



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

October 27, 2022

Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, October 30 Annual Birch Grove Halloween Carnival 2:00-4:00
- Monday, October 31 Halloween ~ No School ~ Staff PD/Workshop
- 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

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

K-5 students may bring a costume to school tomorrow on Friday, the last day of school until Halloween. K-5 will be working hard in the classrooms during the morning, and after recess, they may change into a costume, if they so desire. Special events will occur in the afternoon to celebrate the season. Please do not send students to school with costumes that are bloody, gory, or have accessories that are weapons. If your child's costume requires face paint, please do this at home. FIRST, we work hard in the morning, THEN we have special activities in the afternoon. Please reiterate this at home knowing that we appreciate it very much!

Saplings MAY wear a costume to school tomorrow, in fact, it is preferred so that Ms. Summerfield does not have to dress all of the Saplings by herself. Thank you! 😊

This year unfortunately, we will not be having a parade at the Tofte Forest Service, but look forward to doing it again next year.

Remember that there is no school on Monday, Halloween day. Staff will be on site participating in professional development: Responsive Classroom training. We look forward to seeing students and Saplings back on Tuesday, November 1.

The annual Halloween Carnival is this Sunday, October 30 from 2:00 – 4:00.

- The Bad Seed food truck will be on site from 1:00 – 5:00, before, during, and after the carnival. The food truck is pay by cash, credit, or check. Tickets can't be used for the food truck.
- Thank you to the families that have volunteered so far – WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS to make the event successful! Here is the link to sign up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C45AAA92AA2FF2-bghalloween>
- Almost every single staff member is volunteering in other areas that you don't see on this sign up link – thank you BGCS staff members!
- If you are able, please bring a cake for the cake walk!

Please check your child's Take Home Folder for a \$5 Halloween Carnival ticket. All Saplings and K-5 will receive a \$5 ticket for just being the spectacular child that they are! There are 20 circles on each ticket, and most activities are 1-3 circles, so they should be able to do a lot of carnival activities on just this one free card.

For those K-5 and Saplings that are attending the carnival: PLEASE take home a pumpkin at 4:00 when the carnival is over! 4/5 can take home the pumpkins that they painted – they are above their lockers. Everyone else please take any other pumpkin home – carve it, put it outside your home for decoration, smash them in the woods for the deer to eat, whatever you want to do with them. It will be helpful to us to have the majority of pumpkins out of the building after the carnival is over. Thank you!

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. Thank you!

Many thanks to Zoar Lutheran Church in Tofte (\$700) and the Cook County Co-op (\$254.99) for the donations to support our efforts in providing hot lunch, morning breakfast bars, and lunch supplements for K-5 and Saplings. Their support is very much appreciated!

The 2021-2022 Annual and World's Best Workforce Report will be emailed home to K-5 families and staff soon. This report basically gives you a recap of the last school year. I know that there has been references to our school scores in the Cook County News-Herald and on WTIP (in a good way), so you will be able to see our scores for yourself in this document. This report will also be found on the school website on November 1.

Annual Report Purpose complying with Minnesota State Statues, section 124E.16 subd. 2:

Annual Public Reports. (a) A charter school must publish an annual report approved by the board of directors. The annual report must at least include information on school enrollment, student attrition, governance and management, staffing, finances, academic performance, innovative practices and implementation, and future plans. A charter school may combine this

report with the reporting required under section 120B.11 governing the world's best workforce. A charter school must post the annual report on the school's official Web site. A charter school also must distribute the annual report by publication, mail, or electronic means to its authorizer, school employees, and parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the charter school. The reports are public data under chapter 13.

As you may know, BGCS is not with the National Hot Lunch program, but have our own in-house lunch program. As such, in the past if a family did not qualify for Free & Reduced, they paid the regular cost of \$3.00 per lunch. If a family qualified for Reduced, we charged \$2.00 per lunch, and if a family qualified for Free, we charged \$1.00 per lunch. If your family is finding it hard to pay any of these amounts this year, please email me at birchgrove@boreal.org and we will waive any hot lunch fees for the year. You MUST however, privately notify me. Thank you!



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.logosoftwear.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 Halloween and our focus was pumpkins. We crafted our own monsters on a stick to use as puppets, played a Halloween movement game and Halloween bingo. We also made a jack o lantern craft and explored the inside of a pumpkin while learning about a pumpkin's life cycle. We made sure to dance to some Halloween songs and read many Halloween stories. The Saplings are VERY excited to celebrate and dress up!

Have a spooky Halloween!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

This week K/1 continued a science unit about weather and the seasons. This is a great time to start using some scientific skills to observe the changing of the seasons. We discussed the weather we experience each season and the order in which the seasons come. Next week we will be working on observing the weather and learning why weather changes.

In math, kindergarteners are learning about addition and subtraction facts and teen numbers. 1st grade is learning about subtraction and how to represent it! In language arts, the kindergarteners

learned about the letter I and T and the word see. The first graders are working on learning sight words and how to write complete sentences.

Reminders: Please be reading with your child at home. First graders are capable of reading on their own! Just listen to them and help out as needed. Kindergarteners can follow along with you as you read or try to read on their own.

It is getting cold outside. Please make sure your student has the proper attire. They should have a warm jacket, a hat, and mittens!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

The phonics rule this week was the vowel teams ai and ay. Our anchor text was called "Bat Lives the Night" and gave some interesting true facts about bats. In small groups students each read and worked on comprehension of a non-fiction animal text.

In math we continued to practice skip counting and recognizing patterns. Third graders learned the nine's multiplication facts and noticed several patterns in the products. They also began working with the three's multiplications. Both classes practiced recognizing and showing their work for word problems, an essential skill for years to come. It's also generally a struggle, as students want to move quickly and not take the time to write work down.

Since this week was the week we celebrated Halloween, Thursday and Friday will be our days of adding pumpkin experiments, Halloween math, and pumpkin decorating. Thursday we got our hands dirty and pulled seeds and guts out of pumpkins after estimating how many seeds we would find.

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From Mr. Jeff Hoffman

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

Hard to believe we are approaching the end of October already, but here we are! We held the primary election for the President of the Forest. With all K-5 students being eligible to vote, the top two vote getters were wolf and bobcat. Those two teams will square off in the general election on November 8. We have been talking about several different strategies for solving two digit by one digit multiplication problems (standard algorithm, box method, area method, and repeated addition). Friday this week brings our Halloween celebration, which allows students to bring their costumes to school. Students will change into their costumes after recess if they want to.

Next week we will be continuing with the team project portion of the President of the Forest Campaign. We will be working on spelling lesson number seven. If you need another list for at home, please let me know. Friday November 11th, is Veteran's Day, and in honor of that, our class is going

to be making thank you cards/letters to be sent to the Veteran's Home in Silver Bay. These will be made for display at the Veteran's Home and not specific to any one resident there.

Quick reminder: There is no school on Monday 10/31! Also, while it has been mentioned in other areas of the newsletter before, please encourage your children to read at home. Twenty minutes everyday is ideal, but if you have a schedule that fits a 20 minute per day average, that works too!

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

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