



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

February 23, 2024

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, February 27 ~ Birch Buddies-SKATE!
Friday, March 1 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop
Friday, March 15 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop
Tuesday, March 19 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting @ 4:00
Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29 ~ No School - Spring 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:

*School Director, Birch Grove Community School
Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service*

February, March and April have historically been the months where we see the most academic growth happen at BGCS. Please be sure that your child attends school regularly, is well rested, and give them some positive encouragement and support from home - it takes a lot of energy to grow!

The 2024-2025 school calendar has been approved and is on the school website. You can always find the school calendar here should you question if school is in session.
<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/>

Please mark your calendar for the annual Gala for the Grove that is set for Saturday, May 18. More information on this spectacular BGCS fundraiser will be coming soon and posted at: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>



Kindergarten Round Up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024! Any child that attends the Saplings program will automatically receive a special invitation well in advance of the event. If you know of someone who has a child eligible to enter kindergarten next year (must be 5 by September 1, 2024), but they don't attend the Saplings program, it would be appreciated if you would mention this event to them. We appreciate all of the referrals our BGCS families give out! Our families are the best public relations tool ever! Thank you!



"Boots & Pearls" is a fancy Western theme that has been chosen for this year's annual Gala for the Grove! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 18!

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>



Birch Grove Community School is looking to expand our team by adding another K-5 paraprofessional. Do you know someone who would be great in this position? Please refer them to our website to check out this employment opportunity! <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Employment-Opportunities>

The March hot lunch menu is on the school website!
<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/School-Lunches>



The last day of Birch Buddies ~ *SKATE!* is on Tuesday, February 27. Thank you to all that enrolled, and thank you to Sara Knottski and Gayle Grinnell for the great skating sessions!

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!



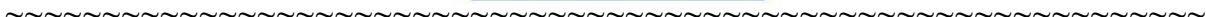
If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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 Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor

Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

We enjoyed the four day week with lots of play and enjoyed the warmer weather. The Saplings explored the letter G this week and came up with a list of words starting with G. The Saplings also used Legos as manipulatives to form letters to match Lego letter cards. Legos and Letters – it’s a great combination!

We read meaningful books this week from the Berenstain Bears collection and made connections from scenarios in the books to real life social situations. They enjoyed these books very much!

The Saplings seem to have mastered their skills on writing their own names – you can find a display outside the room of their efforts. They also seem to have really picked up on number identification as they continue to write a number between 1 to 8 next to their names everyday.

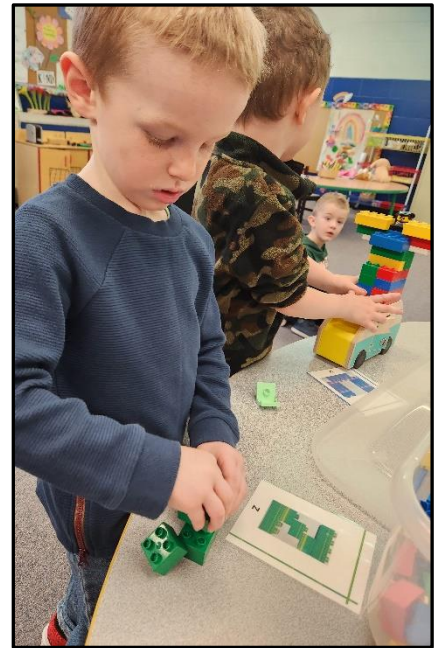
Saplings have been very actively engaged in outdoor play this week with the nice weather. Looking forward to Forest Friday today with a toasty bonfire!

Have a wonderful weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

The warm weather this week, and this past month, has made for interesting outdoor playtime and exploration. What we normally do in the spring we are doing now! A puddle is not just a puddle. It is a giant lake, a pot of soup, it’s a splash pad and more! We can use the essence of play to learn about science, physics, teamwork, and more! K/1 is always engaged in imaginative and educational play!

In language arts, Kindergarten practiced letter formation. We practiced writing letters, making letters with wiki sticks, and building letters with pipe cleaners. Using different mediums both spikes the interest and promotes more learning! First graders read a biography and discussed sequence of events! They wrote about how they get ready for school every day using sequence of events words such as first, next, and last. In math, Kindergarten is working on learning about 3d shapes. 1<sup>st</sup> grade is working on graphing, collecting, and understanding data.



Continue to read, practice math skills, and write at home with your child!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

This week has had a big focus on comprehension! We focused on word problems and reading. All of these skills with reading came in handy. This second half of the year has been moving so fast with much growth!

In math, second graders focused a lot on 3-digit subtraction and addition. They deciphered word problems with bigger numbers. This is a review from earlier this year and the students definitely feel familiar with these concepts. Third grade has spent all week with word problems. We call them “tricky” word problems with language that may be hard to understand or with added information.

In reading, we focused on the -er, -ar, -ir, and -ur words. Students learned about what we called a “bossy” r that sometimes overshadows the vowel. We also did multiple whole group and small group readings with comprehension checks. We took our story of “Penguin Chick” and researched another arctic animal. Students wrote about their animal and added interest by drawing a picture. We will end the week with vocab words and task cards. I am so impressed with the spelling ability that many of the students have developed.



In social studies, we focused on history and inventions. This will help us with our understanding as we start our end of the year research project on a famous person starting next week. These lessons are always a good time!

Please reach out with any questions or concerns!

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**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**

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

Last week the fourth and fifth graders went ice skating! While skating, we measured how long one of the students could glide, which was 3 feet. We later used that measurement, plus the length of the rink (200 ft.) to figure out how many glides that student could do lengthwise down the rink if each one was 3 feet. The students enjoy applying their math skills to real life situations.

Everyone seems to be making good progress with their reading skills. Most students have leveled up recently in our online learning platform, Lexia. Everyone has library books, including chapter books, that they are reading. It is great to see kids enjoy what they read, and also to feel good about the progress they are making.

In writing, we are working on poetry, which the students are finding surprisingly difficult. For example, when we wrote haikus, it was difficult for many students to fit their ideas into the format of syllables that need to be used in a haiku. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables. There is a lot of terminology in poetry that can show up on MCA and MAP tests, and they seem to be understanding those words well.

A reminder for all that we are still doing the “Tickets to Treasure” program, and your child can earn tickets for every 20 minutes of reading at home. Be sure to sign their log sheet.

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