We are all looking forward to some more fun next week as we wrap up a great year of learning and playing together!

218-663-0170 ext. 4

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

