



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

April 21, 2023

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, April 25 ~ MCA Reading Test for 3-5th Grade

Wednesday, April 26 ~ MCA Math Test for 3-5th Grade

Thursday, April 27 ~ MCA Science Test for 5th Grade

Friday, April 28 ~ ExploraDome! - Traveling Planetarium for Saplings-5th Grade

Tuesday, May 9 ~ K-5 MAPS Testing Reading

Wednesday, May 10 ~ K-5 MAPS Testing Math

Thursday, May 11 ~ MAPS Testing Make-Up

Wednesday-Friday, May 17-19 Wolf Ridge Trip for 2nd-5th

Monday, May 29 ~ No School, Memorial Day

Friday, June 2 Last Day of School ½ Day: K-5 Graduation Celebration is at
10:30 and Early Release at 12:00

Saturday, June 10 ~ Gala for the Grove

Monday, June 12, First Day of Campsite Kids & Summer 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:

Director, Birch Grove Community School

Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

Another week was cut short due to weather and roads...a revised school calendar was emailed home to families and posted on the school website. The last day of school will now be on Friday, June 2, with school happening every day until the end of the year except for Memorial Day.

MCA Testing for 3rd-5th graders is next week!

Parents/Guardians of 3rd-5th graders received emails and the same information was sent home in Take Home Folders about MCA's (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) that take place next week Tuesday (reading for 3rd-5th), Wednesday (math for 3rd-5th) and Thursday (Science 5th grade only). We will ask for your help making sure that students get extra sleep prior to testing days, and be sure to check the breakfast menu that was sent home. We try and make testing days special and celebratory! Testing incentives are given out, a special breakfast just for testers is served, the whole school gives a mini pep fest, special snacks are served, testers get extra recess time, and they earn tickets for the Tickets To Treasures program! They are days to CELEBRATE!



The Gala for the Grove 2023 theme has been announced! The Roaring 20s! Think bootleggers, speakeasys, the Great Gatsby, flapper dresses, etc. Previous guests and BGCS families will all receive invitations soon. All others will be able to find the invitation soon on the school website at: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove> The Gala for the Grove is Birch Grove's biggest fundraiser of the year. We look forward to another successful event and hope that you can join us! It's always a good time!

Michelle Blanck, our longtime special education teacher, will be moving and leaving us at the end of the school year. Thank you so very much, Michelle, for your many years of service to our school and students. You are AMAZING and will be greatly missed by all! We wish you and your family the best on your new adventure! Birch Grove Community School wishes all the best to you!

End of the year activities and/or field trips will be added to the Dates To Remember soon!



Picture of the Week!

For more great pictures go to our Facebook page!

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

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 ~ 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.logosoftware.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 Earth. We had quite an interest in frogs, crocodiles and music so we incorporated that as well. Our pretend center had a guitar and keyboard. Our science center had a "pond" with toy frogs and crocodiles. In centers those who were interested were able to learn about different kinds of frogs. We got the ruler out and read how many inches each frog was, then together found that number on the ruler.

In morning circle, we brainstormed words we wanted to use to make an Earth song about helping the earth. Some of the words Saplings chose to include were, "ocean, flowers, butterflies, stars, moon and birds".

We also took some nature walks and looked for trash to pick up. We went over what recycling was and used scrap paper, pieces of cardboard and other recycled materials we could find around the classroom to make something new and beautiful!

During outside time the Saplings took a few minutes to sit quietly as a group, close our eyes and listen to earths "music". What a great and muddy, snowy and rainy earth week we have had!

Enjoy your weekend:)

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

First grade worked on opinion writing this week. We focused on identifying a topic sentence and giving detailed sentences to tell the reasons for our opinions. The kindergartners are practicing reading, writing, and letters. We are working on including spacing, punctuation, and correct spelling in our writing.

In math, the first graders and kindergartners learned about money. We learned about the penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. We practiced counting them all together. We played a few whole group money games. The older kids got to pair up with the younger kids and practice their leadership and helping skills! We are also reviewing a few key concepts in preparation for the NWEA testing in a few weeks.

The students don't seem to be phased by the temperamental weather. They are excited when it is warm and sunny and when it's cold and snowy. This week many of them were experimenting and manipulating the slushy melting snow, puddles, and the new 'rivers' in the woods. Expect them to come home wet and happy!

Have a great weekend

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

What a weird week it was! Besides having school off, the highlight of our week has been the birds that have found the bird feeder we put up last week. We will be focusing some of our attention to migrating birds, features, and identification in the next two weeks, along with answering all bird related questions that our visitors have sparked. Our grass heads got their final hair style before being sent home today at the conclusion of our plant unit. Some of our plants in the garden tower are thriving, we started new seeds in some other spots that didn't survive. We started with the expectation that plants don't thrive in Mrs. Silence's presence, so we weren't surprised there was a struggle. We do have several green bean plants and cilantro thriving though. If.....WHEN...the snow is gone and it warms up, we will be planting some things outside in a raised bed.

In Language Arts we read a book about a wooden man who traveled cross country. This was a bit obscure for us, as it was realistic fiction, but it's a fun book that has surprises each time you read it. We are working on sequencing events, suffixes, and fluency.

In math we continue to seek out any problem areas we have and tackle them. Two areas we worked on this week are math vocabulary and identifying polygons.

Enjoy all the changes that come with spring!

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**  
*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week has been a major preparation week for the MCAs, which are next week. We have been using review sheets from our math curriculum and Freckle, to focus on skills related to expressions, the order of operations, and measuring angles. As I mentioned before, the novel study guide for our book *The Homework Machine* provides emphasis on core skills for the MCAs. I have also sprinkled in a worksheet or two, along with some work on Freckle to help supplement that as well. In science, we have been discussing predator and prey relationships, and renewable and non-renewable forms of energy. Our social studies unit has been focused on the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution.

Next week is MCA week, with all of the fourth and fifth grade students taking the math and reading assessments. Fifth grade will also take the science assessment. Information regarding the MCAs was sent home last week, please be sure to review that if you have not already. Because of MCAs, there will be no spelling test next week, and I am not planning on any other tests either. I plan on reading more of our story as time allows, and getting in some various activities that should serve as a welcome break from testing.

If you have a completed or near completed Tickets to Treasure log, feel free to send it to school, and I will send home a new log sheet.

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

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