



## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

**March 16, 2023**

### Dates to Remember:

- Friday, March 17 ~ Snow Day Make Up-School Is In Session!
- Tuesday, March 21 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting 5:30
- Monday-Friday, March 20-24 ~ Conferences
- Monday-Friday, March 27-31 ~ No School, Spring Break
- Friday, April 7 ~ No School, Scheduled Staff Workshop
- Tuesday, April 11 ~ Kindergarten Round Up and Step-Up Day

### 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*

Conferences are next week! Parents/guardians have been sent an email containing a link to schedule a day and time that works for you and your family. As always, we ask you to help us meet our annual goal of having 100% parent/guardian participation in conferences. We appreciate your support and involvement!

Birch Buddies ~ SKATE! after school program, was well attended and so fun! Next winter there will be at least two skate sessions for K-5 and a session (or two) for Saplings as well! But for now, the ice rink is closed for the season. Thanks to Pete Knudsen and Tofte township for keeping the skating rink in great shape for us to skate on this winter!

Spring break is coming soon! Please be sure to return any overdue library books so that your child can check out extra books to read over Spring Break. Please have your child read every day/night over the break and be sure to record minutes on the Tickets to Treasures log. Thank you!



The Summer Saplings program, for children ages 3-5, is full for summer 2023. If you would like to get on the waiting list, please contact Jessica Klemmer at 218-663-0170 or [jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com). It's going to be a great summer!



Campsite Kids, for K-5, is full for summer 2023. If you would like to get on the waiting list, please call 218-663-0170 or email [birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org). Campsite Kids staff this year will be Sara Knottski, K/1 teacher, and school director, Diane Blanchette. This summer is going to be *on fire* and we are looking forward to it!

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, as is on-going training. 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 BG parent (or two) to the board!



Kindergarten Round Up has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 for children that will be starting kindergarten next year (must be 5 by September 1). All children in the Saplings program that are eligible for kindergarten next year have received invitations via Take Home Folders. If you know of a family that has a child eligible to start kindergarten next year, please refer Birch Grove Community School to them. We appreciate endorsements from our families – you are our best PR! Please help spread the word. Thank you!



K/1 fort building in progress. To see the finished fort and more, go to our school Facebook page!

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:

[birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org) ~ Birch Grove Community School Email

[bgcommunityservice@boreal.org](mailto:bgcommunityservice@boreal.org) ~ Community Service Email

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.logosofwear.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 bugs. In our science center the Saplings helped me to make some homemade playdough, we found some of our toy bugs and practiced making bug fossil prints in the playdough. Our math center had a large piece of paper with one side that said bugs and the other side said no bugs, Saplings were able to sort out bugs vs. not bugs onto this paper, it made a fun activity! In art center the Saplings could create a fingerpaint caterpillar or bug of their choice to be displayed on the bulletin board in our room.

The 5-year-olds in the room that are interested in starting to read have been starting to practice this in ABC center with some simple word books. Our 3- and 4-year-olds are working hard on writing their names! We are impressed everyday by the imagination, creativity and resilience we see in each of our Saplings! 😊

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

Kindergarten has learned most of our phonics for the year. We are working on cementing letter sounds and letter names. We also practice reading and spelling every day. This is a great time to improve our fluency and comprehension while reading. 1st grade has learned about bossy r the last two weeks. We practice reading and writing words with ar, or, ir, ur, and er. We are also working on extending and improving our writing skills.

In math, this week has been all about time. It's the perfect theme with daylight saving time happening this week as well. K/1 has picked up how to read an analog clock fast! We can tell time to an hour, a half-hour, and some can even tell time to the 5 minutes. Try to test your child at home!

Conferences are next week! I look forward to meeting with everyone and sharing the growth we've seen this year! If you have not communicated with me about when to meet, please check your email so we can set up a time!

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

Daylight saving time threw us off by a little bit this week, but not as bad as usual. It helped that this week for math consisted of taking small steps forward in skills we already knew. Not that they were less challenging, but at least we were dealing with something we had the foundation knowledge for (borrowing to subtract, elapsed time, and comparing fractions).

In reading we focused this week on comparing several versions of The Three Little Pigs. This will be the base of our next writing project as we create our own version of the story. It's a fun and involved project that we are eager to jump into.

Friday we plan to have a "Backwards Day." Students can wear clothes backwards, or maybe put on pajamas to get ready for school backwards. The idea started because on Friday we will be focusing our math skills on checking our math with the "Opposite operation" and reviewing the relationships between addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Have a great weekend and enjoy our last (hopefully) snowstorm.

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

Amongst the numerous items of discussion and learning this week, we did some reading about Redwood National Park in California. We also watched a short video about the trees and animals of the park, giving students a better idea of how amazing the park would be to visit. In science we have been talking about the different types of energy, and how the mass of an object can impact speed and distance traveled. I must also commend all the students for the quality of conversations we have had this week during our morning meetings. We have been discussing how to create more in-depth conversations and how we can use those skills to develop better relationships. I enjoy seeing when something “clicks” for a student, regardless of what subject is being taught, including when we are covering social and emotional skills.

Next week will be reading and spelling lesson twenty four, this is the last lesson on the current list. We will also be finishing up the Starbase Minnesota project, which wraps up with students getting a chance to give their feedback on their experience. I am interested to see what the students thought about the project and how they feel about STEM after going through Starbase. In math we will begin our fractions unit for fourth graders. This can be another one of our more challenging units of the year, but I am sure everyone will try their best! Fifth grade math will be focusing on the characteristics of two-dimensional shapes. In social studies, we will be taking a more in depth look at the U.S. constitution and the meaning of the various sections.

Information regarding spring conferences was sent out Monday through email and student take home folders. If you need the information to schedule a conference for your child, please contact me right away.

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

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