



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

December 14, 2023

Dates to Remember:

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

Wednesday, December 20 ~ Hearing & Vision Screening

Wednesday, December 20 ~ All School & Sapling Pajama Day!

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

It was a very busy week, and we have one more day to go until the weekend!

Thank you to everyone that came out to see the musical “Christmas at the O.K. Corral” yesterday! Both the afternoon and evening performance went well with an audience that was made up of grandmas, grandpas, siblings, cousins, parents, extended family, board members, neighbors and our incredible community. Thanks also to Bruce Johnson Photography for the complimentary Santa photo opportunity, to the Grinnell family for the awesome cookies, and to those that were able to purchase books at the Scholastic Holiday Bookfair! Until next year’s musical, keep on singing and dancing!





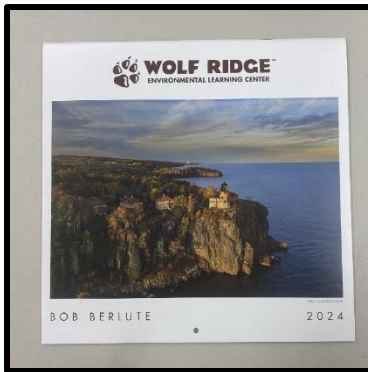


More pictures of the musical dress rehearsals, performances, and after-show Santa pictures will be on the school Facebook page soon!

K-5 and Saplings brought home two gift books today from the Scholastic Holiday Bookfair! Each student got to shop with their classmates and were so happy to do their own shopping! Many thanks to Jon and Shirley Heinzen and the North Shore Federal Credit union for gifting these books to our thankful students and Saplings!



All School and Sapling Pajama Day! will be on the last day before winter break – Wednesday, December 20th. Students, Saplings and staff may wear pajamas on this day if they so choose. A movie, with popcorn, will be viewed in the afternoon in the gym on the big screen. A great way to end the last school day before winter break!



Wolf Ridge calendar money has been coming in. Thank you! Please remember to put your child's name on the envelope and seal it when sending to school – we appreciate it!

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 ~ 218-663-0170

Website: www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftwear.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](#)



From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor

Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

Saplings are learning the letter T this week! As always, we are practicing writing, sounding and creating the letter with manipulatives. To go along with the letter theme, Saplings are learning about trees. We took a nature walk and found a really beautiful cedar grove where they spent time exploring the swamp habitat where the white cedars grow. They were excited to be able to access this

special spot as the muck was frozen and they could walk right in. They were also able to make the letter T out of things found in nature.

In science center, Saplings are taking a closer look at tree barks and leaves using pocket microscope and magnifying glasses. They are learning about the parts of trees. They are discovering that trees grow on earth but other organisms grow on trees too, like moss and lichen. They are also having conversations about various animals considering trees as their home. Saplings are learning about the importance of trees and why we need them. We have been exploring the book “A Walk in the Boreal Forest” by Rebecca L Johnson.

Next week is a short week as winter break starts on Thursday the 21st. Wednesday the 20th will be Pajama Day with movie and popcorn in the afternoon. We are excited! Have a good weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 21
rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com
jessica.klemmerbgcs.com



Making the letter “T” with sticks!

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

It has been a crazy busy but fun week in K/1. The musical took up a lot of our time this week but it was a very successful and fun performance!

We spent the week reviewing key topics in both reading and math. We practiced sight words, letters, reading, writing, and answering questions about stories. In math, we reviewed shapes, place value, addition into the teens, and numbers up to 120.

K/1 continued to discuss our emotions and emotional regulation. This week, the students learned about the calm emotion. We practiced breathing to reset our bodies, intentional movements through yoga, and positive affirmation self-talk! K/1 is all very kind and empathic towards one another and they thrive learning new self-regulation skills.

Have a great weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 22  
[sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com)  
~~~~~

From Ms. Samantha Forster

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

This quarter is quickly ending and I feel like we have accomplished so much. I can't wait for the rest of the year together.

In reading, we have been focusing on long o sounds with different spellings. We continue to work on our writing each day with our prompts. I want to keep encouraging interest in reading and reading to self so we do that each day during language arts downtime. We also finished up units so we took comprehension reading assessments.

In math, we finished up our units and took math assessments. These focused on money, measurement, and 2 digit addition for 2nd grade. In 3rd grade, this assessment checked their understanding on 3 digit subtraction and addition, basic multiplication and division, and word problems. I also introduce a new math online platform that is focused on the state standards and has a particular focus on their MAP scores. I will be sending out individual emails for students to work on this platform, as well with other platforms, to use if they want over break.

The musical has gone so wonderful. It has been so fun to watch students blossom with the creative portion of this. It was a nice way to introduce the winter break. Thank you for being so supportive of your children!

218-663-0170 ext. 26

samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**

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

Both of the classes have been reading chapter books on Fridays during part of our language arts time. Some students had previously discovered the joy of reading a chapter book, and some are reading one for the first time. All students have an additional chapter book that they should be reading at home. You can help by making sure your child reads for 20-30 minutes each day. The class would also like to thank the generous donors for two free books from the Scholastic Book Fair this week! This will help us in our reading goals.

In math, fourth grade is working diligently through long division. They are doing a great job and will be working up to larger numbers this week. Fifth grade is working with decimals, and most students are finding this unit relatively easy. We will be starting a new online math platform on Khan Academy called Mappers this week. This will give students individual support on the things they each need to work on in math.

Of course, the biggest event this week was the musical, and the students did such a wonderful job! All of their effort and hard work paid off, and everyone should be very proud of themselves!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

[laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com)