

Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 22, 2026

Monday, May 25 ~ No School - Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 27 ~ K-5 Field Trip to Grand Marais (Putt & Petts/ Beach)

Thursday, May 27 ~ COLOR! Day, Tickets To Treasure Drawing/Pie in the Face!

Thursday, May 28 ~ Last Day for Seedlings & Saplings (Until Summer Session)

Friday, May 29 ~ End of Year Celebration! 10:30am - ½ day of school. Release at 12:00.

Monday, June 1 ~ Beach Day in Tofte!

Tuesday, June 2 ~ Campsite Day!

Saturday, June 6 ~ Gala for the Grove!

Monday, June 8 ~ First Day of Campsite Kids, Summer Seedlings & 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

It was another busy week here at Birch Grove as we head toward the end of the year. Next week is a short one with no school on Monday due to Memorial weekend. Tuesday-Friday is packed with special activities and events, so make sure your child is getting enough sleep so that the days are enjoyable for your child - and for the staff! 😊

Be sure to send in Ticket To Treasure log sheets, as we will be drawing for prizes next week. Not only will great prizes be won, but the always highly anticipated Pie-in-the-Face will take place as well. Always a student favorite! I hope I am overlooked this year! 😊



Next week, Thursday, May 27 is **COLOR! Day**. Please send your child to school in clothes that are able to get permanently stained – the color is supposed to be washable, but let's not take any chances!



[15th Annual Gala for the Grove! ~ TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!](#)

2026 Theme: Hats & Horses: The Hometown Derby
A Kentucky Derby-Inspired Night of Racing, Roses, and Giving for Birch Grove!

Saturday, June 6, 2026

The Gala for the Grove, a spirited fundraiser for Birch Grove Community School, is in the Lakeside Ballroom at Surfside in Tofte. Dress for the theme or not, the choice is yours – it will be a great time either way!

For more information go to:

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/gala-for-the-grove>

Direct Link to Tickets:

[Gala for the Grove 2026 Ticket Order Form](#)



The last spring trek of the year with Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! afterschool program! Cascade River State Park was misty and marvelous! Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! will be back in the fall for the 26-27 school year. Happy hiking this summer! <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/birch-buddies>



More pictures can be found on the school Facebook page.

[Facebook](#)

Congratulations to Cook County senior, Goshi Dimitrov, recipient of a \$500 scholarship award from the Birch Grove PTO. Wishing you the best from Birch Grove Community School... "Where Roots Grow Deep and Branches Reach High!"



Extra sleep is really important these final weeks of school! Please see that your child is well rested for the fun events and activities that we have coming up ~ it will make for a better end of the school year for everyone! 😊



Wolf Ridge 2026 Annual 3-day, 2-night trip for 2nd-5th grade!



More pictures can be found on the school Facebook page.

[Facebook](#)



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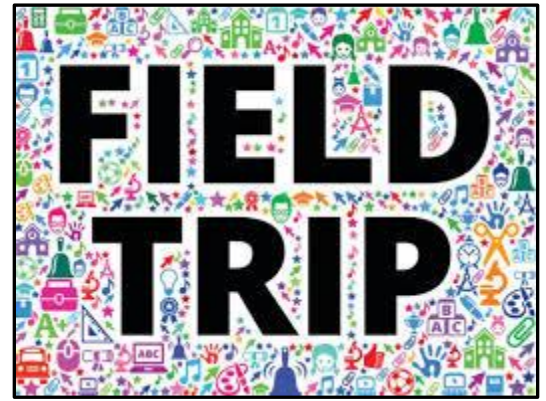
More pictures can be found on the school Facebook page.

[Facebook](#)

**K-5 Field Trip to Grand Marais on
Wednesday, May 27**

Putt and Petts for a little mini golf, gemstone mining, and free beach day is planned! Please send your child's cold lunch as normal, keeping in mind that there will be no microwaves. Please send layered clothing in the event that it is chilly/rainy as the majority of this day will be spent outside. Permission forms were emailed and a hard copy sent home today.

We look forward to a fun day!



K-5 End of Year Celebration is on Friday, May 29 and families are invited to celebrate with us! The End of Year Celebration will start at 10:30, 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. A pizza lunch from Schroeder Baking Company will be served to all. Please bring a camp chair if you so desire so that you are comfortable during the short outside ceremony. Thank you!

Please remember that there are 2 more days of school after the year end celebration: **Monday and Tuesday, June 1 & 2**. This is due to the snow days we had. These days are planned for pure FUN!



Monday, June 1: Beach Day in Tofte.

Angie will be packing a cold lunch of: Ham & Cheese Wraps, Chips, Fruit and a treat. Please pack a cold lunch if this menu is not to your child's liking. Dress in layers, as we will be outside all day.



Tuesday, June 2: Campsite Day at Birch Grove.

Lunch will be at the Campsite from the grill. If your child does not like hotdogs or hamburgers, please pack a cold lunch. Dress in layers, as we will be outside all day.

Gala for the Grove Sponsors for 2026

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

Sponsorships are still coming in, but these are the generous folks that have sponsored so far!
Please be sure to thank them if you see them!

\$1,000

- County Plumbing & Heating
- Deonn Cicak & Lloyd Chase
- Grand Marais State Bank – Tofte Branch
- LaBoda Grading Inc.
- Lisa Hemp
- Rodney Young

\$500

- Judy & Spenser Motschenbacher
- Kenneth Netland
- Lamb's Resort
- McKeever Well Drilling Inc.
- North Shore Federal Credit Union

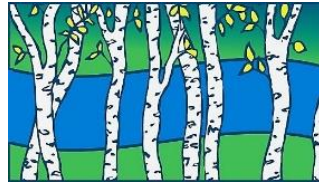
\$250

- Amy & Nathaniel Brugge
- Arrowhead Cooperative
- Mark & Sisa Buckman
- Roger & Jeanne Kegler
- Hans & Morgan Krengel



Please make sure that your child's school hot lunch account gets paid in full at the end of the school year. Please also remember that our hot lunch program is in-house and is paid for by lunch fees, donations, grants and by Birch Grove Community School. Help us by paying your invoice so that we can continue to offer an amazing program for our students and daycare children. Thank you!

Please have your child read (or be read to) 20-30 minutes per day/night (or more!). 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!



birchgrove@boreal.org
www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftware.com/> You can use GRAB15 for 15% off
Face Book: [Birch Grove Community School and Community Services #4145 | Facebook](#)



From Ms. Emily VanDoren

Seedling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

This week our theme focused on the animals and activities of the Northwoods. The climbing triangle was transformed into a tent, as if they were camping, for the Seedlings to crawl in and out of and to play hide and seek. While playing in the tent, language skills were practiced as we named their actions with "in/out". To go along with our camping fun, we sang "Camping We Will Go" that is sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell". We sang "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and moved our arms as if paddling a canoe and a kayak to work muscles and increase range of motion.

The sensory table was filled with shredded paper as well as plastic figures of various animals that may be spotted in Minnesota, including deer, moose, wolves, bears, and beavers. The wall near the table was decorated with pictures of animals as well for the Seedlings to learn about including moose, bear, deer, fox, raccoon, and beavers.



We read books that showed different animals that you may see when on a walk through the forests of Minnesota. We also read some silly books featuring some animals of the Northwoods including *If You Give a Moose a Muffin*. Our activities this week included a picture card matching game of different animals such as bears, moose, raccoons,

deer, and mice. Each card also showed the Seedlings what that animal's track looks like. The Seedlings then used play dough and the plastic animals to create animal tracks. We also worked together to complete a ten-piece puzzle of a camping scene. During our morning walks this week, we explored "Rocky Hill" along the bike path to see if we could spot some animal tracks. We didn't spot tracks but we were lucky enough to see not just one rabbit, but two!

As a reminder, we will be closed on Monday May 25th for Memorial Day. The last day of the school year Seedlings program will be on Thursday May 28th. We will be closed the first week of June and our summer Seedlings program will open on Monday June 8th.

Have a good weekend!

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**From Ms. Pam Holm**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

A Jurassic journey of *Dynamite Dinosaurs* was embarked on this week, with the Saplings gaining valuable insights into various aspects of dinosaurs, including their names. They also enriched their vocabulary by learning key terms such as extinct, prehistoric, paleontologist, archeologist, carnivore, herbivore, and fossil. A comparative study of dinosaur teeth was conducted, revealing distinct characteristics that differentiated herbivores from carnivores. Herbivores have flat, small teeth, while carnivores possess large, sharp teeth.



Monday through Friday Saplings made use of various mediums to create a range of dinosaur art projects. Playdough was used to create fossil prints by pressing bones, dinosaurs, shells, and leaves. They carried out a simulated archeological excavation in the sensory table this week. Using diggers and brushes, we emulated the role of paleontologists and uncovered dinosaurs in the sand. They incorporated bones and made an attempt to reassemble them.

In understanding the world, on Thursday they discovered one of the hypotheses why dinosaurs no longer exist is due to massive volcanic eruptions. After observing a volcanic eruption, they collectively constructed a volcano and surrounded it with dinosaurs to represent their perception of the dinosaurs' habitat. They discussed facts about lava, including its temperature and potential impact on the dinosaurs.



Throughout the week Saplings incorporated dinosaur manipulatives to reinforce their counting, sorting, and patterning skills. Additionally, they explored dinosaur puzzles and took part in alphabet ordering and matching games. The letter focus was 'D' for dinosaurs. Saplings became Paleontologists and reassembled bones into the letter Dd fossil.

Parents, you're invited to come have s'more fun and celebrate with your child on the last day of the school year! We'll be roasting marshmallows in our Sapling's Backyard campsite on Thursday, May 28th at 2:15.

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

The last few days of school have arrived, and I'm surprised by how quickly this school year has gone! K/1 had a spectacular year of learning, fun, and growth! The last week plus two days are pretty busy; be sure to check the 'Dates to Remember' at the top of the newsletter!

This week, we worked hard on a writing project about what K/1 did while I was gone at Wolf Ridge. They have all grown so much in their writing! We practiced brainstorming, writing a draft, and writing a final draft! In math, we continued practicing what they started with Ms. Silence, bundling and unbundling! They are continuing to gain an understanding of place value and carrying the ten over when we add big numbers.

Reminders: Next week on Thursday, we will draw prizes for Tickets to Treasure. If you have done any reading at home, help your child to record and turn in their log sheets so they can have some tickets! All library and school supplies need to be returned by Friday!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski (Subbing for Ms. Forster during her maternity leave)**

*2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher*

We have made it to the last few days of 2nd and 3rd grade! We had an excellent time at Wolf Ridge last week. Students spent a lot of time outdoors and learning about the animals that live in the Northwoods and the forest they live in! The last week of school is stacked full of activities. Please take a look at 'Dates to Remember' at the top of the newsletter!

This week, we worked on an essay about our Wolf Ridge experience. It was not hard to motivate the students to write, as they were excited to share their experiences. We worked as a group to create a brainstorming web of all the things we did. Students wrote a rough draft, making sure to write about five different experiences. Then, students met with me for a 'writers conference' and then they wrote their final draft. They ended the project by drawing an illustration of their favorite activity at Wolf Ridge. These will be on display at graduation!

Reminders: Next week on Thursday, we will draw prizes for Tickets to Treasure. If you have done any reading at home, help your child to record and turn in their log sheets so they can have some tickets! All library and school supplies need to be returned by Friday!

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From Ms. Stacy Coronis

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

Wow! So much has happened in our classroom the past two weeks. Our trip to Wolf Ridge was amazing! Students loved learning in classes such as Ojibwe historical culture, identifying animal skulls by physical traits, planetarium experience, canoeing, ropes course, and animal signs in the forest. One of my many highlights was watching the children cheer each other on while doing the high ropes course. Kids got encouragement from each other to step outside of their comfort zones. "Wolf Ridge was the best!"

Last week was Wolf Ridge and this week we enjoyed another three day field trip to North House Folk School to learn about the logging history process and create our very own boat models! The class LOVED the woodworking and construction process and we all learned so much from our teacher, Tom McGee. We loved our time at North House!

Thank you all for raising such amazing kids that I am honored to know and support each day! Hope to see you at the celebration next Friday! Look for more details in the newsletter.

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