

## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

**January 26, 2023**

### Dates to Remember:

Friday, February 3 ~ PDD/Workshop – No School

Monday, February 20 PDD/Workshop – No School

Tuesday, February 21 – February School Board Meeting at 5:30

Tuesday-Thursday, February 21-23 – North House Folk School for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, February 28 – Vision & Hearing Screening-Sawtooth Mountain Clinic

### 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*

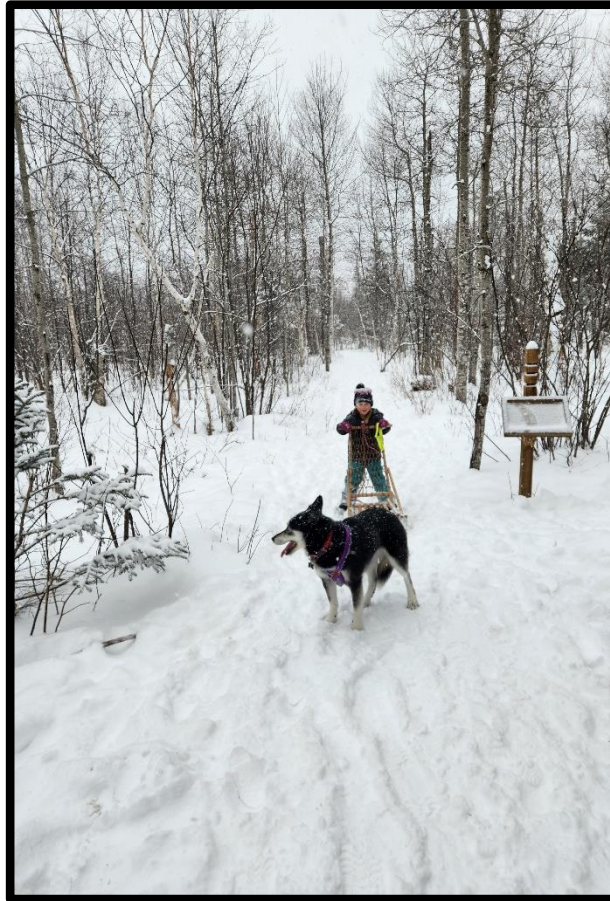
Birch Buddies ~ SKATE is an after-school program that takes place on Thursdays for 6 weeks starting on February 2. Sign up soon! There is a flyer attached to this newsletter email for more information.

Our annual program Tickets to Treasures is starting! Students can earn tickets by logging their reading time at home. Log sheets will be sent home soon – if log sheets get lost, don't worry, just use a plain piece of paper to document reading times. For every 20 minutes a student reads, a ticket is earned. Students will also be able to earn tickets in other ways in their classrooms – tickets are always associated with reading or math. Students place their tickets in a box, or boxes of their choice that is linked to a specific prize. The Tickets to Treasure drawings happen at the end of the school year, so students have plenty of time to earn their tickets. The harder they work, the more tickets they can earn, the higher their odds of winning a prize.

We are halfway through the school year and are deep into learning. Please be sure to let your child know that learning is their job at school and that you expect them to work hard and do their best. Let

them know that you care about how they do and that school is important. We appreciate your support from home!

Remember that we go outside everyday in all but the most severe weather. Please see that your child has all of the appropriate outdoor gear. If your child needs specific outdoor gear, let us know as we have some here that they can use and take home, or we will find what is needed.



Picture of the Week!

For more great pictures go to our Facebook page!

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

One of the joys of living up North -  
Every Friday is "Flannel Friday" at Birch Grove!  
Join us by having your child wear flannel too!



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:  
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[bgcommunityservice@boreal.org](mailto:bgcommunityservice@boreal.org) ~ Community Service Email  
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218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone  
Website: [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com)  
School Spirit Store Coupon Link: <https://www.logosoftwear.com/coupons.php>  
Face Book: [Birch Grove Community School and Community Services #4145 | Facebook](#)



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**From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield**

*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week our theme was dogs and we focused on dogsledding. The Sapling sure seemed to enjoy this week! I brought a retired sled dog in named Gravy, throughout the week we practiced noticing her body language to see how she is feeling and what she is trying to tell us. This helped us to learn that even though we don't speak the same language we can still try to understand and learn about what animals and humans are telling us. We went over different parts of a dog, and played a game called "Doggy, Doggy, Where's My Bone?". The Saplings displayed magnificent teamwork out in the woods pretending to be sled dogs and pulling each other on the kick sled! We also had our local musher, Rita Whesler, join us at the campsite with 2 sled dogs to show us musher gear and sled dog gear!

What a great week it has been!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week and next we are going to take a closer look at the sun and its effects on Earth. We will also be learning about the moon. The children are very excited to think about something that is so far away from us!

The kindergarteners learned the letter s. We are practicing reading daily now. They are showing awesome growth in being able to sound out words and read with fluency! In math, we finished a unit about shapes and addition and subtraction.

The first graders read a story about the moon. We discussed the main idea and supporting details in the book. In math, we finished a unit about place value and adding one and ten to a number. We

learned to identify how many tens and ones are in a two-digit number and how to add two-digit numbers with one-digit numbers.

I send home information about tickets to treasure, our incentive program. Let me know if you have any questions and please continue to read, count, and practice letters at home!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This week is the long awaited pirate week. The week we learn the ar sound, ARRRRR. We wrote a pirate story about what might happen if a pirate moved in next store to us. We did double word sort reading with all the words we've been practicing for "Bossy R." Our books have focused on inferring what is happening, so we have had to practice reading carefully, just like a pirate looking carefully for treasure!

In math both groups continue to work on reading and creating graphs. We started the week by making our own graph with Skittles. After we created several word problems and made a representation of the Skittles on our desk, we did the only thing we could.....WE ATE THEM! We will continue practicing telling time, and counting coins, as we work through our graphing unit.

Tickets to Treasure incentive has started. Students earn a ticket for extra credit work that is sent home, reading at home, or doing careful and detailed work at school. "Extra Credit" work will sporadically be sent home. It will always have a highlighter slash across the paper and sometimes I'll write "extra." These of course do not need to be done, but are always skills we have already learned in class and could always use review. Students can also earn tickets by working on [www.freckle.com](http://www.freckle.com) or [www.getepic.com](http://www.getepic.com) (this will only work doing school hours for free). They log in with their Google account which all students should know how to do, since they do it most days.

Have a great weekend and happy reading!

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

We are still keeping busy in the 4/5 classroom, as the month is winding to an end. Besides our normal academic work, we have spent time recently talking about having empathy, thinking of things from another person's perspective and being considerate. These are critical social skills to have, and I feel it benefits all students to have these kinds of discussions. I think we all want our children to not only grow up and be successful, but also to be good people. If we can take fifteen minutes or so of our school day and focus specifically on growing the skills needed to have good character, I feel that is time well spent.

Next week we will be on reading and spelling lesson 17, this is the first lesson on the new spelling list, that was just sent home. In Social Studies we will begin studying the founding documents of the United States, and learn more about early American history. We will continue working on the Starbase Minnesota project and learn more about the world around us.

Tickets to Treasure has started! Students in 4th and 5th grade earn one ticket for every twenty minutes of reading that they do. They may also choose to get treasure tickets instead of classroom bucks, if they do well academically or through good deeds. Reading logs have been sent home, but do not need to be turned in until they are full (or close to it).

Remember to be sure your child has all their winter gear with them on their way to school. We do have some items for borrowing, but it can be difficult to find the right size for all the various items.

Have a wonderful week! Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

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