

## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 30, 2024

### Dates to Remember:

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

Monday, June 10 ~ First Day of Campsite Kids

Monday, June 10 ~ First Day of 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:**

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

This is the last weekly newsletter of the school year – it is hard to believe that it is here already!

BGCS families are invited to join us tomorrow for the end of year Graduation Celebration that starts at 10:00, with early release at 12:00. Please take your child home or make pick up arrangements for your child, as there will be no busing available. Please let us know if this is an issue for you as we may be able to help.

It has been an incredibly busy week with field trips, a visit from a magician,



planting trees, cleaning out desks, lockers and rooms, and of course, our first annual COLOR! Day. We will end our year with a celebration tomorrow and hope that you can all make it.

#### K-5 Year End Packets:

Packets will contain your child's final report card, Academic Goal Contract, NWEA-MAP progress report, and additional information. You can expect this year-end packet mid to end of June. You can also expect pictures of your child from throughout the school year emailed home around this time as well. Should you have any questions, please call the school office at 218-663-0170 or email [birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org). We will get you in touch with your child's teacher.

Thank you to all that came to the Saplings year end celebration this week! The Saplings did an amazing job singing and were so happy to share this with families. Please remember that today was the last day of Saplings and that the program is now closed for the school year. Summer Saplings will start on Monday, June 10. We hope that everyone has a great summer!

Thank you to Saplings staff: Ms. Sharma, Ms. Klemmer and Ms. Ari. Thank you so much for your hard work this year!



Summer programming, Summer Saplings and Campsite Kids will start on Monday, June 10. We look forward to having a great summer! Summer programs run Monday - Thursday from 8:00-3:15.

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Campsite-Kids>

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Summer-Saplings>

Please be sure to keep your child reading over the summer! Help your child to avoid the "summer slide" and keep them brushing up on their reading skills while school is out of session. It makes a big difference when fall assessments come around and it is often apparent if a child has been reading over the summer or not. Should you need books at home, please let us know as we would welcome your child to come weekly and check out books from the Birch Grove school library.

2/5 at Black Beach and Swimming!



# First Annual Color Day!



Arrowhead Cooperative - Operation Round Up  
Grant awarded \$2,810 to BGCS to purchase new ice skates, helmets and snowshoes! Thank you so much to Arrowhead Cooperative for refreshing our school's outdoor winter gear! We will make good use of this funding next winter! Many thanks!



"Let's Plant Trees", a new local non-profit, visited BGCS last Friday and gave a presentation on the importance of trees. Let's Plant Trees came armed with tree planting bar tools, flags, and trees for planting at and around The Campsite. They also brought a tree for each student and staff to take home. Unfortunately, thunder and rain squashed the plans to go out and plant, but Let's Plant Trees left staff with instructions and K-5 were able to get out there on Tuesday and planted 30 trees!



LOTS: Learning Opportunities Through Stories is back in Tofte, as is the West End Pizza Night! Bring the family to LOTS and then enjoy some AWESOME pizza prepared by Trevor Huggins, woodfire oven master. 5:00-7:00: Dough, sauce, and cheese provided. Bring your own toppings. \$5 per pizza suggested donation. Enjoy it outside under the pavilion at Birch Grove!



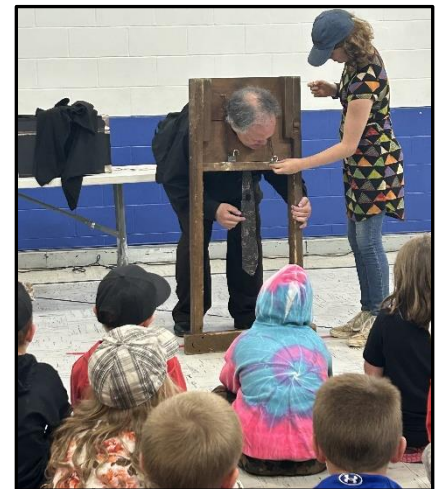
**June 12, 19, 26**

**July 10, 17, 24**

**August 13**

For children birth to age 5 and their siblings! Take home a FREE book ~ snacks provided! Come and hear some great stories, get some wood-fired pizza, and let the kids play on the playground!

Kevin Saline, magician with an anti-bullying message, performed at Birch Grove on Tuesday! There were lots of "oooo's" and "ahhh's", laughter and applause. It was a great show and the kids loved it!



Congratulations to Cook County seniors Kalina Dimitrova & Arlo Christiansen, both recipients of a \$500 scholarship award from the Birch Grove PTO. Wishing you both the best from Birch Grove Community School... "Where Roots Grow Deep and Branches Reach High!"



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 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*

This week has been short, but memorable. Thank you for joining in our end of the year celebration this week. The Saplings really enjoyed singing for all of their families! "Can you Canoe?" and other nature-based folk songs by The Okee Dokee Brothers have been enjoyed by the Saplings throughout the year, and I hope that they continue this musical journey over the summer.



Today, the last day of Sapling for the school year, we enjoyed being cozy in our pajamas, roasting marshmallows, listening to stories and playing. Saplings were pretty excited to skip nap in the afternoon and watch a movie with popcorn instead!

It has been a pleasure getting to know each of the Saplings this year. Your support has been much appreciated! Have a great summer, and keep reading to your Sapling!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

The last week of school is always a fast one! The kids enjoyed all of the end of the year activities. We saw an anti-bullying magic show, spent time at the camp roasting hot dogs, and had a blast getting colored! The end of the year is always a blast!

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 and keep reading!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

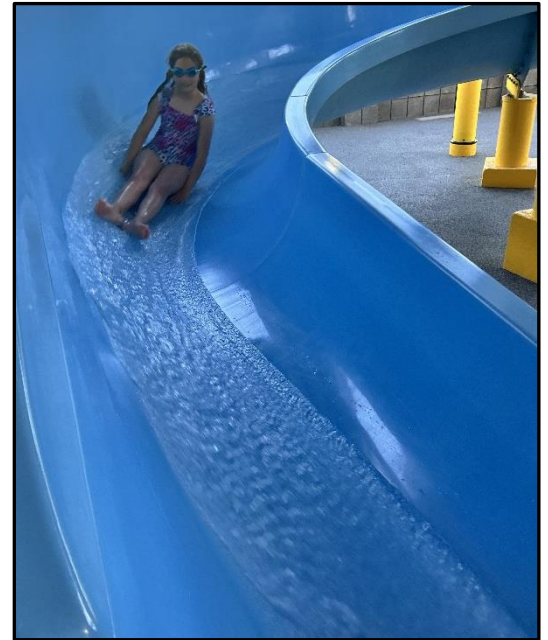
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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

It is the last week of school! I just wanted to spend this last newsletter sharing how thankful I am for this past year. Each day, we overcame challenges, learned new material, and grew to know each other in our classroom. It was truly a great day each day. Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children. It has been a rewarding year in every aspect. I consider myself one of the luckiest teachers for the location I teach at and students I get to teach each day. For those that will have students with me next year, I can't wait for it already! For those that will be moving on, I am excited to see your children as they grow and adapt to their next step in their education.



This last week was so much fun! We spent the time planting trees, cleaning the classroom, swimming at the pool, doing a color run, and exploring the woods as a class for the final time! It was packed so don't be surprised if you may have a sleepy child this weekend.

Lastly, please reach out with any last questions and concerns. And have a wonderful fun-filled summer and remember to keep your child reading!

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**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**

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

The fourth and fifth graders ended their school year together with so many fun activities and field trips! They went to Wolf Ridge, The North House, WTIP, The Art Colony, Putt N Pets, and the Black Beach Inn for swimming. As we discussed



and reflected on all of those activities, the students' most common comment was "It was fun to be together."

We are saying goodbye to the fifth graders, which is bittersweet. The whole class has been feeling a bit sad as the days go by, and we get closer to graduation. The staff here has seen so much growth in each of them, and we know they are ready for middle school. They will always carry what they have learned from Birch Grove with them.

I told the class that after 30 years of teaching, this has been my favorite class. They felt honored to have such a title! Each student is so unique and special. Together they are kind, fun, and hard working. They reflect the positive culture of Birch Grove Community School.

Have a great summer and remember to keep your child reading!

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