



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

November 10, 2023

Dates to Remember:

Monday, November 6 – Friday, November 10 ~ Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 16 ~ Dental Health Screenings

Tuesday, November 21 ~ School Board Meeting at 5:30

Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24 ~ No School Thanksgiving Break

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

Quarter 1 of the school year has come and gone – time is moving quickly! This week teachers have been busy, after a full day of school, with parent-teacher conferences in the evenings. Thank you to all of our parents for attending conferences and sharing with your child's teacher. We appreciate your expertise on your child and look forward to a continuation of partnership with you! We need your support from home to increase growth this school year! As always, please speak with your child's teacher if and when the need arises - you don't have to wait for conferences to do this. 😊



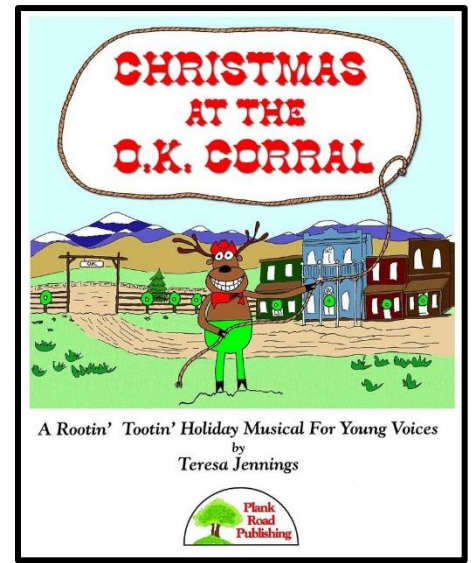
Birch Buddies after school program is open from 3:15-5:00

on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. If your child is registered for any of these days, they will automatically be sent to Birch Buddies after school. If you change plans, please send a note in your child's Take Home Folder or call/email both me and your child's teacher by 2:00. You will still be

charged even if your child does not attend. You may unenroll from this program at any time. There is still room in this program, so if you want to register, please let us know.

Zoar has an after school Bible Club on Wednesdays in the Community Room. If you wish for your child to attend, please send a note. The note can cover every Wednesday if you choose. If your child is registered, but you don't want to send your child on a particular day, please send a note in your child's Take Home Folder or call/email both me and your child's teacher by 2:00. This program is not a Birch Grove program. Any questions need to be asked of Zoar. Thank you!

Starting next week, K-5 will be practicing for the annual winter musical. This year, the musical is "Christmas at the O.K. Corral". Mark your calendar with the performance date - Wednesday, December 13, with performances at 1:00pm and 6:00pm. **If you know that your child will be absent on this performance day, please let us know now so that we do not assign your child a major part in the musical.** Thank you for your consideration on behalf of all of the students that will be working hard to present a great musical!



Lantern Lunch is every Wednesday until spring! Saplings join K-5 for Lantern Lunch on mats in the middle of all the fun! Once the children are settled in for lunch, they determine which lantern setting they would like to use, bright white, or glow-y campfire light, then the countdown begins to lights out in the room, leaving only the lanterns glowing! This is a great way to add a little fun to our winter days!



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 ~ 218-663-0170

Website: www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftwear.com/> You can use GRAB15 for 15% off and free shipping for orders over \$125

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

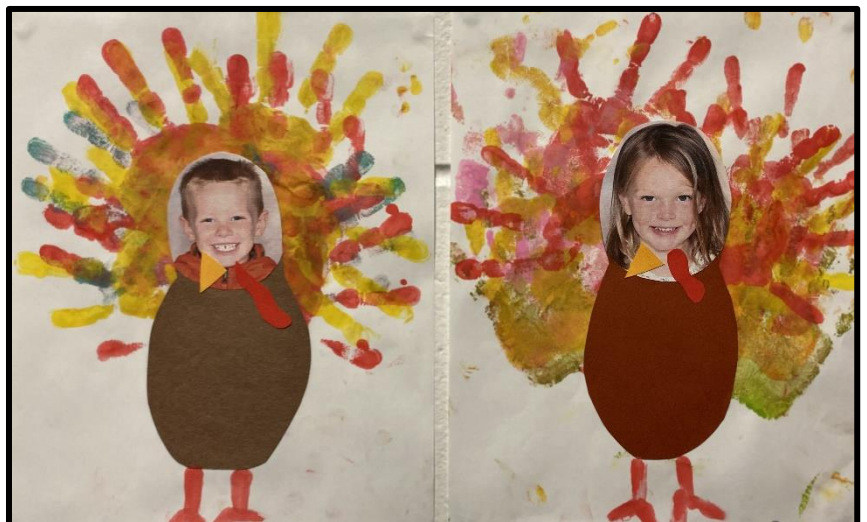


From Lead Teacher Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor, Ms. Ari Summerfield, Ms. Jessica Klemmer
Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

"Ff" is the letter of the week! Saplings practiced writing the letter "F" using manipulatives, sounded the letter out, and recognized various objects and animals that start with the letter "F". Please be sure to practice at home finding things that start with this letter and sounding it out. Reinforcement from home helps a great deal!

This week, the routine of checking in with the teacher upon arrival was introduced. Saplings start by practicing writing and spelling their names on the board, and we have a brief conversation about the expectations for the day. The children have been doing an impressive job so far!

Moving into the month of November, we are starting to work on understanding the meaning of the words "gratefulness" and "gratitude". We have started this process by recognizing our friends and family. We are continuing to talk and read books about friendship, how to be helpful and how to show our gratitude towards each other. We also sang some fun songs about family. Saplings are learning that all families are different/unique in their own ways and that families take care of each other, including our classroom family. We read various stories about manners and had an open discussion on scenarios where we need to use our manners. Brainstorming on examples of good manners, and why we need them, has really been helpful for self-reflection.



Despite the weather forecast, we have been playing like its spring! Please be sure to send warm outside gear, preferably waterproof, as we go outside in all but the most extreme weather.

Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

It has been a busy week! Thank you to all the parents for meeting during conferences. It was great getting to share what I see in the classroom and to hear what you see at home. I get a lot of good insight about every student by talking to you!

In language arts, we are focusing on reading strategies. We always look at the words and try to sound out words we do not know. We use pictures for clues and to understand a story better. Students should be practicing reading every day at home! In math, first graders are learning about missing parts in an equation. Kindergarteners are learning about numbers up to 20, shapes, and 5-groups.

Winter is approaching! Please make sure all outdoor gear is waterproof and your student has a hat, mittens, snow pants, and a proper winter coat every day! Practice putting on winter gear at home so that they are more independent at school!



Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Samantha Forster

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

This week has been adjusting back into a longer week. We continue building our language knowledge and math concepts. In social studies, we continued to work on all things maps. It was chilly out so we all bundled up to go outside.

In reading, we did our first real assessment where students read through an article (by themselves) and answered comprehension questions. We have been working through a series of prefixes and

suffixes so we added a few more to our list. Students are building their ability each week to decode unfamiliar words.

In math, we did our first real math assessment. Students got to spend time solving problems they knew. We worked on adding three to four addends that are 2 digit numbers in second grade. Third graders continue to build their understanding of multiplication and division. We spend extra time building fact fluency with flashcards.

The whole class created maps this week. They also got to have a whole group discussion about different continents throughout the world. Students have had a great time with learning about the parts of a map.

Thank you everyone for signing up for conferences this week. It was nice to chat with everyone on where each of the student is at. Please don't hesitate to reach out with anything else.



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From Ms. Laurie Roberts

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

It was great to meet the families of the fourth and fifth graders during conferences this week! It is always beneficial to students when there is a strong parent/teacher connection.

In language arts, the fourth graders have been working on verb tense, making inferences, and have read several stories about art and famous artists. The fifth graders have been working on verb tense, making inferences, and have been reading non-fiction texts about national parks. We have been discussing the differences between graphic novels and chapter books. All students will be adding chapter books to their free reading time if they have not done so already.

In math, both grade levels continue to solidify their memorization of multiplication facts. Fourth grade will take an assessment soon on multiplication of multidigit numbers. Fifth grade is working on multiplying fractions.

In art, both grades learned how to draw a waving American flag. They will add these drawings to Veteran's Day cards that will be sent to veterans at the Silver Bay Veteran's Home.



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