

## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

**April 4, 2024**

### Dates to Remember:

- Friday, April 12 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop Day
- Tuesday, April 16 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting @ 4:00
- Tuesday, April 16 ~ Kindergarten Round Up!
- Tuesday, April 23 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, April 24 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, April 25 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5<sup>th</sup>
- Friday, May 3 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop Day
- Monday, May 6 ~ Climb Theater show for K-5
- Tuesday, May 7 ~ MAP testing for K-5
- Wednesday, May 8 ~ MAP testing for K-5
- Thursday, May 9 ~ MAP testing for K-5
- Wednesday, May 15 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip 2-5<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, May 16 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip for 2-5<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, May 16 ~ 911 for Kids! - Saplings & K/1
- Friday, May 17 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip 2-5<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, May 18 ~ Gala for the Grove!

### 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.*

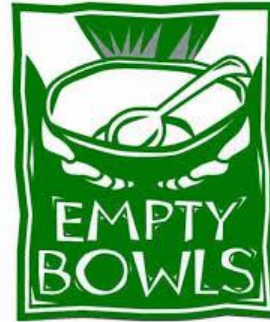
#### **From Ms. Diane Blanchette:**

*School Director, Birch Grove Community School*

*Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service*

It's great to be back in session after spring break last week - students and staff were missed! We are on the final countdown until the end of the year and we have many things happening at Birch Grove Community School. Please be sure to read the weekly newsletter and see the "Dates To Remember" to keep informed of what is happening. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

\$10,000 was granted to Birch Grove Community School and Birch Grove Community Services from Empty Bowls! Thank you so much for helping us to provide our in-house hot lunch program, free breakfast bars and free snacks for several programs throughout the building and throughout the calendar year. Many thanks!



Campsite Kids ~ Summer 2024 is full. Thank you everyone for enrolling and keeping this program one of our most popular! This program is on FIRE!

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Campsite-Kids>

Kindergarten Round Up ~ Tuesday, April 16. If you know of someone that has a child that will be 5 by September 1 and they are deciding where to enroll, please consider recommending Birch Grove Community School as a school of choice. Parent promotion is our best public relations tool and we appreciate it!

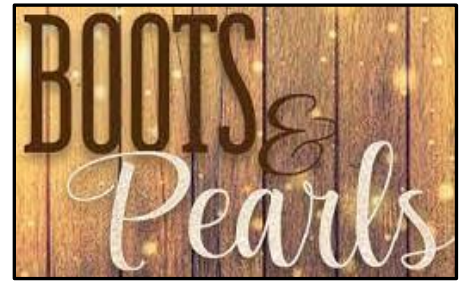


Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! special after school program "spring session" coming soon. Registration will be sent home soon with K-5 students ~ don't delay, the fall session filled up instantly. We look forward to spring adventures!

Saturday, May 18! Ticket/meal choice forms are now available:

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

This is BGCS's biggest fundraiser of the year and we could use your help! Sponsors are needed for the event, so if you know of a business or couples/individuals that could sponsor this fundraiser, please let us know or send them to the website so that they can help to support this event. Please help us spread the word. Go Birch 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](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org) ~ 218-663-0170

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

What a great way to come back to school with snow on the ground! The Saplings were very excited to go play in the snow and sled a few times. We are easing back to school with a lot of energy and stories to share. At circle time this week, Saplings revisited various classroom rules, expectations and brainstormed about different voice levels. Some of the basic expectations that we practice are, using kindness, helping hands, walking feet, listening ears and lastly, having fun! Saplings have also color-coded voice levels this week with Red being outside voice, Yellow being large group speaker voice, Yellow being table talk voice and Blue being whisper/calm voice. Saplings are also doing an excellent job remembering those expectations and demonstrating them.

This week, Saplings explored the letter K. They practiced sounding and writing the letter. They spent some time making paper Kites as well. At the sensory bin, Saplings made their own special concoction of slime and are using great language skills to explain their reactions. As usual, we spent extended time utilizing our backyard, exploring the forest and playing at the big playground. We have moved on from making mud pie and mud soup, to making slushies!

Have a wonderful weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

The students came back from spring break with lots of stories of their time off. They also came back excited to be at school and play with their friends. They were all ready for learning!

It was another busy week in K/1! In language arts, we discussed character traits. We identified the actions and what the characters say to identify traits about that character. In math, we learned about shapes. We can identify 2d and 3d shapes, and acute, obtuse, and right angles found in shapes.

April showers are supposed to bring May flowers! Maybe April snow will bring lots of sunshine in May! The continued change of weather makes dressing for outdoors varied. Winter gear including snow pants, waterproof gloves, jackets, and hats are still required. Please send your child with them every day until the snow is gone. If you wish for them to leave them at school let me know. On a similar note, students have been coming in from recess soaking! If you noticed that your student comes back home with different pants on, please send back more back-up clothes. We like to play hard and sometimes that means very wet pants!

Please continue to read and practice math facts at home. The students are excited to get tickets for treasure. Be sure to keep logging all reading and math practice at home so that students can earn tickets.

Enjoy the weekend!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

It sounded like everyone had a great spring break! I am excited to get back into it for the last portion of the school year. We have spent the week re-establishing classroom expectations and routines while progressing through new material. We will continue to work on this as students get excited for the warmer weather.

We have switched gears in math and started prepping for testing and for the next grade. Third graders started with review of third grade material that is essential for the beginning of fourth grade while reviewing important words that they may see in the standardized tests coming up. This was mostly place value and rounding with numbers up to a million. Second grade started with a base understanding of multiplication and strategies to solve multiplication facts. They were so thrilled to have fresh material to learn. These are all things that will help them as they move onto third grade.

In language arts, we focused vocabulary words and text structure this week. This was paired with developing complex sentences for their vocab words and completing graphic organizers during reading groups. We also touched on possessive nouns and what that means in a sentence. Each student has grown so much in reading and their confidence. This has shown in our reading activities.

Our research project continues but is winding down. The goal for this week is to finish slide shows and their timeline. Next week we will apply our finishing touches and schedule dates to present to the class. This has been a long learning process for everyone but it has turned out so amazing.

Ensure that students are still coming with winter gear. We had many students without hats, mittens, and snowpants this week and we try to get outside whenever possible.

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**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**  
*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

The fourth and fifth graders came back from spring break focused and ready to learn! This week we are finishing up the last parts of our language arts and math curriculums, and will soon be ready to review concepts for the MCA and MAP testing that is coming up.

We also finished up a writing unit on poetry this week. Many of the students surprised themselves on how much they enjoy reading and writing poetry! Our next writing projects will focus on informative writing, with our first project being about sea turtles. Students will do research on sea turtles before writing informational guidebooks on the subject.

In social studies, our focus this week was geography of the U.S. We have been practicing our map reading skills, and also graphing skills.

In science, students studied superposition, which is the concept that the oldest layers of sediment on earth are on the bottom, and the youngest are on the top. This becomes complicated as the sediment layers get moved around by different geological forces. Students demonstrated how the layers can move with modeling clay. The clay was also used later in the week for creating sculptures in art.



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