



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

April 27, 2023

Dates to Remember:

- Friday, April 28 ~ ExploraDome! – Traveling Planetarium for Saplings-5th Grade
Tuesday, May 9 ~ K-5 MAPS Testing Reading
Wednesday, May 10 ~ K-5 MAPS Testing Math
Thursday, May 11 ~ MAPS Testing Make-Up
Tuesday, May 16 School Board Meeting at 5:30 at BGCS
Wednesday, May 17 ~ 911 for Kids from Cook County - Saplings & K/1
Wednesday-Friday, May 17-19 Wolf Ridge Trip for 2nd-5th
Tuesday, May 23 ~ Invasive Plants Species Presentation for 4/5
Monday, May 29 ~ No School, Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 30 ~ Saplings Year End Celebration from 10:00-11:00
Friday, June 2 Last Day of School ½ Day: K-5 Graduation Celebration is at
10:30 and Early Release at 12:00
Saturday, June 10 ~ Gala for the Grove ~ *The Roaring 20's!*
Monday, June 12, First Day of Campsite Kids & Summer Saplings

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*

Third through fifth graders completed the MCA's this week! Thank you for supporting our efforts here at BGCS with seeing that your child got extra sleep each night before a test, and encouraging them to do their best work! To celebrate the completion of the MCA's, we will have a special day

tomorrow, Friday, April 28, by having the Exploradome, a traveling planetarium, here on site all day. The following shows will be viewed:

Saplings: *Observations of the Sky*

Kindergarten: *Observations of the Sky*

First Grade: *Observations of the Sky*

Second Grade: *Zoom! From the Earth to the Edge of the Universe*

Third Grade: *Zoom! From the Earth to the Edge of the Universe*

Fourth & Fifth Grade: *Mars: The Ultimate Voyage* (We thought this would be a good choice for a show as 4/5 took part in STARBASE Minnesota: Destination MARS earlier this year!)



Please be sure to check the updated May hot lunch menu. Due to the snow days, the May lunch calendar has switched up a bit with hot lunch being served on Friday, May 5 and Friday, May 19. An updated version has been posted on the school website.



The Gala for the Grove 2023 theme has been announced! The Roaring 20s! Think bootleggers, speakeasys, the Great Gatsby, flapper dresses, etc. BGCS families will all receive invitations soon, and then it will be posted on the Gala for the Grove page here: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove> The Gala for the Grove is Birch Grove's biggest fundraiser of the year. We look forward to another successful event and hope that you can join us! It's always a good time!

End of the year activities and/or field trips will be added to the Dates To Remember soon!



Picture of the Week! MCA's have been completed!

For more great pictures go to our Facebook page!

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

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:

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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 oceans and ocean life. We took time to observe the globe and see where different oceans are on our earth. We looked at and read many ocean life books learning all sorts of fun facts about these awesome underwater creatures! The Saplings really enjoyed having water in the sensory tub with rocks, pretend seaweed, and ocean animals. For art activities Saplings watercolor painted seashell color sheets and made jellyfish from paper plates and yarn. Most of all, the Saplings enjoyed playing the game sharks and minnows outside!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

It is great to see the weather start changing! Warmer weather always makes recess and playtime easier! With the last few 30-degree days make sure your child is equipped to go outside. They are required to have a coat, hat, snow pants (for the wetness) and mittens.

This week Kindergarteners are reviewing letters, reading, and practicing writing. We are spending a lot of time ensuring that kindergarten topics are concrete and we are starting to excel in our reading skills. The first graders reviewed story structure. We read a story and identified characters, setting, the problem, and the solution in the story.

In math, we are all reviewing various topics. We are working on mastering the concepts of time, money, and measuring. We took time to play multiple whole group math games this week. It was a good review and fun!

Have a great weekend and remember to read!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This week's schedule was thrown off with testing but we all adjusted and had a great time. Third graders who were testing took their time and worked hard, just what we wanted them to do. The second graders had some fun changing up our usual routine and working through regular math and reading groups. We were able to focus on some specific skills like fluency with reading and math.

This week we also went through some of the details about our upcoming Wolf Ridge trip. A packing list and the date details will be sent home today if you have any questions feel free to reach out to myself or Mr. Hoffman. We took some time hearing feedback about previous trips from the kids who have gone before. They told us all the things they're looking forward to and the things they learned before.

We finished our science unit about plants this week by finding the different water sources that are in Death Valley. We were amazed to discover that there is a waterfall and a very deep cavernous pool in Death Valley.

Keep exploring, reading, and using problem solving skills at home. This week in math we practiced playing Crazy Eights, a game similar to Uno. We added a math twist that you had to multiply or add the cards as you placed yours on top. Numbers are everywhere, help them play with them!

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From Mr. Jeff Hoffman

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

With this being the week of MCAs, I intentionally planned for a low-key week, so no one would miss out on anything if they needed extra time to test. Students were given the chance to do some relaxing activities, like drawing, coloring, word finds, and reading in the early part of the afternoon. The rest of our afternoons focused primarily on some art projects, getting some time outside, and our regular gym time.

We will be returning to a more regular week next week, beginning with spelling lesson #28. We will likely be finishing The Homework Machine soon and will start our next book Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus. That book is about students with disabilities, how they manage living with them, and make friends in the process. In science, we will be starting our unit on the structure and functions of animal bodies. We have also started our end of the year project, and we will continue to work on that throughout the coming weeks.

Some initial information on our trip to Wolf Ridge (May 17-19) will be sent home today. If you did not receive this information, please let me know right away.

If you have a completed or near completed Tickets to Treasure log, feel free to send it to school, and I will send home a new log sheet.

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

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