



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

March 23, 2023

Dates to Remember:

- Monday-Friday, March 20-24 ~ Conferences
- Monday-Friday, March 27-31 ~ No School, Spring Break
- Friday, April 7 ~ No School, Scheduled Staff Workshop
- Tuesday, April 11 ~ Kindergarten Round Up and Step-Up Day
- Tuesday, April 25 ~ MCA Reading Test for 3-5th Grade
- Wednesday, April 26 ~ MCA Math Test for 3-5th Grade
- Thursday, April 27 ~ MCA Science Test for 5th Grade

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

Thank you to those parents/guardians that have attended their conference with their child's teacher this week. If you missed your conference or there was a scheduling conflict, please be sure to contact your child's teacher and re-schedule. As always, one of our annual goals is to have 100% participation at conferences. We haven't missed this goal yet, so please help us to maintain this excellent record! We appreciate your input and thoughts at conferences, as you are the expert on your child. Thank you for sharing them with us!

Tomorrow is the last day before Spring Break! Your child should have brought home extra reading materials this week (or tomorrow). Please have your child read every day/night over the break and be sure to record minutes on the Tickets to Treasures log. Thank you so much!



Save the Date! The annual **GALA FOR THE GROVE** will be on Saturday, June 10 this year! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year – please join us. Watch the website for information coming soon! Cheers! <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>



Birch Grove Community School and the Saplings Program just received a total of \$10,000 from Empty Bowls to support the Birch Grove in-house hot lunch program and the purchase of breakfast bars! Fantastic! Thank you SO much to Empty Bowls for the good work that they do!

Angie Fernlund, our school cook, has all of the hot lunch menus completed through the end of the school year. To see the menus and some pictures of the delicious meals that she has been serving, go to our school website at www.birchgroveschool.com or click on this link: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/School-Lunches>

The 2023-2024 school calendar was approved at the March school board meeting and can be found on the school website on the home page. Remember when viewing the calendar that if there is school, there is Saplings – no school, no Saplings program.



Kindergarten Round Up has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 for children that will be starting kindergarten next year (must be 5 by September 1). All children in the Saplings program that are eligible for kindergarten next year have received invitations via Take Home Folders. If you know of a family that has a child eligible to start kindergarten next year, please refer Birch Grove Community School to them. We appreciate endorsements from our families – you are our best PR! Please help spread the word. Thank you!



Picture of the Week!

For more great pictures go to our Facebook page!

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

One of the joys of living up North -
Every Friday is "Flannel Friday" at Birch Grove!
Join us by having your child wear flannel too!



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 ~ Birch Grove Community School Email

bgcommunityservice@boreal.org ~ Community Service Email

218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

Website: www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Coupon Link: <https://www.logosoftwear.com/coupons.php>

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



From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield

Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

This week the Saplings chose to learn about magic, again! We collected sticks that we thought would make good wands. This activity brought up words for the Saplings to learn and think about like-long, short, thin, thick, curvy and straight! Then we brought them inside and decorated each one using paint, yarn, feathers, glue, pom poms, markers and chalk. We also spent time thinking about and practicing writing down what our own potion would be named, the purpose of it, and what ingredients would go into it! This activity was a great way for the Saplings to choose the directions that they want to follow and then practice following them.

My potion was called the Puppy Potion. All you need to do to turn yourself into a puppy is get 1 spoon of flour, 2 squirts of soap, 1 sprinkle of cinnamon, 2 spoons of water, mix it all together and *pretend*(we made sure to talk about this beforehand) to drink it! TA DA, puppy time! Poof! and Woof!

Have a great Spring Break! We can't wait to see the Saplings come back after the break!

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

March has truly gone by quickly. We have been busy learning about recycling, graphs, and time. Spring has sprung according to the calendar (it didn't, but we can hope!) and we will be learning about growing things in April! Spring break is next week already! Please use the online resources and read over the break!! We have had such great growth this year and I want to continue that!

It has been a busy week at Birch Grove. We had conferences this week. Thank you everyone for taking the time to talk to me. It is always helpful to get your insight and fun to share the growth we have seen this year.

We reviewed time, shapes, and numbers this week in math. Everyone is doing so well telling time! In language arts, we discussed sequence of events and cause and effect. Kindergarten reviewed the alphabet and 1st grade reviewed blends and vowel sounds.

We only have a few weeks left until we take our spring MAP tests. Please continue to reinforce and practice math and reading skills at home. Make sure to continue to read for 20 minutes every day. Every student can read out loud to you if the right book is chosen. Make sure to be logging this time spent in the reading/math log for tickets to treasure. The students can earn prizes at the end of the year with their tickets.

Have a great spring break!

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From Ms. Sara Silence
2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

This week we continued our book, *Life on Ice*. We read about polar bears, penguins, and about some of the science experiments that happen in Antarctica. We then took our new knowledge of life in Antarctica and compared it to the winters of Minnesota. We went outside and checked for signs of spring and comparing the types of snow we have seen this week. Tomorrow we will spend most of the day outside at the campsite learning our regular curriculum and completing a few special projects.

We have also continued our Three Little Pigs projects. At this point all students have outlined an idea of their version. We spent some more time doing compare and contrast versions and found that some books put events in the opposite order. We also took into account character opinions as we discussed the True Story of The Three Little Pigs, as told by the wolf.

In math, both groups have finished their units and took their math test so we can start new after spring break. A spring extra credit packet will be coming home Friday for some extra practice and review. Any pages completed and returned before end of the year will earn an extra ticket for Tickets to Treasure. Math and reading done on Freckle also count towards tickets. Kids should know how to login, but if needed our class code is SILEND. Login with first name and last initial.

Have a great break!

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

We had yet another busy week in our classroom, as we prepared for spring break to arrive. With that, our goal was to wrap up different units and things we have been working on over the past few weeks, to give us a fresh start after break. We concluded the Starbase MN project, ending our simulated trip to Mars. It was quite the learning experience for the class, and they seemed to enjoy the project overall. In our science curriculum, we finished our unit on energy and the transfer of energy. Fifth grade even wrapped up their brief set of lessons on geometric shapes. In social studies, we continued learning about how the constitution set up the federal government, and the checks and balances the constitution has in place.

After break we will be working on fractions in both fourth and fifth grade math. For science, we will be moving into our unit on plant parts and function. Social studies will feature reading and discussion on what each of the three branches of government does. For reading and spelling, we will be on lesson 25, which represents the end of the core part of our reading curriculum. We will still be doing plenty of reading and spelling, but we will expand our reading selections beyond our textbook. There will also be more standard specific practice for the upcoming MCAs.

Be sure to log reading time over the break as students will be able to earn tickets for the Tickets To Treasure program.

Have a wonderful spring break! Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

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