

Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 11, 2023

Dates to Remember:

- 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*

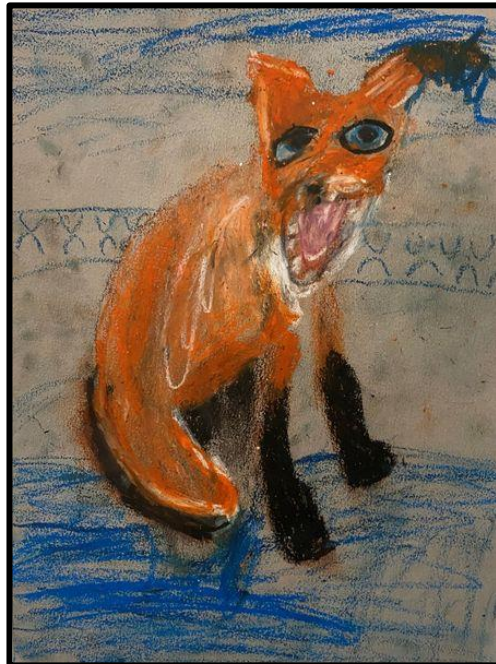
Woot! MAP testing was completed for K-5 this week. Thank you for the support from home, and thanks to the students for working hard and showing off their big brains! It feels good to have the MCA's and MAP testing completed for the year. You will receive your students Goal Setting Contract (with results) and a graph with MAP data showing how your child progressed through this school year, as well as any previous years that they have attended BGCS. This information will come to you at the end of the school year.

The annual Wolf Ridge trip for 2nd – 5th graders is next week. Please be sure to sign and turn in the Wolf Ridge liability form that was sent home earlier. If you don't have something on the packing list, such as a sleeping bag, please let us know as we have items that can be borrowed for this special trip. Please be sure to talk with your child before the trip and remind them that this is a special event



that is meant to be a fun learning experience for everyone. We are *guests* at Wolf Ridge. Respectful behavior towards Wolf Ridge staff, BGCS staff and fellow students is expected. Please reinforce this at home. BGCS consistently receives praise from Wolf Ridge about how well behaved, respectful and polite our students are, and we would like to keep this reputation intact. We look forward to this memory making trip – so excited! Be sure to watch the school Facebook page for picture updates!

The end of the school year can get busy and exciting with lots of special events and activities that don't follow our regular schedule. Please be sure that your child is getting enough sleep so that they can successfully navigate these special year end days.



Picture of the Week!

[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:

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](#)



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**From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield**

*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week the Saplings chose to learn about volcanoes. Saplings worked hard to create a group volcano out of paper, cardboard and a plastic bottle. The next day, we tried a science experiment and watched the volcano erupt by combining baking soda and vinegar, which they seemed to enjoy quite a bit! Another project included each Sapling getting a Ziploc bag with red and yellow paint in it, and they used their fingers to mix the paints together and created a volcano eruption! We also looked at different pictures of and read books about volcanos. Exciting!

We also talked about Mother's Day this week. We each went around our group circle and spoke about something that we love about our mom or guardian. Afterwards we created a loving craft to send home with Saplings to give to their moms. Happy Mother's Day we appreciate you!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

The Kindergarteners and 1st graders finished MAP testing this week. They were all trying their hardest and taking their time! I am excited to share the results with you at the end of the school year. It is always fun to see growth from the beginning of the school year to the end!

This week kindergarten worked on our blending skills. We are working on being more fluent when reading 3 letter words and learning more sight words. 1st grade learned about how to decode long words. In math, we all worked on reviewing key kindergarten and 1st-grade concepts. We look forward to practicing our skills by playing math games!

K/1 will enjoy a great celebration tomorrow for accomplishing our whole class math facts goal. We will have a pajama and stuffy day with our class pet, Kota the dog! We will dance and crack open a pinata, and enjoy ice cream! It will be an extravagant celebration!

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week was a little thrown off with testing. But the kids worked super hard and we met so many goals and ended up with a lot of free time because of our wacky schedule. Many of the students chose to play some of our math and reading games for free time. A new favorite is multiplication battleship. In math we spent the week reviewing all of our foundation skills and using problem solving skills to figure out two step word problems.

Our language arts skills focused on taking small steps to do what we thought was impossible. We read a story about a blind man conquering Mount Everest and watched a video of our favorite character conquering a diving board. Students were able to connect, summarize and problem solve using these stories.

If that wasn't enough, we also had baby bunnies visit our classroom on Monday and on Thursday welcomed a parent to teach us a science lesson about watersheds at the campsite. Next week will be a short classroom week as we will be at Wolf Ridge Wednesday through Friday. If you need another packing list or have any questions, please reach out to me.

Have a great weekend

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From Mr. Jeff Hoffman
4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

We began to wind down a couple of our subjects, like math and social studies this week. In math we were working with fractions and mixed numbers. For some reason the students were not disappointed that this week will be the end of that unit, with us then going into year end review. In social studies we are writing a one paragraph essay on the importance of the Bill of Rights. The class has done a great job of identifying the key rights and freedoms that come from those first ten amendments of the Constitution. The senses are the focus of our science unit this week, as we learned about how the different body systems help us to react to the things we touch, see, hear, smell and taste. Finally, we also squeezed in some work on prepositions, the words that help describe the location of an object (near, far, above, below, etc.).

Next week is our trip to Wolf Ridge! Liability forms have been sent home to be filled out, signed, and returned. If you need a copy of this form, please let me know as soon as possible. Monday and Tuesday next week will primarily focus on reading our class book, *Insignificant Events in the Life of a*

Cactus, along with wrapping up our last official science unit of the year. There will be no spelling test next week, and our final spelling unit will be the week of May 22nd. The class has also pooled together their classroom bucks to get the biggest prize, a pizza party. I have yet to decide for sure which day we are doing that, but it will be on a lunch from home day.

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 week! Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

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