



## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

**February 23, 2023**

### Dates to Remember:

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  
Monday-Friday, March 27-31 ~ No School, Spring Break

### 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*

The school board approved December 15<sup>th</sup> as a snow day and Friday, March 17 as a make up day. This means that there **IS** school on Friday, March 17. The school calendar has been updated to reflect this change and has been posted on the school website at [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com)



Campsite Kids enrollment forms will be going home in Take Home folders tomorrow, Friday, February 24, to all K-5 Birch Grove families. Please be sure to read all of the information to ensure that your child(ren) become fully enrolled. We anticipate the program filling up fast! We look forward to a GREAT summer at Campsite Kids!

BGCS is looking for a Saplings or K-5 parent to join the school board. It is important that we have parent representation on the board. New board member must start training within 6 months of being seated and must complete training within a year – training is provided by BGCS. Ongoing training is also provided. Board members must be able to attend monthly meetings. Board meetings have just recently been changed to the third Tuesday of each month. If you are interested, please call 218-663-0170 and we can discuss it. We look forward to adding another parent (or two) to the board!



The Tickets To Treasures program is well underway! Don't forget to log time reading at home so EARNED tickets can increase odds of winning a prize. Tickets can also be EARNED in the classroom through reading and math activities and projects. Drawings will happen the last week of school - and it will be here before you know it!

More pictures of 4/5 at the North House Folk School Textile Traditions program will be posted on Facebook next week. There is a teaser picture below.



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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218-663-0170 ~ School Phone  
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](https://www.facebook.com/Birch-Grove-Community-School-and-Community-Services-4145)



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**From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Ari Summerfield**  
*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week the Saplings chose to learn about sharks. Throughout the week we read shark books learning different facts and types of sharks. We danced and sang to the song, "Baby Shark" By Pinkfong. The Saplings were able to creatively create their own shark at art center. In our science center, we had a tub of water with toy sharks for the Saplings to play and explore with. We discussed as a group how sharks can sometimes be scary and that it's okay for us to feel scared about that. I reassured the Saplings that we are all together learning about sharks and we can talk about those scary feelings if we want to!

Have a great weekend!

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

The extra snow this week made recess and outside playtime extra enjoyable. The students are still very interested in building forts, making snowballs and blocks, and manipulating snow in different ways. Snow has become a great exploration tool for creative thinking and building!

In language arts, Kindergarten practiced letter formation. We practiced writing letters, making letters with play dough, and building letters with pipe cleaners. Using different mediums both spikes interest and promotes more learning! First graders read a biography and discussed the sequence of events! They wrote about how they get ready for school daily by using sequence of events words such as first, next, and last. In math, Kindergarten is working on learning about comparing numbers and addition partners. 1st grade is working on graphing and collecting and understanding data.

Over the last few weeks, K/1 has learned about renewable and nonrenewable resources. We learned that the sun, wind, and water can provide renewable energy and fossil fuels and sometimes trees are nonrenewable. The students all agreed that we should do what we can to reduce nonrenewable resources. This led to discussions about reducing, refusing, reusing, and recycling. We are excited to learn what we can and cannot recycle and start being more conscious about our use in the classroom.

Continue to read, practice math skills, and write at home with your child!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

Did you know that there are four sounds for the letter Y? Pine Marten students spent the week learning all of the sounds and sorting them. Unlike the last two weeks, there are "rules" for Y that help us learn when and where to use this spelling and how to pronounce it in reading. We also worked on the suffixes -er, as used to compare words (bigger, faster), and -ly, meaning "a certain way."

Everyone really got into our books this week as the topic was non-fiction texts about dinosaurs. Since the interest level was so high, I will be looking at ways to stretch this topic into next week. It was fun seeing the kids stretch themselves to read and learn about a topic that hooked their interest.

In other interest related news, this week also marked when the class began its research project. This year we will be researching US landmarks. So far we have explored four different landmarks and recorded the facts we found the most interesting. Wednesday we picked which landmark was the most interesting to us and began recording information in a graphic organizer. Thursday we learned how to find safe, reliable, information from the internet (Google's kid safe search engine [www.kiddle.co](http://www.kiddle.co)). After we find all our information we will write a rough draft, edit, write a final draft, and finally complete a model or diorama of our information. You can maybe understand why this is a spring project! We're putting together a lot of skills we've been learning all year.

In math we are finishing up our measuring unit. Third grade worked this week on understanding word problems that have us solving side length, area, or perimeter. Once kids got the hang of it, they enjoyed the detective side of the work. As a class, we completed our first assessment check in on our class goal of reading analog clocks. Help your child read clocks at home to help them meet this goal.

As always, even more important than reading with the children around you, TALK to them! Ask them questions, have them give you the evidence of why or how they got an answer. Talk about how characters or people are feeling and why. Give them TIME to process and answer. Sometimes students will need at least 60 seconds to respond! Don't give in to rushing them, give them time, but then make sure to come back! Sometimes.....we forget the question, and you have to tell us again.

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

Most of our focus this last week has been on working with staff at North House Folk School in Grand Marais for the Textile Traditions class. Students were walked through the process of creating a felt creature (stuffed animal), using wet felting and needle felting. Students will be able to bring their creatures home. Be sure to check the school Facebook page for pictures of us at work! We also had the opportunity to work with the staff at Joy and Company to create pastel representations of planets. Even though these exciting projects kept us busy, there was still some work that had to be done in the classroom. We worked through reading and spelling lesson 20, along with our math focusing on converting units of measurement and calculating volume.

Next week will be more of a “normal week” for us in the 4/5 classroom. We will be on spelling and reading lesson 21. In math we will continue to study volume, and other methods of measurement, like elapsed time. In science we will resume our study of energy and electricity, and have more Starbase Minnesota activities. Our social studies topics will include the Articles of Confederation and the drafting of the US Constitution.

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

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