



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

April 28, 2022

Dates to Remember:

- Friday, April 30 School Authorizer (VOA) Site Visit
- Friday, May 6 No School – Teacher Workshop
- Tuesday, May 10 Reading MAPS Testing for K-5
- Wednesday, May 11 Math MAPS Testing for K-5
- Thursday, May 12 Make Up MAPS Testing K-5
- Saturday, May 14 The Gala for the Grove ~ *Masquerade*
- Monday, May 16 School Board Meeting at 5:30pm
- Wednesday-Friday, May 18, 19, 20 Wolf Ridge 3-day, 2-night trip for 2nd-5th

Mission Statement:

Birch Grove Community School will promote academic excellence utilizing our unique natural setting allowing students to reach their potential, preparing them to become socially and environmentally responsible, self-directed, lifelong learners.

From Ms. Diane Blanchette:
School Director, Birch Grove Community School
Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

We conducted MCA testing this week. There is a bit of work and planning that goes into conducting these annual state tests, so thank you to all of the staff for all of your work. Thank you also to families that planned for this testing, and for the students that worked hard and did their best work. We still have a few students to test next week, so if your child is make-up testing next week, please be sure that they get plenty of sleep the night before and a good breakfast. Thank you!

NWEA tests for K-5 are coming up soon! Please find the breakfast menu below:

Tuesday, May 10 – Reading for K-5
Oatmeal, Sausage, Cinnamon Apples

Wednesday, May 11 - Math for K-5
Bread Pudding, Sausage and Fruit

Thursday, May 12 - Make-Up Tests
Waffles, Bacon, and Fruit

Planning is taking place for all of our year end activities. Having missed field trips for the past two years has us happily planning fun activities off campus for all grade levels. Please be sure to check the Dates To Remember above as we start setting dates for special events. These kids deserve it!!

As we head into the end of the year, energy levels always seem to rise. If your child rides a bus, please be sure to remind them of appropriate behavior. We want bus rides to and from school to be safe and pleasant for all riders. Assigned seats will remain until the end of the year.



Enrolling Now!

The school year Saplings Program (Sept-May) is now enrolling for the 22-23 year. This program has a continued 4 of 4 STAR Parent Aware rating! Transportation is available along our regular bus stops. Please recommend this program to those that you know that have children ages 3-5. Space is limited!
<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Saplings-Program>



The Gala for the Grove ~ *Masquerade*, BGCS's biggest fundraiser, is finally back and set for Saturday, May 14. For more information and how to get tickets, go to the school website at www.birchgroveschool.com under the Events Page/Gala for the Grove. Tickets are \$75 and there are sponsorships available for individuals and for businesses. Please suggest sponsorship to any businesses that you know or that you work for, or suggest a donation to the live auction or raffle. As a small school, Birch Grove

Community School is grateful for the support of local businesses, individuals, our families, and the community that we serve. Sarena Nelson, school board member, is leading this event and can be contacted concerning donations of items at sarenanelson@yahoo.com. Please help us to make this fundraiser a great success!

Picture of the Week!



The new sign arrived today! We are excited for all of the new changes that will be happening at the Campsite this spring that will benefit our elementary school program as well as our summer programs. Another shout out to the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation for granting \$10,000 for the Campsite project #2 scheduled for this spring (snow, please melt faster)!

One of the joys of living up North -
Every Friday is "Flannel Friday" at Birch Grove! Join us!



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

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Website: www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store: <http://birchgrove.logosoftwear.com>

School Spirit Store Coupon Link: <https://www.logosoftwear.com/coupons.php>

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



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**From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Mari Maldonado**

*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week our theme was bugs and our focus was insects. We learned the different parts of a bug's body and had a lot of fun bug crafts! We made an edible bumble bee, an ant out of a plastic spoon and pipe cleaners, a lady bug and colored a bug booklet! In our pretend center we had various bug costumes, wings, and antenna headbands for the Saplings to try on. We loved seeing them all dressed up and pretending to fly together! We read many bug books and also learned some fun facts about each bug we made a craft on.

Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

It is great to see the weather start changing! Warmer weather always makes recess and playtime easier! With the last few 30-degree days make sure your child is equipped to go outside. They are required to have a coat, hat, and mittens.

This week Kindergarteners are reviewing letters, reading, and practicing writing. We are spending a lot of time ensuring that kindergarten topics are concrete and we are starting to excel in our reading skills. The first graders reviewed story structure. We read a story and identified the characters, the setting, the problem, and the solution in the story.

In math, we are all reviewing various topics. We are working on mastering the concepts of time, money, and measuring. We took time to play multiple whole group math games this week. It was a good review and fun!

Have a great weekend and remember to read!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

*2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher*

The end of the year has managed to sneak up on me this year. In part because it does not feel like spring. At school we have very little snow, but there is plenty of mud. At some of our houses that are farther from the lake, there is still 5 feet of snow.

Our chicken eggs are growing! This week we candled the eggs twice and were able to see the air sac, the veins, and the chick! They should be hatched in two weeks, just before we go to Wolf Ridge May 18-20.

The focus this week in reading has been to ask questions and give supporting evidence for your answers. In math we took a closer look at measuring and learned the word "estimate" which means a reasonable guess. Third graders were taking the MCA tests during the morning so they were not part of our focused lessons.

We are also making great progress on our country research projects. I anticipate that once their research is complete, each child will design and create something AT HOME to highlight the things that they learned and found interesting. This could be a book, a box diorama, a poster or something else. Details about that project will be sent home next week after we have completed the research in school. Some things may need to be looked up or reviewed at home, but mostly it will be guiding the creations.

We continue to work on language skills, asking questions that make sense, giving answers with evidence, and trying new words in our writing. Please continue discussion, reading, and practicing these skills.

Lastly! Keep practicing those math facts! Our first students have begun to meet the year end goal but we are still working hard! Those that are finished will move on to practice subtraction or division.

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From Ms. Heidi Helgesen

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

4/5th graders did a great job with their MCA testing this week. Fourth and fifth grade students showed what they know in both math and reading, with fifth graders also participating in a science test. Students were excited to get breakfast at school and had a great all-school send off, getting them ready to do their best on the test. We are very proud of the patience students showed and how they did their best work on this important test.

During the rest of the week, 4/5 worked on their ancient civilizations project. Students worked in partner pairs to research about an ancient civilization and create a giant graphic organizer with lots of information about what life was like in that society. Next, students have been working on writing journal entries from the perspective of a child living in the ancient society they researched. Students have done a great job adding lots of details to their work and are almost ready for editing.

Students had a lot of fun during specials this week, playing the game Scramble in gym class and getting quite the workout! We also spent some time working on our art projects that are teaching us about the elements and principles of art. With this project, we are focusing on line and color. A couple weeks ago, students drew with Elmer's glue on a blank piece of paper and are now using the lines they created to add color to create an abstract piece of art.

Permission forms for Wolf Ridge went home last week! Please be sure to sign and return the form so your child can participate in our Wolf Ridge on May 18-20th. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any time!

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