



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

November 3, 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 BGCS Winter 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

Many thanks to Birch Grove Community School/Service staff for volunteering during the Halloween Carnival: Rista Sharma-Connor, Alayna Carrier, Sara Knottski, Sara Silence, Michelle Blanck, Jenny Buckman, Jessica Klemmer, Emily VanDoren, Gayle Grinnell, and Angie Fernlund! Thank you all so much!!

Thank you to BGCS families and community members for volunteering at the Halloween Carnival: Melissa Knottski, Red Jervais, Sarena Crowley, Matt Kartes, Heather West, Julie Buskovich, Gail Thompson, Steve Bonin, Sarah Dahle, Jeff Eliassen, Jenny Kartes, Brandon Gillespie, Bruce Martinson, Dan Dietzman, Samantha Wallner, Patrick Scully, Tracy Scully, Ada Schlienz-Hall, Edward Belmore, Afton Bonin, Heather Belmore, Sam Crowley, Sophia Blanck, and Gabby Grinnell.

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 one family has responded.

K-5 Parent/Family-Teacher Conferences are next week! Please be sure to sign up for conferences with your child's teacher. Everyone should have received a sign-up email to choose a time slot - if you did not receive an email or any information, please contact your child's teacher. One of our annual school goals is to have 100% parent/family participation in conferences twice a year. Please help us make this goal! We realize that not all of you live nearby, so you can choose to do an on-line conference for your convenience. If you are interested in this option, please indicate this to your child's teacher. 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!

We will be starting to practice for the annual Winter Musical next week. If you already know that your child will not be here on Wednesday, December 14 at 1:00 & 6:00 for the performances, PLEASE let us know. If this is the case, we will make sure that your child does not have a major role in the musical, so that the show can go on!



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: <http://birchgrove.logosoftware.com>

School Spirit Store Coupon Link: <https://www.logosoftware.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 learning about the day and night. Our focus was on nocturnal animals. We went over what makes day time and what makes it night time. The Saplings talked about which animals we see in the day time and which animals we think are awake in the night time and learned about what the word nocturnal means. Throughout the week we took some nature walks looking for nocturnal animals... Did we find any?!?! NO!!! why?! Because it's daytime!!! We did see a few birds that we deemed day time birds. We worked in groups to color on posters things and animals we see in the day time and night time, then as a big group shared the pictures we drew. We ended the week playing a nocturnal animal park ranger game outside to enjoy this wonderful weather!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

Conferences are next week! If you have yet to sign up for a time slot please do so before Friday at 9pm. I will have some preparations to do and last-minute signups will be hard to get ready for.

The first graders learned about r blends such as SR, BR, TR, SHR, THR, etc. They also read a story called *How Animals Communicate*. We discussed and made a concept map of the main idea and the supporting detail. In math, we are learning about how subtraction and addition are related.

The Kindergarteners learned about the letter J. We also practiced some of the letters already learned and put them together to sound out words! In math, we are practicing addition and subtraction and learning about teen numbers.

With the weather change this week I wanted to remind you to practice self-help skills at home. Students should be able to put on most of their winter attire on their own. It is quite time-consuming to help 23 children bundle up! In addition, please make sure things fit correctly and they do their job of keeping your child warm! Waterproof outside clothing is helpful!

Have a fantastic weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

With this amazing weather, we took the opportunity to take part of our classroom learning outside each day this week. We had math outside two days, listened to our read aloud, and of course just enjoyed time outside. In science we looked for and recorded how things in the campsite are preparing or changing for winter. We noticed the absence of birds, the fallen leaves, the tunnels that ants have made looking for food, and some of us were able to observe a grouse collecting food to store up for winter. On Friday if the weather holds, I plan to have more math games outside along with a new game that can be played in class or outside, a favorite called, "Coconut."

Our comprehension text this week was a biography about Roberto Clemente. Kids did a great job using the text to decipher the meaning of baseball words, understanding characters, and using evidence in their answers. We were all a little surprised that the story does not have a happy ending! In small groups, one group worked on the r blends, another read a story about Willie Mays (baseball player), and the last group worked through the routines of a new leveled reading series they will work in for the next several months.

In math, my younger students (I dislike calling them second graders) began working with compare problems. These can be tricky because you really need to understand and label what is happening in the scenario to have complete understanding. Olders (third graders) began working with area, OH MY! This can be super tricky until you have a solid foundation of rows and columns, which we are

working on. A focus for all students in the room is to not just be able to spit out an answer that may be right, but to know how and why that answer works or doesn't.

Lastly, we are getting near to the end of our read aloud, which has taken some spectacular twists and turns! We are listening to Emmy and the Shrinking Rat.

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From Mr. Jeff Hoffman

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

A point of emphasis this week in our classroom has been taking a break, whether it be physical or mental. All of us need time on occasion to get our minds or bodies in the right place in order to get work done. Taking a break is not a bad thing, is it a good choice that we can make. This includes when an adult tells a student to take a break. The student is not in trouble or necessarily doing something wrong, it is just that we have noticed the student is not in the right frame of mind or in control of their body, that is needed to be ready to work. Children can have a hard time recognizing when they need a break, so we as adults need to help them out. If your child comes home talking about being told to take a break (even if it was more than once), they are not necessarily misbehaving or causing trouble at school.

Next week brings spelling lesson eight, this is the last lesson on the current list. On Tuesday, we will have our own election day, with students voting for the President of the Forest winner. This has been an interesting project, with students finishing up working in teams on a campaign poster, and a brief presentation to give to each classroom. Good luck to both Team Wolf and Team Bobcat!

Quick reminder: Conferences are next week, Monday thru Thursday. If you have a student in my class and have not yet signed up, please do so. If you need the Sign-Up Genius link, please contact me.

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

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