



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

February 15, 2024

Dates to Remember:

- Thursday, February 15 ~ 100th Day of School!
- Monday, February 19 ~ No School – Staff PD/Workshop
- Tuesday, February 20 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting @ 4:00
- Tuesday, February 20 ~ Birch Buddies-SKATE!
- Tuesday, February 27 ~ Birch Buddies-SKATE!
- Friday, March 1 ~ No School – Staff PD/Workshop
- Friday, March 15 ~ No School – Staff PD/Workshop
- Tuesday, March 19 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting @ 4:00
- Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29 ~ No School – Spring 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:

*School Director, Birch Grove Community School
Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service*

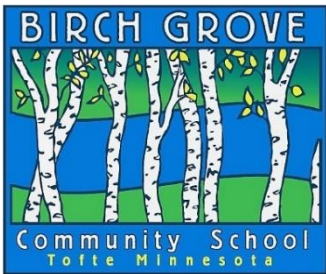
It was another busy week here at Birch Grove that included not only Valentine's Day, but the 100th day of school as well! Saplings and K-5 had a valentine card exchange on Wednesday of this week along with a little celebration. Thank you for having your child write out names on valentine cards while at home – it was a great opportunity for them to practice handwriting. We appreciate that support from home!

Please note that there is no school on Monday, February 19 due to a scheduled staff professional development/workshop day. You



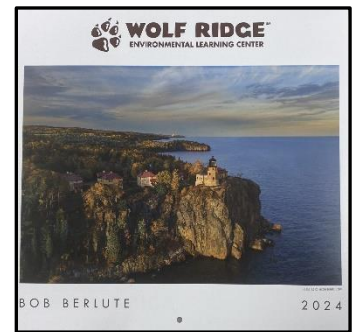
can always find the school year calendar on the school website at www.birchgroveschool.com

If your child rides the Arrowhead bus to school, please remind him/her that riding the bus is a privilege. All BGCS children that are riding a bus know what the rules are and should be following them. Please check in with your child at home and ask them what the rules are and if they have been following them. We have not had to make assigned seats on either bus so far this year, but this may be coming. The main rules on the bus: 1. Keeping the noise level down 2. Keeping hands and all items to self and 3. Talking needs to be appropriate. Children also know that they need to keep their seatbelt on until the bus comes to a full stop *at* their stop. We follow these main rules so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving safely. Please support this from home and check in with your child – thank you!



Birch Grove Community School is looking to expand our team by adding another K-5 paraprofessional. Do you know someone who would be great in this position? Please refer them to our website to check out this employment opportunity! <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Employment-Opportunities>

The majority of money has come in for the Wolf Ridge calendars. If you have not yet turned yours in, please do so soon. Revenues from calendar sales go towards the cost of the annual Wolf Ridge trip for 2nd-5th graders. It's a great ADVENTURE!



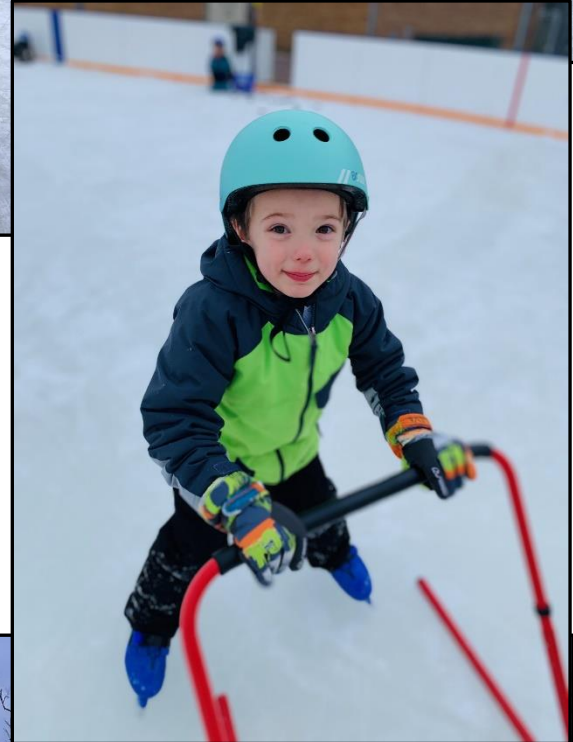
Kari Vick, illustrator, painter and print maker who has been reading books to the Saplings, donated some of her illustrated books to BGCS! Kari has often illustrated children of the North shore in their element. These two BGCS siblings were the basis for her illustrations in "Monica the Muskie". How cool! Thank you so much for the books!



Birch Buddies ~ SKATE!, after school program, was great on Tuesday! While last week the children just wore their boots on the rink, this week they got to wear ice skates. Thank you, Mother Nature! There are two more sessions to go: Tuesday, February 21 and Tuesday, February 28.



Birch Buddies ~ SKATE!
After School Program
[Birch Buddies K-5 - Birch Grove Community School](http://birchgroveschool.com)
[\(\[birchgroveschool.com\]\(http://birchgroveschool.com\)\)](http://birchgroveschool.com)



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.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](#)



~~~~~

**From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

It has been an exciting week! Saplings are learning the letter V for Valentine. They are learning the letter sound and using manipulative to explore the letter. Saplings made Valentine's Day cards for their families by stamping with celery bottoms (see picture). They turned out so beautiful! We also read books about Valentine's Day and the meaning behind it. On Valentines Day, Saplings got to spend some time decorating their valentine bags and they did a little card exchange with Ms. Klemmer. Saplings also got to spend some time in the gym this week.

Saplings made "V" for volcano craft that are on display outside the classroom. They also played some memory games with cards containing pictures that start with a "V".

We continue to explore the outdoors by taking long walks or playing in the woods everyday, which may cause their gloves or boots to get a little wet. Please make sure to check in their backpacks for possible wet items.

Hope you all have a great weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

[rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com](mailto:rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com)

[jessica.klemmerbgcs.com](mailto:jessica.klemmerbgcs.com)



~~~~~

From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

The children had a wonderful Valentine's celebration at school. They enjoyed handing out their valentines to their peers and getting valentines! It is such a fun day to be in school!

The Kindergarteners learned about sequence of events in books. We practice retelling stories with first, next, and last vocabulary. They also identified the setting and characters in a story. The first graders read a book about where food comes from. We talked about the author's purpose and finding supporting details in a book. Everyone is working hard to improve their reading skills. We are constantly practicing sight words, letter sounds, and reading!

In math, Kindergarteners are working on learning 3d shapes. We played various games practicing sorting, identifying key features of a 3d shape, and building 3d shapes. 1st grade practiced graphing. We took various polls to collect data. We learned about different ways to represent the data in graphs. We introduced comparison bars as well.

Have a great long weekend! Remember to have your child read every day for at least 20 minutes. Everyone is capable of reading themselves!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com



~~~~~  
**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

This week was full of fun and exciting things. We had our Valentine's Day party and our 100th day party. Because of these additional things in the afternoons, we spent lots of time focusing on reading and math growth in the morning. We also did our first readers theater!

In math, both grades started their next unit so the beginning of the week was spending time reviewing skills that they had learned previously so that we can add upon them. Third grade practice word problems with unknown addends and we discussed what part they were exactly looking for (adding or subtracting). In second grade, we reviewed place value and expanded form. I was so impressed with how much knowledge they had retained from the fall. We will continue to build on these skills in this unit.

In language arts, we did our first reader's theater with a tall tale. Students each got a part and we practiced our parts each day so that we were able to perform in front of the class. This was a great skill to practice following along on while listening to others read. We also reviewed commas in a series and some prefixes. We will end the week with our vocab words and task cards.

We spent time talking about life cycles and inherited traits this week. We did a few activities and reinforced our knowledge of bar graphs by graphing different animals. Students love anything involving animals so it was easy to do activities with them.

We had so much fun at our parties. Thank you so much to families for the involvement. I really appreciate it and I know the children really love it.

218-663-0170 ext. 26

[samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com)



~~~~~

From Ms. Laurie Roberts

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

The fourth and fifth graders had a fun week celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school! The students showed kindness toward each other, their paraprofessionals, and teacher by making sure they had valentines for everyone. We have also been practicing using kind words and tone of voice when asking things of others, and it has been showing up in real life situations in the classroom, which is great to see!

In language arts, the fourth graders have been reading biographies about famous Americans, and the fifth graders have been reading about community gardens. The fifth graders mentioned that they are looking forward to possibly growing things in our new community garden that is located in front of the school. Everyone started a new poetry unit in the writer's workshop. This class seems to enjoy writing poetry!

In math, the fourth graders are continuing to practice adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. The fifth graders are doing progressively difficult word problems. Both grades also learned how to measure the volume of rectangular prisms this week. They practiced measuring in both centimeters and inches.



In science, students have been enjoying learning about rock types and the rock cycle. They have also learned how to identify minerals. It has been a fun and interesting week!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com