



## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

**October 26, 2023**

### Dates to Remember:

Sunday, October 29 ~ Annual Halloween Carnival at BGCS 2:00-4:00  
Tuesday, October 31 ~ Afternoon Halloween Fun!  
Thursday, November 2 ~ No School – Teacher Workshop  
Friday, November 3 ~ No School – Teacher Workshop  
Monday, November 6 – Friday, November 10 ~ Parent-Teacher Conferences  
Tuesday, November 21 ~ School Board Meeting at 5:30

### **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*

It has been another busy week here at Birch Grove! The excitement of fall and, of course, Halloween is in the air. The Halloween Carnival is this Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00. We hope you will join us. The Bad Seed food truck will be on site this day from 1:00-5:00 so that folks can get great food before, during, or after the carnival – bring some yummy food home! Next week on Halloween day, students will be having a fun afternoon with trick or treating at the Tofte Forest Service just next door. We are excited to resume this yearly tradition! Please know that your child may bring a costume to put on in the afternoon, but costumes need to be school appropriate – no weapons, and please, no blood, gore or really scary (students can wear these costumes at the carnival if they want). We do have Saplings in the building and we want the holiday to be



"The Pirate Family" has attended this event for many years! If you see them at the carnival, say "hi" or, I mean, "arrrrg!"

fun, not scary. K-5 families should have received an email about this special day. If you did not receive an email, please contact us.



Join us at the Annual Birch Grove Halloween Carnival on Sunday, October 29 from 2:00-4:00. It's an inexpensive event for the whole family! 1 card is \$5.00 with most activities costing .25 - .75 cents. Bingo is \$1 per card! We hope to see you here at BGCS for some Halloween fun!

Please volunteer at the Annual Halloween Carnival. Volunteers are needed to continue to offer this long, long standing community event! Volunteers must be 16+ Please sign up by clicking this link:

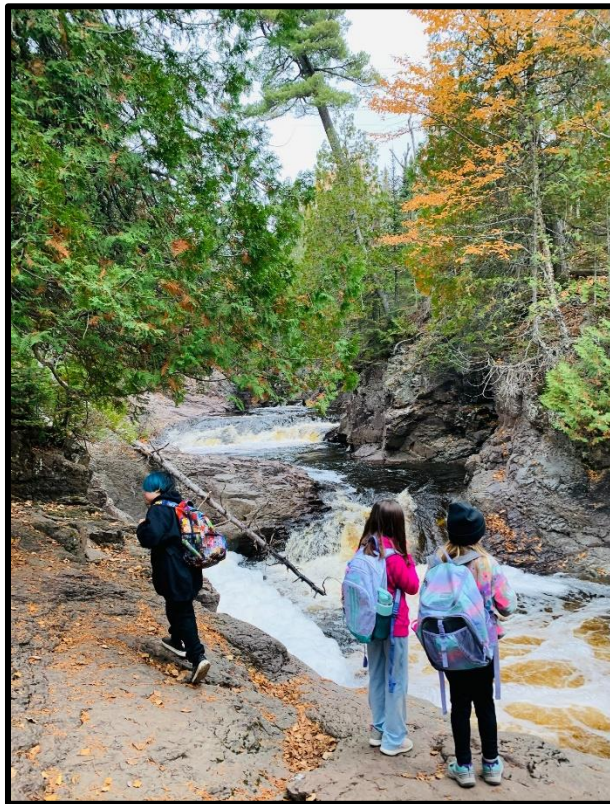
[Birch Grove: BGCS Halloween Carnival 2023 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com/Birch-Grove-BGCS-Halloween-Carnival-2023)

*Birch Buddies ~ HIKE!* after school program hike #7 was Cascade and Lookout Mountain!  
[Birch Buddies K-5 - Birch Grove Community School \(birchgroveschool.com\)](http://birchgroveschool.com)





*Birch Buddies ~ HIKE!*  
enrollment is currently at capacity. There is a rumor that it will be making a comeback in the spring. If your child did not get the opportunity to join this fun adventure this fall, be sure to sign up for the spring session if enrollment opens up.



One of the joys of living up North –  
Every Friday is “Flannel Friday” at Birch Grove! Join us!



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

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



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**From Lead Teacher Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor, Ms. Ari Summerfield, Ms. Jessica Klemmer**  
*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

We are heading into cooler temperatures but that hasn't stopped us from exploring our backyard! We have been making the most out of our "leafy" nature walks.

This week we have been learning the letter "P" for pumpkins. We are exploring the life cycle of a pumpkin plant to gain an understanding of how a seed can turn into a fully grown plant that provides. We have also recognized the importance of water and sunlight during the process. Different parts of the plant have also been discussed while going over the life cycle. Every day this week we have been reading stories about pumpkins, Halloween and Jack-o- lanterns. The kids seem to love talking about the holiday and of course the *candy*! Alongside our busy days, we have been practicing writing and spelling our names daily.



We continue to go over counting and practiced writing and tracing numbers 1 to 5. We have been sorting pumpkins according to their sizes from smallest to largest and vice versa. We are planning on cutting open the biggest one and counting seeds together. It will be fun to seeing them dig in and get their hands dirty. This will be a great way to use our senses of feel, smell, see and maybe even taste!

Have a great weekend and we hope that you will come to the Halloween Carnival on Sunday!

218-663-0170 ext. 21  
[rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com](mailto:rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com)  
[jessica.klemmerbgcs.com](mailto:jessica.klemmerbgcs.com)

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

Halloween is next week already! Yikes! K/1 will be having a small party on Halloween in the afternoon. Please plan on sending your child with a costume to change into. They may not bring any kinds of fake weapons or blood. I know the children are really looking forward to the party and the costume they picked out for me!

In math, the kindergarteners are learning about addition and subtraction facts and teen numbers. 1<sup>st</sup> grade is learning about subtraction and how to represent it! In language arts, the kindergarteners learned about the letter L and K and the words and, I, like, and the. The first graders are working on learning sight words and how to write complete sentences.



Reminders:

Please be reading with your child at home. First graders are capable of reading on their own! Just listen to them and help out as needed. Kindergarteners can follow along with you as you read or try to read on their own.

It is getting cold outside. Please make sure your student has the proper attire. They should have a warm jacket, a hat, and mittens!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

[sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com)

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

This week has been getting back into the groove after a long weekend. We spent a lot of time reviewing and building on knowledge that they learned in the last two months. I have been incorporating technology into the classroom more and this has been exciting for students.

In reading, we are getting ready to take our first formal classroom assessment so there has been reading with comprehension checks, learning more phonics rules, and doing whole group sentence correcting. Third grade has been working with word families and compound words. Second grade has been focusing on learning how to find a base word and add a prefix to change the meaning of that word. We will be using a program called ReadWorks starting on Friday. This could be a great resource to use at home as well!

In math, we built upon the things we have been learning. Second graders created their own word problem with a corresponding picture. This has been a great way to build skill around word problems. Third graders put their new multiplication knowledge into effect by applying it to finding an area. Math is the favorite subject in my classroom so far.



We did science this week and our topic was seed dispersal. We watched a video and practiced our note-taking skills. I followed this up with "Seed Gym" and "Floating Seeds" to solidify their understanding of this concept. We touched on the plant life cycle, which students have been learning as we have grown our own plants in the classroom. On Friday, I am hoping to do a scavenger hunt and look for seeds. This has been one of my favorite units this year.

Please reach out if you would like to know any class codes for different online learning platforms. I can provide this and then I can track progress when students work on them at home. Also, try to have your kids read at least 20 minutes a night. This could be newspapers, books, or magazines. It is important to check your child's comprehension as they are reading. Many students can read the words but have little idea on what the article

means. This could be something like “What is the main idea of this passage” “What did this character do” or “What was the first and last event in this passage.” We want the students to be thinking about their reading and pausing to process the words.

Thank you!

218-663-0170 ext. 26

[samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com)

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**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**

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

The fourth and fifth graders have been enjoying some new math and language arts manipulatives and games this week. The students are finding them to be a fun way to build their skills and enjoy time with classmates.

In language arts, both grade levels are working on usage of verbs. The fourth graders read a radio play, and some non-fiction text about how important radios have been throughout history. The fifth graders have been reading about animal biologists. Both grades will do some writing about Halloween on Friday.

In math, the fifth graders have been using the commutative, associative, and distributive properties as they work with decimals. They are starting to see the benefits of knowing how these math properties work. The fourth graders are continuing their practice of multiplying two-digit numbers. Both grades have been either reviewing or practicing memorizing their multiplication facts. Everyone is making progress in knowing their facts! Yay!

An email was sent to families on Tuesday with details about our Halloween party at school on October 31. And don't forget about the carnival on Sunday, October 29 from 2:00-4:00!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

[laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com)