



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

February 29, 2024

Dates to Remember:

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 18-Friday, March 22 ~ K-5 Conferences
Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29 ~ No School – Spring Break
Monday, April 1 ~ School Resumes

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 a short but busy week here at BGCS! Please note that there is no school tomorrow, Friday, March 1. All school and community service staff will be on site all day though for First Aid, CPR and Narcan/Naloxone training. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday.

You will soon be receiving sign-up information for K-5 conferences that will be held the week before spring break, March 18-22. Please be sure to sign up. We look forward to speaking with you about your child!

Thanks to Nicole and Kirk Leand for sharing their baby goats (in sweaters!) with the Saplings this week. Leand's will share their goats with K-5 the last week of the school year and we look forward to it!





Campsite Kids registration will be sent home in folders on Thursday, March 14. While we know that this may seem early, enrollment numbers help us to make other decisions concerning the program. Please remember that transportation will now be available for a fee (exact same routes, pick up and drop off times as the school year), and that space is limited for this program. Don't wait to turn in paperwork or you may find that the program is full.

Adding to the TEAM! 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>



Kindergarten Round Up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024! Any child that attends the Saplings program will automatically receive a special invitation well in advance of the event. If you know of someone who has a child eligible to enter kindergarten next year (must be 5 by September 1, 2024), but they don't attend the Saplings program, it would be appreciated if you would mention this event to them. We appreciate all of the referrals our BGCS families give out! Our families are the best public relations tool ever! Thank you!



"Boots & Pearls" is a fancy Western theme that has been chosen for this year's annual Gala for the Grove! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 18!

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>



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](#)



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**From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

We have been soaking up much needed vitamin D this week with the unusual warmth in February. To go along with the theme, we are exploring the letter D. Saplings, as usual, are diving into the phonemes associated with the letter, making a word list and practice writing/ forming the letter.

In science this week, we are aspiring to be paleontologists. We are researching books and facts about some familiar dinosaurs as well as reading "How Do Dinosaurs.." fictional book series. This humor filled, light-hearted book series has important life lessons such as building empathy for others, or even how to show proper table manners. The sensory bin has been a popular spot in the classroom as it is filled with various dinosaurs, pretend bones, and dried beans, representing rocks, that are used to bury and reveal the bones. They are "digging" the sensory bin!

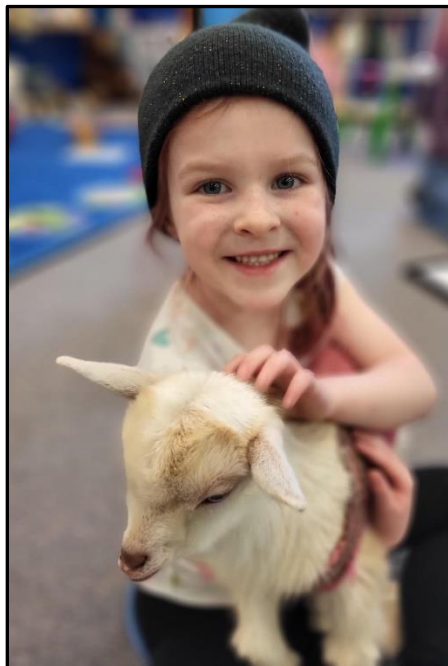
Special thank you to Nicole and Kirk Leand from Klarhet farm who brought in some adorable baby goats to visit with the Saplings. Each Sapling got a chance to hold and pet the goats which guaranteed instant smiles. This was the highlight of the week for all

Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

This week, Kindergarten learned about the letter sound TH! They have been busy learning 6 new sight words a week for the last 3 weeks. We are practicing blending words and reading every day. We are getting better at fluency and understanding. Keep practicing at home! 1st grade read a story, "Rabbit's Tale" that is similar to Chicken Little. We used those two stories to practice comparing and contrasting. We practice identifying the parts of a story. We also learned about dialog. In math, Kindergarten is finishing a unit about 3d shapes and adding and subtracting. 1st grade finished a unit about graphs!



K/1 learned about shadows this week. We hypothesized how shadows can move without moving the object then tested our theory. We turned off all the lights and used flashlights to make shadows move. The student's connected the flashlights with the sun. We took our experiment outside and measured how our shadow moved throughout the day.

As a reminder, students have a lot of resources they can access at home. They have assignments that are more tailored to each student in Freckle. Students can practice reading on Raz Kids and Lexia. Make sure to keep logging reading and math practice for tickets to treasure!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

Our class has been putting in lots of extra work this week! We started our biography research project, adding additional reading and math groups, and spent time reinforcing skills that students learned earlier this year. Of course, we added in time for art and the outdoors. With the short week, we had to make sure that we were productive!

In language arts, the stories in our books are getting longer and more complicated. We did individual, small group, and whole group reading activities with comprehension checks throughout. Students have learned lots of suffixes so we spent time reviewing those. We did compare and contrast paragraphs this week paired with writing things for our biographies. We will end the week with vocab words.

In math, three-digit addition and subtraction has been the focus for second grade. We have reviewed this everyday and practiced our regrouping skills. In third grade, they combined all their mathematical skills to do two step word problems. To do this well, students have to know their multiplication facts. We will continue to work through both these skills and review for the next quarter!

Each student picked a famous person to research for their biography project. Students will write a paper, do a timeline, create a multimedia presentation, and present this to their classmates. This will be a bulk of social studies this month. Everyone has been so excited!

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From Ms. Laurie Roberts

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

This week I interviewed a fourth grader about how language arts is going for her this year. Below are the questions I asked, and the answers she gave me:

Q: Which part of the language arts rotations is your favorite and why? (the rotations include Lexia work on the computer, learning at the table with a small group, and individual work)

A: I like working at the table with my group because I like being with you and the other kids. I like us to do work together. I like to talk to other kids.

Q: We read a lot of different kinds of things together, such as fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Which of those things do you get excited about when you come to the reading table, and why?

A: I like stories, so I guess I like fiction. I like them because they are pretend and also because they are funny sometimes. I like to read graphic novels that are funny.

Q: I notice that you check out graphic novels and other kinds of books from our library. Do you feel like our library has a good selection of books for you?

A: Yes, I love the graphic novels in the library! We have lots of good books. I want to check them all out!

Q: One last question. What kinds of things do you enjoy writing in class?

A: I like writing stories the most. I like to make up pretend stories. It's fun when we share our stories with the class too.

In language arts this week, the fourth graders read several accounts of the journey of Lewis and Clark. Fifth grade read about horses. Everyone did individual work that supports the reading skills they have learned from Lexia.

In math, the fourth graders are comparing fractions with number lines, manipulatives, and by drawing models. The fifth graders are working with algebraic expressions. Luckily, they do not seem at all anxious when they see the word "algebra" like their teacher is!

Conferences will be the week before Spring Break, so please watch for an email coming soon about signing up for a conference. I look forward to sharing your child's progress with you!

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