



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 23, 2024

Dates to Remember:

Friday, May 24 ~ Tickets To Treasures 10:00

Friday, May 24 ~ Let's Plant Trees! ~ All School 12:45

Monday, May 27 ~ No School - Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28 ~ Magic Show/ Anti-Bullying

Wednesday, May 29 ~ 2/5 Field Trip-Black Beach & Pool!

Thursday, May 30 ~ Last Day of Saplings

Friday, May 31 ~ Last Day of School - End of Year Celebration at 10:00 with Early Release/Parent Pick Up at 12:00

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*

We were excited to have 2/5 back in the building this week as it was quite quiet last week with them away at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. We hope that families were checking out the Wolf Ridge Watch on Facebook that posted pictures of activities and events as they came in from staff. You can go to the school Facebook page to see them though there are some posted in this newsletter as well. Lot of learning and laughs happened on this annual trip!

K/1 explored Black Beach this week and went swimming at the Black Beach Inn. 2/5 will have their opportunity to do the same next week on Wednesday. Be sure your child's permission slip has been returned to school.





4/5 off site adventures this week:

On Tuesday, 4/5 visited the Art Colony where they took a class on block printing. Artist Nan Onkka taught the students how to draw and carve a landscape scene, and then how to use the press to print their landscapes. Thank you to Nan and the Art Colony! The students learned a lot and had a great time! In the afternoon, the class went to the North House Folk School to start a three-day bateau boat building project, taught by Tom McGee. They learned about some of the history of logging in Minnesota, and that bateau boats were used to help loggers cross rivers.

On Wednesday, 4/5 class visited WTIP radio. They got a tour of the station, and saw firsthand how live radio is done. They were surprised by the amount of technology and equipment that is needed. The students got to make a recording that will be played occasionally between shows. Thank you WTIP! In the afternoon, the class continued their work and learning about bateau boats at the North House Folk School. They also learned how tugboats were able to move huge quantities of logs around lakes and rivers.



On Thursday, 4/5 visited Putt and Pets mini golf course. The students had a great time golfing, and there were even a couple of holes in one! Everyone enjoyed meeting the many interesting animals there. Thank you for your hospitality, Putt and Pets! In the afternoon, the students enjoyed some time

in Grand Marais harbor, and then headed back to the North House to finish up their bateau boats. Tom McGee taught the students how to make oar locks and oars, and then everyone painted their boats. What a great project! Thank you so much North House Folk School!



Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center Trip 2024



Birch Grove Community School received "High Quality Charter School" status from the Minnesota Department of Education! Only 17 of Minnesota's 181 public charter schools met or exceeded the High Quality Charter School criteria. BGCS received this distinction along with an invitation to apply for funding to significantly expand or replicate Birch Grove Community School... "Where Roots Grow Deep and Branches Reach High!"



The last day of K-5 school is on Friday, May 31 and families are invited to celebrate with us! The End of Year Celebration will start at 10:00, with early release at 12:00. Please take your child home at 12:00 or make pick up arrangements for your child, as there will be no busing available at the end of the school day, ending at noon. Please let us know if this is an issue for you as we may be able to help. Thank you!

K/1 used the new Finch Robots that were granted from WISE/Lions last week! The task was to code a sequence of actions that allowed the finch robot to successfully traverse a simple maze. The outcome was an incredible amount of critical thinking, teamwork, and engagement. Students used their math and critical thinking skills to measure the maze, input the data into our coding program, and adjust their code when they encountered a failure. Every team accomplished the task and asked for more!



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.logosoftware.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

The last week of school is almost here! It is a bittersweet feeling to watch the Saplings grow and thrive - some of them will be headed off to kindergarten next year and will be missed in the Saplings classroom.

We spent most of this week immersed in play, focusing on number recognition again, and counting bubbles was the favorite! We also took a walk to the Tofte Town park and blew bubbles, read "Clifford's Class Trip", and enjoyed throwing rocks in Lake Superior.

Thursday, May 30th is "Pajama Day" for the Saplings. Feel free to send your Saplings in their favorite PJ's! We will spend this last day of the school year with popcorn, a movie, campfire and s'mores, if weather permits.

As a reminder, Wednesday May 29 is the end of year celebration for Saplings. Families are invited to attend at 10:00 to celebrate with us - we hope you can make it!

There is no Saplings on Monday, so have a great long weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com

jessica.klemmerbgcs.com



From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

It has been a busy week in K/1. We worked on finishing a few end-of-the-year projects. K/1 did a drawing and watercolor painting of a waterfall, a book about our school year, and a yearbook-type project. Look for these beautiful pieces of work during the year end celebration and make sure to take your child's work to bring home! We also filled our week with various fun end-of-the-year activities. We spent time at The Campsite, played inside and went on a field trip as well! The field trip was a huge success! There were smiles all around and everyone had a great time swimming at the pool.



Please continue to check backpacks for supplies coming home. We will be cleaning lockers and the classroom and sending home projects and the kids supplies they have here. If you have a library book at home send it back to school, please!

Have a great Memorial Day weekend,

218-663-0170 ext. 22

sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com



From Ms. Samantha Forster

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

We are to the last full week of school! Wolf Ridge was a major success! The last days of school are fully packed with end of the year learning, cleaning, and finishing up loose ends. We have been getting outside when time allows.

In math, we have just been practicing multi-step word problems with both groups and enforcing strategies so that they are solidified before summer. I think students will have a great basis for next year. We were planning on doing math outdoors all week but the weather didn't allow it so we adjusted!

In reading, we read a book about conservation which aligned with what we learned at Wolf Ridge last week. It was humorous fiction and we focused on the setting, characters, and plot throughout the

book. We had our last set of vocab words this week as well. We also wrote a letter to school board about our trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.

We practiced our knowledge of recipes to make pudding cookies in the woodfire oven! It turned out to be so much fun and a learning experience.

The Tickets to Treasure drawing is planned for tomorrow, Friday, as well as planting trees with a new local non-profit called, "Let's Plant Trees".

We have a field trip next week on Wednesday. Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns! We are all looking forward to it!

218-663-0170 ext. 26
samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com



From Ms. Laurie Roberts
4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

The fourth and fifth graders have been very busy in Grand Marais this week. On Tuesday, we did a printing project at the Art Colony with artist Nan Onkka. The students will be bringing home the prints they made on the last day of school.

On Wednesday, we took a tour of WTI radio station. Students also got to make a short recording that will be played on air occasionally.

On Thursday, we did some mini golfing at Putt and Pets. Students loved the golfing and visiting with all of the animals there.

On all three days, we visited the North house in the afternoons for a model boat building project. The students will be bringing their boats home on the last day of school.



Many thanks to the Art Colony, WTIP, Putt and Pets, and the North House for these rich and fun experiences!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com