



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

November 10, 2022

Dates to Remember:

Monday- Wednesday, November 7-9 ~ Parent/Family Teacher Conferences

Monday, November 21 School Board Meeting at 5:30

Wednesday, November 23 No School ~ Staff Development/Workshop

Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, December 1 @ 12:30 "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" at the Arrowhead
Center for the Arts in Grand Marais

Wednesday, December 14 "A Bear-y, Merry Holiday!" Musical ~
Performances at 1:00 & 6:00

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:

Director, Birch Grove Community School

Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

I will be conducting a test with the school voice messaging system tomorrow, Friday, November 11. I will send out an email to all Saplings and K-5 families first, letting you know to expect a phone call from the message system. If you do not get a phone call (or the email), please let me know. If you want to add a phone number to the system (work number, another family member, etc.) let me know this as well. We use the voice messaging system in the event of a late school start, or a school cancellation due to weather/road conditions. Late starts/school cancellations will also be posted on the school Facebook page and emails will be sent out to all Saplings and K-5. If you have any questions, please be sure to let me know. You can email me at birchgrove@boreal.org, or call 218-663-0170.

We go outside every day in all but the most extreme weather – this is one of the main focuses of our school. Please send your child with outer wear so that they are comfortable (warm) and able to go outside. We have extra outdoor clothing on site if your child needs it. If we don't have your child's size, we can figure something out. Please label your child's clothing, including gloves as these are what seems to get lost the most. Snowpants and snow boots will soon be a necessity!

Hot lunch is on Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. A monthly hot lunch menu is found on the school website at www.birchgroveschool.com. On cold lunch days, PLEASE do not send juice, candy, or super high sugar items – ALL of the staff thank you in advance for this! 😊

Please remind your child that riding the Arrowhead bus is a privilege that can be taken away. Bus rules are simple and need to be followed for the safety of all:

- Keep your hands to yourself (including no knocking anyone's hat off)
- Keep your items to yourself (including no hitting anyone with your hat/backpack/scarf, etc.)
- Keep the noise level down (talk quietly to those who are near – no shouting/loud chanting/singing)
- Keep your body on your seat and stay buckled (including keep legs/body out of the aisle)

Too many reminders have been given to some students lately. Arrowhead reserves the right to take away the privilege of riding the bus. Should this happen, families will have to find an alternative way to transport their child to school. Suspension of riding privileges will start with 1 day, the next time it will be 2 days, the third time will be 3 days and then it will be complete suspension for the year. It is worth checking in with your child periodically to ask them if they have been following the rules and go over rules with them (they should be able to recite them).

If there are any K-5 families that would make use of the after-school program, Birch Buddies, please let me know. Birch Buddies would be after school until 5:00 with a cost of \$5. Should there be enough interest, we may offer this program. Please let me know by emailing birchgrove@boreal.org. So far, only two families have responded.

K-5 Parent/Family-Teacher Conferences started this week. One of our annual school goals is to have 100% parent/family participation in conferences twice a year. Please help us make this goal! Once we have 100% participation, we announce it in this newsletter – no matter how long it takes to complete. We have reached this goal EVERY SINGLE YEAR! Thank you for helping us support your children – we can't do it without you!

Yay! The Scholastic Holiday Book Fair is back at Birch Grove! I am so happy that this event is back and not on-line. The bookfair will be open to the public before and after the musical performances on Wednesday, December 14. Book make great holiday gifts AND our school receives Scholastic dollars from every purchase! Watch for more information on this to come.



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 students 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](#)



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**From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield**  
*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week our theme was space. We focused on what is in space. We first went over what kinds of things we know are in space. This included the moon, sun, stars, and planets. The Saplings loved creating their own rocket ship together out of a big cardboard box, I was pleased at how many small details they wanted to add in. They created buttons on the inside to start and control the rocket ship, cardboard wings, windows, and 2 telescopes. We went over the 8 planets in our solar system, then the Saplings were able to create their own planet by using paint, a paper plate, saran wrap and their fingers! Ever heard of rainbow planet? Well, there's one now! As a group we looked at a constellation book and decided if the constellations actually looked like what they said they were. We then created our own constellations by using star stickers and then connected them by painting a straight white line.

It was a great week! I think it would be good to start sending snowpants every day, it is starting to get a bit colder. Please let me know if you would like to keep a pair of snowpants here at school fulltime otherwise I will assume to send them home every day!

Have a great weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

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[ari.summerfieldbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:ari.summerfieldbgcs@gmail.com)

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From Ms. Sara Knottski
K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

It has been a busy week! Thank you to all the parents for meeting during conferences. It was great getting to share what I see in the classroom and to hear what you see at home. I get a lot of good insight about every student by talking to you!

In language arts, we are focusing on reading strategies. We always look at the words and try to sound out words we do not know. We use pictures for clues and to understand a story better. Students should be practicing reading every day at home! In math, first graders are learning about missing parts in an equation. Kindergarteners are learning about numbers up to 20, shapes, and 5-groups.

This week we spent some time discussing Veterans Day and we wrote letters to Veterans. Mr. Hoffman was nice enough to deliver them to the Veterans home in Silver Bay. We also talked about some American symbols and made a little book about it!

Winter is approaching! Please make sure all outdoor gear is waterproof and your student has a hat, mittens, snow pants, and a proper winter coat every day! Practice putting on winter gear at home so that they are more independent at school!

Have a great weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

Our phonics rule this week is OA and OE. In language arts we've also been learning about antonyms and synonyms, as well as continuing our hunt for homophones when we're reading. Our anchor text this week was *What do Illustrators Do?* We took the information that we learned from this book to illustrate the narratives we've been working on in October. Our narratives are now complete and ready to be shown to you at home. Next week we will be starting our opinion essays.

In math we have focused on practicing why problems make sense and also following the relationships between addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. This helps students comprehend what is happening in a problem instead of looking for the numbers and picking the operation. We've also put a focus on learning some new math games that will help us build our fluency. We'll be putting together game directions and materials for students next week for some of those games to come home so they can play with you.

In social studies we wrapped up our unit on government and voting but may go back for a little bit when we touch ancient civilizations later in the year. Our next few units will be looking at and building maps and learning why people in the past settled where they did. In science we will continue our unit on animal traits and will end that unit with an animal research paper and project.

I enjoy talking to the parents during conferences and look forward to seeing everyone in the next several days. The best ways for you to help learning continue at home is to continue reading and having your child read to you as well as play math games. Any game that has them thinking and playing with numbers and critical thinking skills will build needed skills.

218-663-0170 ext. 26

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From Mr. Jeff Hoffman

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

Congratulations to Team Wolf for winning the President of the Forest election! I am proud of the work done by both of our teams, and I believe everyone learned about the importance of teamwork. Thank you to everyone for participating in fall conferences, it was great to chat with all of you! Remember you are always welcome to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Other things we worked on in class this week included strategies for solving two digit by two digit multiplication problems, completing our Veteran's Day thank you cards, and learning about the western states and capitals.

For next week, we will be moving onto spelling lesson nine, this is the first lesson on the new list being sent home. I have a set goal for the class to be done with reading *The One and Only Ivan*, by the end of next week. Students have really enjoyed the book so far, so I do not think that will be a problem. When we finish up with the western states and capitals, we will move to the last unit which is the southwest.

Quick reminder: Please send appropriate clothing for the weather to school everyday. Jackets, hats, and gloves are a must at this point. Boots and snow pants when the weather gets colder.

Have a great weekend! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

218-663-0170 ext. 23

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