



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

February 16, 2023

Dates to Remember:

Friday, February 17 ~ 101st Day of School!

Monday, February 20 ~ No School – President’s Day and Teacher PDD/Workshop

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

Tuesday-Thursday, February 21-23 ~ North House Folk School for 4th & 5th

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

It was another busy week here at Birch Grove, but everyone took time out to celebrate Valentine’s Day on Tuesday afternoon. Cards were exchanged, sweets were eaten, and special activities were enjoyed! We hope your Valentine’s Day was a good one too!

There is no school on Monday, February 20 due to President’s Day, as well as a scheduled workshop day. We look forward to K-5 and Saplings return on Tuesday, February 21.

4th and 5th graders are going to the North House Folk School next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to take part in the Textile Traditions program, as well as a few other special events. Please see that your child has a water bottle and cold lunch for each of these days. Thank you!

We are now advertising for enrollment for the school year Saplings Program (Sept-May) for 2023. If you, or someone that you know of, would like to enroll their child (ages 3-5), please refer them to the

school website at www.birchgroveschool.com or call the school office at 218-663-0170. We appreciate recommendations from our BG families!



Thank you to the North Shore Federal Credit Union for the delivery of freshly baked Subway cookies for staff! What a great surprise! And so tasty! Thank you!



This school year we will be celebrating the 101st day of school instead of the 100th! Please feel free to have your child dress as a Dalmatian dog, bring a dog stuffed animal to school, or dress as a character from the *101 Dalmatians* movie. We will be celebrating by watching the movie with special snacks the afternoon of Friday, February 18.

The March hot lunch menu is up on the school website: [School Lunches - Birch Grove Community School \(birchgroveschool.com\)](http://www.birchgroveschool.com)



Picture of the Week!

For more great pictures go to our Facebook page!

[Birch Grove Community School and Community Services #4145 | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Birch-Grove-Community-School-and-Community-Services-4145)

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:

birchgrove@boreal.org ~ Birch Grove Community School Email

bgcommunityservice@boreal.org ~ Community Service Email

218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

Website: 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](#)



From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield

Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

This week the Saplings chose to learn about dinosaurs and friendship. We listened to a lot of "We Are the Dinosaurs" by The Laurie Berkner Band. In our science center we had cloud dough and various dinosaurs to play and explore with. We read a few dinosaur books about different kinds of dinos and fossils. The Saplings created their own dinosaur by pasting different shapes together and then decorating it. Roar!

For friendship we talked about the holiday, Valentine's Day! Our class focus is how can we be safe, calm, and loving every day in class. We emphasized *love* this week by reading a book about thoughts and feelings, and how we can choose to be loving in different ways. We made friendship bracelets and gave them out to friends and family. We also learned how to draw a heart, cut it out and Saplings gave it to a person of their choosing. The Saplings also practiced writing the letter V for Valentine's Day!

It has been a great week and we LOVE our Saplings! 😊

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**  
*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

The children had a wonderful Valentine's celebration at school. They enjoyed handing out their valentines to their peers and getting valentines! It is such a fun day to be in school!

The Kindergarteners learned about the letter Qu this week. We talked about how Q is never found without U. There is a silly story about how they are married and always together, how fitting for Valentine's Day! The first graders read a book about where food comes from. We talked about the author's purpose and finding supporting details in a book. Everyone is working hard to improve their reading skills. We are constantly practicing sight words, letter sounds, and reading!

In math, Kindergarteners are working on learning 3d shapes. We played various games practicing sorting, identifying key features of a 3d shape, and building 3d shapes. 1st grade practiced graphing. We took various polls to collect data. We learned about different ways to represent the data in graphs. We introduced comparison bars as well.

Have a great long weekend! Remember to have your child read every day for at least 20 minutes. Everyone is capable of reading themselves!

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From Ms. Sara Silence
2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

We did so many things this week. It would be hard to list them all. Highlights included making our Valentines collection containers, complete with glitter glue and bedazzled jewels. Wednesday we ended up eating our math lesson. Don't worry we did it after (and during) instruction, and it was Twizzlers. We measured pieces of Twizzler in both centimeters and inches. Did you know, one piece of Pull n' Peel licorice unraveled is over 100 centimeters? The next two days we used meter sticks to measure ourselves. Thursday's highlight was learning what coding is, why it's important, and how to do it. We spent some time coding movements around the room and then finished with some time exploring www.code.org.

The phonics focus this week is red words, or sight words as you may know them. We turned our attention to remembering and practicing these words that just don't make reading and spelling sense. As usual the kids jumped right in and made great progress.

The Tickets to Treasure incentive is well under way. Remember that students can earn tickets by reading at home, working on their www.Freckle.com progress, doing extra credit pages, and working hard at school.

February Scholastic book orders are due by Friday. I will submit it on Friday evening. Online orders can be placed on www.scholastic.com, find "Book Clubs" and enter our class code: HCMK2.

We have turned some of our focus during the day on building social and emotional skills. This week we learned what it means to be true to yourself and make your own decisions as well as began expressing the effect that our choices have on others. We also began looking at how our brains work and how they are different from anyone else's. This week we learned our brain's working memory, things we hold in our memory while we are working with them.

As usual we are busy and making progress. Keep reading and have deep conversations with your children at home. Ask and answer those who, what, when, when, where, and how questions to build understanding of the world around them.

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

Over this last week we have started talking about the importance of electricity, the sources of electricity, and how we use it in everyday life. Of course, these conversations also lead to how we need to be safe around electrical outlets and devices. In social studies we have further discussed other types of governments such as monarchies and dictatorships. Math has primarily been focused on the metric system and converting the different units of metric measurement. In a recent Starbase Minnesota activity, students were able to do an online simulated rocket launch. In the exercise students were required to adjust the amount of thrust used in order to launch a rocket to an ideal height for deploying a communications satellite. After completing the assigned steps, students were allowed to freely experiment with the different controls, some of those changes worked well and others ended up being quite explosive (in a virtual sense). We also took some time during morning meetings to discuss the importance of grit and perseverance, both inside and outside of school.

Next week is the Textile Traditions project at North House Folk School in Grand Marais. We will be at North House in the afternoon on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Thursday, we will be leaving a little earlier to go to Joy and Company. They will be guiding us through a special art project that ties in well to our recent science unit on space. Students are excited about these opportunities!

Please remember to send a water bottle to school every day, and if your child has a school issued water bottle at home, please send it back. Thank you!

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

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