



## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

**June 1, 2023**

### Dates to Remember:

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*



The K-5 Graduation Celebration is tomorrow Friday, June 2, the last day of school! The event starts at 10:30 outside by the playground end of the building. In the event of rain, it will be held in the school gym. Folding chairs will be available for guests, but feel free to bring a camp chair if that will be more comfortable for you. This is a half day of school with buses leaving at 12:00. Parents/family may take students home with them when they leave the event, but please be sure to let your child's classroom teacher know before doing so. Also be sure to take all of your student's year end display home with you – there are some incredible pieces that you are going to want to keep! Pictures from this day will be posted on the school Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/birchgrovecommunityschool>

Thanks to all that attended the Saplings year end celebration this week! Special thanks to Pops for creating the cutest songs ever for the Saplings to perform for their families and friends – they did such a great job! Thank you to Saplings staff Alayna Carrier, Ari Summerfield, Jessica Klemmer and mascot Gravy for taking such good care of the Saplings. Summer Saplings starts on Monday, June 12.



K-5 had a great time going on end of year field trips. To see pictures of the good times had, please go to the school Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/birchgrovecommunityschool>

The Tickets to Treasure drawings were held this week – some students earned a lot of tickets! Please thank your child for all of the reading and math done at home and at school that earned them their tickets. All students who did not win a drawing prize still received a smaller gift for their reading and math efforts. More happy pictures can be found on the school Facebook page.



K-5 students took part in Earth Day on Wednesday of this week, as on the actual Earth Day, there was still snow on the ground. Students cleaned up trash and debris on the Birch Grove Community Center grounds, the bike path in front of the building and past the Tofte Forest Service. They also cleaned the grounds at Tofte Park. They followed up their hard work with lunch at the park. Nice work, K-5!





Campsite Kids and Summer Saplings start on Monday, June 12. We look forward to a spectacular summer! If you have any questions about the programs, please email [birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org)

There are still tickets available for the Gala for the Grove ~ *Roaring 20's!* held on Saturday, June 10. To get your tickets call 218-663-0170 or email [birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org).

It's not too late to become a sponsor! Current sponsors are:

**\$1,000**

Cascade Vacation Rentals  
Grand Marais State Bank – Tofte Branch  
Lisa Hemp

**\$500**

Cook County Whole Foods Co-op  
Jon and Shirley Heinzen  
Nancy Koloski  
Spencer and Judy Motschenbacher  
Tofte Holiday Station Store

**\$250**

Cooter's Auto Repair/Wood  
Mark Buckman and Sisa Nikula  
North Shore Federal Credit Union  
Roger and Jeanne Kegl  
Sam and Sarena Crowley



K-5 report cards, Academic Goal Contracts, 22-23 NWEA-MAP scores for reading and math, NWEA MAP history scores (for the last 3 years depending on how many years your child has been at BGCS), and other year-end information will be mailed home the week of June 5-9. Parent surveys will be emailed home soon as well. Please be sure to fill one out for your family and give your feedback on the 2022-2023 school year.

Many thanks to the West End Garden Club for the work that they did outside today with the plants, flowers and bushes around the building. It looks fabulous!

Thank you to all of our BGCS families! We appreciate the support you have given to our small school, staff and students. It's been another great year and we hope that you will continue to refer others to our Saplings program, summer programming and our K-5 elementary school. We are GROWING! Please look for information to be sent home in June about upcoming changes that we believe will positively impact our K-5 elementary school. We continue to look forward and plan for positive change that will favorably impact our students and families. Go Birch Grove!

Please be sure to have your child read, read, read, over the summer! It makes a big difference, and we want to keep the summer slide at bay. Thank you!

Many thanks to the K-5 and Community Service staff for the GREAT 2022-2023 school year:  
Sara Knottski, Sara Silence, Jeff Hoffman, Michelle Blanck, Jessica Klemmer, Rista Sharma-Connor,  
Jenny Buckman, Gayle Grinnell, Emily VanDoren and Angie Fernlund!  
Saplings staff: Alayna Carrier and Ari Summerfield!



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 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 did not have a theme, we simply just enjoyed each other's company during the last week of the school year. The Saplings had an End of Year Celebration on Tuesday. They sang songs that they helped create with my Pops, they each received a certificate and pack of watercolor paints, and we had snacks and playtime with families and friends! On Wednesday, the Saplings got to choose between walking to Tofte Park with Ms.Carrier, or playing on the big playground with Ms.

Ari. Ms. Martinson joined us today and read stories to the Saplings while we enjoyed being outside. Her dog, Dakota, joined us too! Tomorrow, the last day of school, we will enjoy a pizza party for our last day. Please remember that the day ends at 12:00 with buses leaving at this time.

We have really enjoyed watching each of the Saplings grow this year! We were a great team that worked together to learn and grow. Thank you to all of the families who have supported the Saplings program this year. We appreciate it so much! Have a fantastic summer filled with many explorations and adventures!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

As we close out the year, I wanted to say thank you to all the parents for all the support throughout the school year. Together we ensured that each child learned and grew! This year has been fabulous and full of great memories. It has been a pleasure to teach each child in the K/1 classroom. I am excited to see the Kindergarteners return to the K/1 classroom next year as 1st graders! I have seen great growth throughout this year and I am excited to continue to see them grow next year! I am also excited to see the 1st graders continue to grow next year. They are off to new adventures in 2nd grade and in a new classroom. I know they will succeed in their new classroom!

Have a great summer!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This last week of school has been one of celebration with each day having something fun. We finally ended up doing our root beer science lesson that we do every other year. This is the first year that we've ever had to wait until the last week of school to fit it into the schedule! Kids participated in a cleanup day, walking to Tofte park picking up trail trash (litter) and then also scrubbing the ins and outs of the classroom. Even though lockers and desks are cleaned out, bringing a backpack these last few days will be helpful to collect any stray items.

This year's group of Pine Martens has come together so well to work as a team and support each other. We've celebrated and helped each other's growth, been with each other during the ups and downs, and wowza did they work hard! I will miss this class immensely.

A few clean up things on my end for families: all login info for computer websites we have accessed this year will be sent home with end of year reports. Any work with reading, math, exploring, and answering questions in conversations will help your student grow this summer. This of course



doesn't need to be on a computer, but the websites will be there if you want to use them. Prodigy has become a big hit since we started it in May.

Have a great summer!

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

With this being the last week of school, most of our focus was on some special activities, and getting our spaces ready for the end of the year. Last Friday, we had a wonderful time playing Mini Golf at Putt and Pets, and then we visited Passion Pit Beach in Grand Marais. We helped clean up some around the campsite and at Tofte Park on Wednesday. Today we are visiting Black Beach and swimming at the AmericInn in Silver Bay. I want to say thank you on behalf of the class, to all those businesses who have allowed us to spend some time with them over the last couple of weeks. Of course, everyone is excited for the last day of school and the graduation ceremony that takes place tomorrow.

If you are interested in some ways to help your child avoid learning loss over the summer, here are some suggestions I have:

-Read, read, and then read some more! Encourage your child to read a variety of books, to help them discover new vocabulary, and expand their knowledge of various topics.

- Free websites (especially for rainy days) for learning are great as well. Many of the sites we have used over the course of the year make use of learning games, which help learning be fun.

- Check for programs offered by local libraries, state parks, and local governments. Often these programs are free or carry a minimal cost.

- Get them outside! While there is the benefit of physical exercise, outside play can often help children learn problem solving skills and help them discover more about nature.

Finally, I just wanted to say that I have had a wonderful time working with all my students this year. I am really proud of all the progress they have made and I am excited for them to continue growing academically and personally. While I will not be back at Birch Grove next year, I will continue to cheer for their future success.

Have a safe and happy summer!

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