



# Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

**November 16, 2023**

## Dates to Remember:

Friday, November 17 ~ Dental Health Screenings

Tuesday, November 21 ~ School Board Meeting at 5:30

Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24 ~ No School Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 30 ~ Field Trip to musical “*Twas the Night Before Christmas*” in  
Grand Marais at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts

Wednesday, December 13 ~ BGCS Winter Musical “*Christmas at the O.K. Corral*”

Afternoon Performance at 1:00pm and Evening Performance at 6:00pm

Tuesday, December 19 ~ School Board Meeting at 5:30

Wednesday, December 20 ~ Hearing & Vision Screening

Thursday, December 21 – Monday, January 1 ~ No School, Winter 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*

Time continues to move quickly! We are already working on the winter musical and have less than a month before the performance date of Wednesday, December 13. The excitement is already evident! Be sure to mark your calendars. Performances are at 1:00pm & 6:00pm.

While we have yet to see any snow here, it is coming. As such, we will be conducting a practice voice dialing call to all of our families tomorrow. We use this system



to let our families know of late school starts or cancellations and/or other important announcements. This practice message will be sent home to all K-5 and Sapling families tomorrow, Friday, November 17. If you do not get a call tomorrow, please email me at [birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org) and let me know so that I can get you in the system. Also let me know if you would like to add or take away contact phone numbers on this system (contact numbers were pulled from enrollment forms).

Birch Buddies ~ *HIKE!* enjoyed a closing celebration this Wednesday after school. They celebrated with a bonfire, trail mix and hiking stories. Then, everyone, including many parents, watched a presentation that Gayle Grinnell put together of snapshots, music and memories of the 8 hikes they traversed this school year. Each student got to take home a custom made keychain and slide show on USB as a keepsake from their adventures! Thank you, Gayle for making these great keepsakes and thanks to the hike leaders Sara Knottski and Gayle Grinnell for Birch Buddies ~ *HIKE!*



Next week is another short week due to Thanksgiving break – there is no school on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. There will be no newsletter next week due to the break – we hope you have a good one. Gobble, gobble!

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:

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Website: [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com)

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftware.com/> You can use GRAB15 for 15% off and free shipping for orders over \$125

Face Book: [Birch Grove Community School and Community Services #4145 | Facebook](#)



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**From Lead Teacher Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor, Ms. Ari Summerfield, Ms. Jessica Klemmer**  
*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

The letter of the week is the letter "C" - for Community! Saplings have been practicing recognizing, writing and sounding out the letter "C". Along with the letter "C", we have been learning about "C"ommunity helpers!

The Saplings have been learning about what makes up a community and how community helpers play a major role in making the world around us a better/safer place. The Saplings did a little brainstorming to make a list of community helpers around us and they learned about their jobs. This has been a great topic for practicing gratitude and encouraging engagement in their own community. We read a book about emergency vehicles called "Rapid Responders". In order to understand the topic in person, Saplings took a walk to the Tofte post office to interact with post master Morgan Krenkel. She gave us a tour of her office, and they even got to purchase stamps, stick them to their special letters and mail them out. (Shh... it's a surprise!)

Continuing the theme in the dramatic play area, Saplings used costumes to play pretend and become various community helpers such as, fireman, construction worker, policeman, veterinarian, chef and school bus driver. This helped them recognize uniforms, identify some special tools and vehicles that are used by specific community helpers. They had a great time pretending!

Please note that we have a short week next week with no school on Wednesday - Friday for Thanksgiving break! Enjoy your break!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**  
*K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

Another great week in K/1! This week we learned about primary and secondary colors. We mixed primary colors to make secondary colors! The students learned about the famous artist Piet Mondrian and studied some of his art pieces. They then created their own Piet Mondrian artwork!

The weather was so nice this week we had to take advantage of it! We enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather! K/1 will make an effort every Friday to spend extended time outside. Although the weather has been nice, please note we will still go out if it's cold or snowy! Please dress your child appropriately!



In Kindergarten, we focused on the letters U and Ch this week and the word a. We are starting to read words and practice reading sight words in books! In math, we are working on addition and subtraction stories, shapes, and teen numbers!

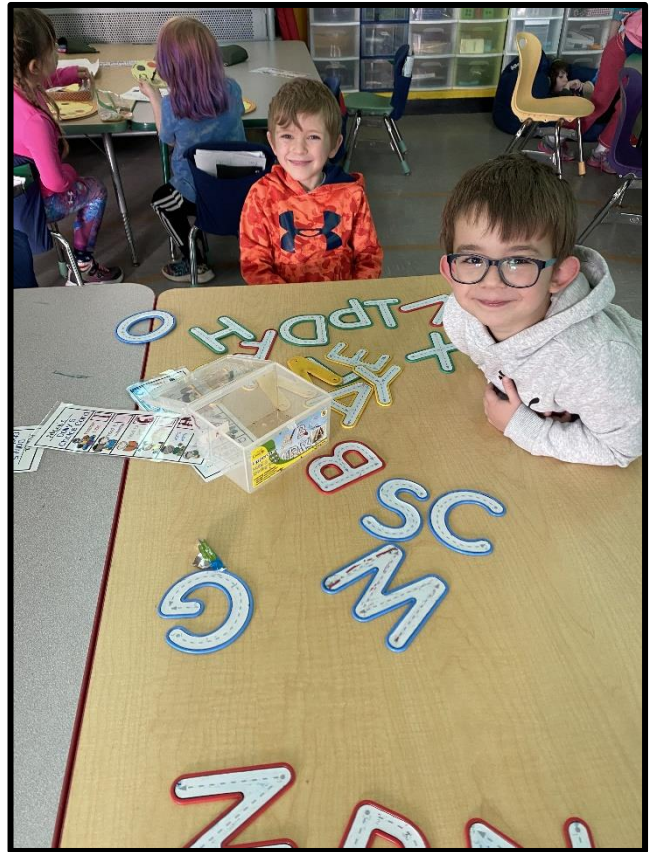
First grade learned the sequence of events and made flow charts. We also focused on l blends and are starting to get fluent with reading words with blends. In math, we finished up a unit about subtraction and addition and started a unit about missing addend.

Remember to keep reading with your student at home! Practice makes perfect!

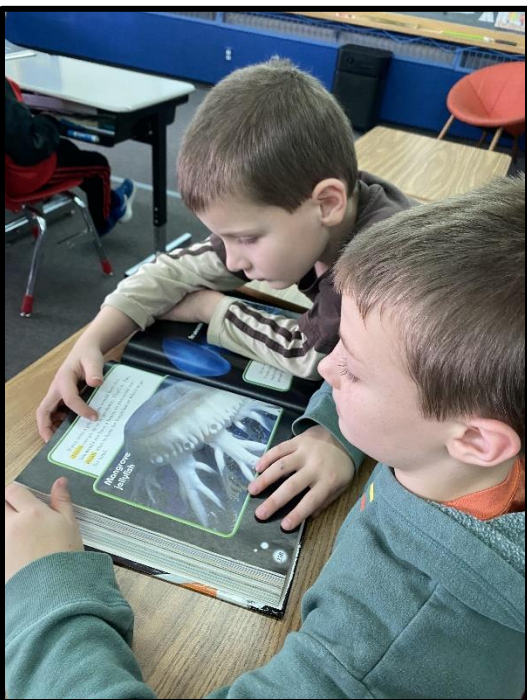
Since there will be no newsletter next week – have a great Thanksgiving break next week!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*



This week has been so much fun! I feel like we have all learned about each other the last couple months and it is all coming together. Thank you everyone for taking the time to meet with me last week.

This week in math, we have focused on concepts that we knew and also introduced new ones. In second grade, we focused on double digit addition with regrouping and two strategies that students can use to solve those problems. In third grade, we have been working on multiplication and division fluency. It has been interesting because students have learned many different ways to solve these problems and they all seem to choose something that works best for them.

In reading, we continue to work through our genres and reading out loud. Each week, more students choose to read out loud to the whole group. This has shown me that they are becoming more comfortable with their reading ability. We spend time with facts and opinions and writing contractions. We will end the week with analyzing character traits and using context clues to develop that understanding.

This week in science, we learned about reversible and non-reversible changes when it comes to heating and cooling. We did an exercise where we worked with a partner to identify whether or not the change that the matter went through was reversible. We will end the week by starting a plant growing experiment using controls and an observation journal. This will come easily for students as we did that in the beginning of the year with our spider plants.

Please ensure students come with a jacket, hat, and mittens at the very least. I make them wear all of those to play outside each day. As always, reach out with any questions or concerns. Have a great break next week!

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**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**

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

The fourth and fifth graders are very excited for the upcoming musical on December 13th. This is their year to have some of the larger roles, and they are taking their music and lines very seriously. All of us have some of the songs stuck in our heads day and night!

In language arts, the 4th graders have been reading both fiction and nonfiction texts about snakes. The 5th graders have been reading about heroes. Both grades have been working on using conjunctions to make their sentences more complex and interesting. Our work with punctuation and capitalization is ongoing.

In math, the 4th graders took an assessment on double digit multiplication. They will be moving into division later in the week. The 5th graders are now doing all of the operations with fractions: adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. It is rewarding to watch them become more solid in their skills.

The nice weather has allowed us to have more time to study some of the nature not yet buried in snow out at the campsite. We have been documenting how many different types of fungi we can find, and are learning of its importance to the ecosystem.

There is no school next week Wednesday through Friday for Thanksgiving break. Have a great break and remember to keep your children reading!

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