



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

November 17, 2022

Dates to Remember:

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



It's Give To The Max Day until midnight tonight!! We appreciate any donations on this day giving BGCS a chance at golden tickets and a shot at being a Power Hour winner! Please give on November 17! BGCS appreciates your support! Search for Birch Grove Community School ~ the link is below.

[Give to the Max Day \(givemn.org\)](http://givemn.org)

There have been many absences this week, mainly in the K/1 room. So many, that it needed to be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health (schools are required to report if absences, due to illnesses, hits a certain percentage). There have been no positive cases of Covid reported for any students to this point, but other illnesses have wiped out about half of the K/1 class on one day or another this week. Symptoms have included: ear aches, coughs, sore throat, sneezing/runny nose,

and vomiting in a few cases. Some parents have reported high temps as well. It seems as if students just have one or two of these symptoms, but not all of them. We have also had a confirmed case of RSV in this classroom yesterday. Continue to monitor your child, keep them home if ill, and it is suggested that you consult your family doctor if symptoms are severe or long lasting. We hope that everyone is feeling better soon!

We continue to take temperatures upon entry and issue hand sanitizer to all when entering the building in the morning. Windows are still kept open, air purifiers are running in classrooms, and we continue to clean and disinfect every day.

The December lunch menu is up. You can always see what is for lunch by checking the school website and going to About Us/School Lunches. [School Lunches - Birch Grove Community School \(birchgroveschool.com\)](http://birchgroveschool.com)

All K-5 students have been practicing songs for the upcoming musical, "A Bear-y, Merry Holiday!". Please note that there will be two performances here at BGCS. The first will take place in the afternoon on Wednesday, December 14 at 1:00. The evening performance will happen on the same day at 6:00 in the evening. All K-5 will be bears. All students will be wearing bear ears and will get a nose (using make up). You, and your child, can decide what they would like to wear for clothing. Students can dress up, dress down, wear whatever color they like!

It has been a virtual winter wonderland outside! K-5 and Saplings are getting out daily. Please make sure that your child has the necessary outdoor clothing. If you need help getting the right gear, please let us know.



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](#)



From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield

Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

This week our theme was construction and building. We focused on learning about different construction machines and the different jobs they do, we also focused on building with different materials. The Saplings pretended to be a construction crew and used teamwork to build a creation out of cardboard boxes and tape. They put together a house with popsicle sticks and glued it onto paper and then made a shape bulldozer craft. But most of all we had A LOT of fun in the snow!! It makes my heart happy to see the Saplings running through the woods with smiling faces, howling like wolves and chasing each other around. 😊

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

K/1 has had quite a bug going around in the classroom this week. It has caused a lot of absences including myself! Make sure we are practicing good hygiene and teaching how we cough and keep our germs to ourself. Thank you for staying home if your child is not feeling well!

K/1 has spent a lot of time outside this week. The first snow fall is always the best for using our imagination to create and build! We are excited to do all of the winter activities now that we have the snow to do it!

Thanksgiving break is coming up next week! Please send back any library books you may have at home so we can send back new ones for the long weekend. During the longer breaks please utilize our online resources, Raz kids and Freckle, to practice a little bit every day. Continue to read every day for 20 minutes!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

Our stories matched up very well with the weather this week. We read books about a snowy day, blizzards, and wind. In an opposite twist one of the folk tales we read was all about planting and collecting a harvest. Our phonics rule this week was irregular blends, such as KN and WR. Our language skill of the week was using capitals in proper nouns and in the first letter of the sentence. For some reason this is something we're struggling with but will continue to practice it all year long.

In math we took our first math test. Then began unit 2 which puts second grade in a review of numbers up to 200 and will get us into addition and subtraction with ungrouping and borrowing as the week's progress. By the end of this week 3rd graders will have learned 100 math facts. Our goal for the year is to become fluent and fast with these 100 math facts but also to cement our knowledge and understand what multiplication and division are, NOT just repeat the answer.

In science we have been looking at animal characteristics and how animals could be sorted into different types. This is stretch some of our thinking as we have to look beyond what is obvious and accept that there is more than one answer or possibility.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the snow.

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

The 4/5 class keeps chugging along and working hard! This week we discussed how weathering, erosion, and deposition affects the landforms and landscapes around us. We wrapped up our study of the western states and capitals, and then got a start on our last unit for states and capitals, the southwest. I introduced/reintroduced students to the online reading platform EPIC. EPIC offers over 40,000 books online, including many that are popular with our class, along with videos and other resources, and it is free to educators. If you wish to have a personal account, there is a cost to it, but I do have a discount code if you desire one (alright, that's as close to a sales pitch as I will get, I know there are plenty of other expenses at this time of year).

Next week is a short week, we only have school on Monday and Tuesday. We will not have a spelling test next week, but we will test out on the southwestern states and capitals. There are only four states and capitals in this last unit, so I plan on moving through it faster than the other units we have done. Other than that, we will be more focused on reviewing the key concepts we have been learning recently. It is difficult to introduce new things on a short week, right before a holiday, so that makes it a great time to take and breath and reinforce what we have been learning.

Quick reminder: If you wish to order books through Scholastic this month, our class order is due on November 22. You can order using the packet sent home this week or online. Please use the class code Z2K8X, this earns our class Scholastic Dollars that can be used to enhance our classroom library and other resources.

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

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