



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 4, 2023

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, May 9 ~ K-5 MAPS Testing Reading

Wednesday, May 10 ~ K-5 MAPS Testing Math

Thursday, May 11 ~ MAPS Testing Make-Up

Tuesday, May 16 School Board Meeting at 5:30 at BGCS

Wednesday, May 17 ~ 911 for Kids from Cook County - Saplings & K/1

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

Tuesday, May 23 ~ Invasive Plants Species Presentation for 4/5

Monday, May 29 ~ No School, Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30 ~ Saplings Year End Celebration from 10:00-11:00

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 ~ *The Roaring 20's!*

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

This was the week between the two year end tests. Last week was the MCAs for 3rd-5th, and next week is NWEA-MAP testing for all school, K-5. Information about MAP testing was emailed home to families. Please be sure to read it – it includes the breakfast menu and tips that you can do at home to help support your child. We appreciate all of the support from home, especially on these days!

We have had some crazy weather this year. On Monday, due to the high winds, BGCS lost power for a couple of hours. Students took it in stride in the classrooms, and it was pretty much business as usual. However, students seemed delighted to find lanterns on the lunch tables ready to shine some light on Angie's delicious hot lunch. There were squeals! There was just barely enough light given from the gym emergency lights, but the lanterns ensured light was sufficient and they added an ambiance that we all enjoyed. Because it was so fun, we determined that we will start "Lantern Lunch" next year. Why wait, you ask? We thought it would be best to do this during the winter months when we are much less likely to eat outside and, it will add a little sparkle to the long winter months! Excited already! Not for winter though, just for Lantern Lunches! 😊



Lunch By Lantern!

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

Please be sure to check the updated May hot lunch menu. Due to the snow days, the May lunch calendar has switched up a bit with hot lunch being served on Friday, May 5 and Friday, May 19. An updated version has been posted on the school website.



The Gala for the Grove 2023 ~The Roaring 20s! The Gala is Birch Grove's biggest fundraiser of the year. For more information on the event or to download invitation/ticket form go to:

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>

The Gala is looking for sponsors! If you know of a business or individual that might like to be a sponsor of the event, please send them to the website, or give me a call at 663-0170. Also, if you, or someone you know would like to donate an item for the raffle or live auction let me know that too! Thank you!

EXPLORADOME, a traveling planetarium from the Bell Museum, visited BGCS last week on Friday and exhibited the following shows:

Saplings: Observations of the Sky

Kindergarten: Observations of the Sky

First Grade: Observations of the Sky

Second Grade: Zoom! From the Earth to the Edge of the Universe

Third Grade: Zoom! From the Earth to the Edge of the Universe

Fourth & Fifth Grade: Mars: The Ultimate Voyage (this paired well with STARBASE Minnesota:

Destination MARS program that 4/5 participated in earlier this year!) The shows were spectacular!



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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

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 birds! We have a new bird feeder outside of our window that has sparked this interest in the Saplings. For one art activity, Saplings were given the option to create their own bird out of various art materials. We also took a nature walk (we tried to walk quietly) to see how many birds we could find. Then once we got inside, we counted how many of each type we saw on a visual chart. During story time we looked through some different bird books, learning about what certain birds in our area look like, what they eat, and listened to some bird calls as well! Tweet! Tweet!

Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

The Kindergarteners and 1st graders are doing their MAP testing next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Make sure that they get plenty of sleep next week! I am excited to share the results with you at the end of the school year. It is always fun to see growth from the beginning of the school year to the end!

This week, K/1 reviewed all grade-level topics in math. They all did a great job remembering old topics! We played lots of games to review. In language arts, we are continuing to practice reading, writing, and spelling! It is time to focus on perfecting grade-level skills!

We mastered our math facts and earned a party! We will do some kind of kid choice party next Friday. We will be doing more ticket drops for tickets to treasure over the next few weeks. Make sure to be logging all reading and math facts practice so your student can receive tickets!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

This week found our class focusing on our "Piggy Stories." These stories are versions of the Three Little Pigs that students have dreamed up written and are now in the midst of creating a slideshow. We are hoping for stories to be done by May 17th when we leave for Wolf Ridge. It is so fun to see these kids share their imagination and creativity. In math we are finishing up the last official units. We reopened a class platform from last year called Prodigy. It is a game-based math world that students can play at home or at school for free. Since the game-based world takes time to play, we only use it in class for extra or free time.

We also finished or nearly finished our "Bird Art." This is a mixed media creation of a bird, tree, and background. We have been learning about background and foreground. Again, I love to see the kids creativity come out on this open-ended project. I set a few parameters and then let them go with the materials.

On May 2nd, I finally declared it spring and made snow pants optional! By next week I will have the same rule for hand and gloves. I think this is the longest winter ever! I still have several feet of snow at my house, so my winter gear is staying out--ridiculous!

Next week we will have our final MAPS testing and a few visitors in class. It will be an exciting week and then the week after that we are off to Wolf Ridge.

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From Mr. Jeff Hoffman

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

This week we were back to normal, for what will likely be our last normal week of the year. We are wrapping up reading *The Homework Machine*, and are looking forward to starting our next book, *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*. In science we talked about the organs that make up the circulatory and respiratory systems. We completed our final textbook quiz for social studies after

learning about how different groups gained the right to vote through constitutional amendments. We also spent some more time on our end of year project. While these are moving slowly, they are looking very nice so far, so I am not going to rush anything. Wednesday afternoon we took advantage of not having gale force winds and got in a fun game of kickball with the 2/3 classroom!

Next week brings our last round of MAPS testing for the year. If you have not read the information that was emailed earlier this week, I would encourage you to do so. This round of testing is what is used to determine if a student has met their growth goal for the year in both math and reading. If a student reaches their goal in either area they receive 20 classroom rewards dollars, 40 reward dollars if they meet both goals! We will be on our second to last spelling lesson for the year, lesson #29. In science we will be continuing our study of the various body parts of animals and their functions. For social studies we are going to begin our final unit, which focuses on writing a paragraph about the Bill of Rights and other key topics we studied recently.

Wolf Ridge is coming up fast! Be sure to check the supply list that was sent home last week.

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

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