



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

December 20, 2023

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, December 20 ~ Hearing & Vision Screening

Wednesday, December 20 ~ All School & Sapling Pajama Day!

Thursday, December 21 – Monday, January 1 ~ No School, Winter Break

Tuesday, January 2 ~ School & Saplings Resumes

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 is Birch Grove Community School's last weekly newsletter of 2023!

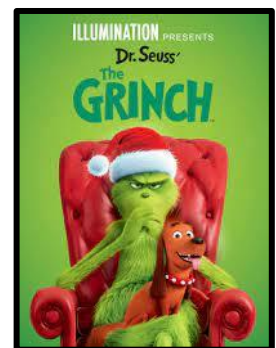
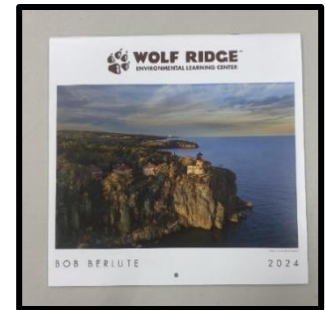
Hearing and vision screenings were conducted today for Saplings and K-5 at the on-site Sawtooth Mountain Clinic. Should any child need a re-screen with their family physician, families will receive an email notification. Thank you to Sawtooth Mountain Clinic for conducting these important screenings!

Winter break starts tomorrow with school and Saplings resuming on Tuesday, January 2. We look forward to the new year!



Please keep your child reading over this break as much as you can! We appreciate all of the support from home in this area. Please also utilize our classroom on-line platforms in reading and math. Emails were sent home to all K-5 families about the Lexia reading platform with information on how to log in.

Wolf Ridge calendar money has been coming in. Thank you! Please remember to put your child's name on the envelope and seal it when sending to school – we appreciate it! If you are sending a check, please write it to BGCS. If you don't want to purchase or sell it, please send it back to BGCS – we will find a buyer. Calendars are only \$15!



K-5 and Saplings ended 2023 with a movie, "The Grinch", and popcorn in the gym, all while chillin' in their PJ's!



All 2023 ornaments were sent home today, so if you did not pick yours up after the performance, please check your child's backpack. We hope you enjoy them for years to come!

We hope that everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to 2024. Thank you for sharing your children with us!

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 ~ 218-663-0170

Website: www.birchgroveschool.com

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftwear.com/> You can use GRAB15 for 15% off and free shipping for orders over \$125

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



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**From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

It was a short but joyful week!

Saplings practiced wrapping pretend presents this week and used their fine motor skills by cutting, taping and folding. They loved unwrapping the presents as soon as they were wrapped! The Saplings also created a few projects to bring home to family this week. Each Sapling also decorated a cookie and enjoyed eating it immediately after they were done creating!

Saplings conducted an experiment dissolving borax in hot water and watched the crystallization process on candy canes made of pipe cleaners that were submerged in the solution. The crystallization of borax occurred all through the day as the water slowly cooled and they enjoyed

seeing the final results. Families will get to see the candy canes as well as they will be sent home with each Sapling. They make great ornaments!

Today, the last school day of 2023, the Saplings were thrilled to have a cozy pajama day filled with a campfire, movie and popcorn with the K-5<sup>th</sup> graders. It was well deserved. Enjoy the holidays!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

This week has been short but special. On Tuesday, K/1 and 2/3 did a teacher swap! The K/1 class got to enjoy Ms. Forester and 2/3 got to have me for the morning! It was fun for all! Today we had a pajama and stuffy day! The kids snuggled up and practiced reading in the morning. In the afternoon, they watched a movie with the whole school!

I will send a winter break challenge worksheet to encourage the students to continue to practice their skills over the break. The tasks should be spread out throughout winter break. If they complete it, sign it and send it back after the break.

Please have your child read over break! All students are capable of reading to you with the appropriate book. 20 minutes a day will make a big difference in academic growth! Utilize our online tools for additional reading and math practice.

Have a wonderful break!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

This week has been so fun! We made coffee mugs where students were able to put their imagination on their own hot chocolate cup. We spent the week doing read-alouds, writing prompts, and reviewing math concepts that we have learned over the last few months. On Tuesday, we did a teacher swap and the students were able to spend the morning with a different teacher. We did a Grinch themed day with writing prompts and Grinch themed math. Then we ended the day with watching the Grinch movie. We talked a lot about what the true meaning of this holiday season is and recognizing the non-materialistic things that make our lives so special. Enjoy your break with

your children and thank you for allowing me to spend time with your children each day. I am appreciative of that.

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From Ms. Laurie Roberts

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

The fourth and fifth graders have been working hard to earn a party on the day before winter break, and they successfully accomplished all that they needed to! They worked on being quieter in the hallways, being kind to each other, being on task as much as possible, and of course, doing all of their work. I am proud of their efforts.

In math, the fourth graders are all doing long division. Some have more support than others, but everyone seems to understand the concept. The fifth graders are finishing up a unit, and will start their work on large division problems after break.

In language arts, everyone is getting used to the Lexia learning platform, and most students are enjoying it. It is fun for them to see their own progress as they move through the program. We also work daily in the school curriculum, and it is amazing that they are almost halfway through it.

Over break, students can earn prizes by completing a few review math pages, and for reading a chapter book. These assignments are completely optional. Have them return the packet to school after break if they choose to complete the work.

Have a wonderful winter break!

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