



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

January 11, 2024

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, January 16 ~ School Board Meeting at 4:00pm at BGCS

Tuesday, January 16-19 ~ MAP testing for K-5

Monday, January 22 ~ No School

Monday, January 22 ~ BGCS Board Retreat 2:00 Bluefin

Tuesday, February 6 ~ Birch Buddies ~ SKATE!

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:

School Director, Birch Grove Community School

Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

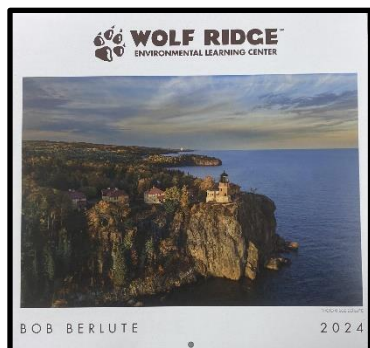
We continue to work hard in the classrooms even with snow calling our names from the outdoors! We finally have some snow, and assume that more will be coming. The snow blocks and sleds are out for recess!

Next week, K-5 will be taking the mid-year MAPS tests in reading and in math. This is a great opportunity for us to look at data and determine what kind of academic growth has happened so far this school year. Each student's results will be reviewed during our weekly teacher meetings with discussions and plans of action. Please remind your child to do their best work next week. Thank you!



Please remember to send your child with winter outerwear including: a winter coat, snowpants, winter boots, hat, and gloves. We do have items to borrow if something is forgotten at home. If you need an item for keeps, please let us know as we can help.

Remember that if school is canceled for weather/road conditions or for any other reason, you will get a voice message and it will be posted on the school Facebook page.



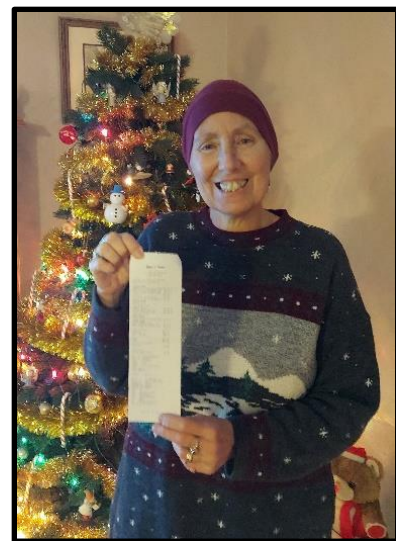
Wolf Ridge calendar money has been coming in. Thank you! Please remember to put your child's name on the envelope and seal it when sending to school – we appreciate it! If you are sending a check, please write it to BGCS. If you don't want to purchase or sell it, please send it back to BGCS – we will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

WOW! Many thanks to the Tofte General Store for donating fresh fruits and fresh vegetables in November, December and January to the hot lunch program! This support REALLY makes a difference. PLEASE say thanks when you stop in to the TOFTE GENERAL STORE! Yay to the many West End supporters of Birch Grove Community School - we are SO thankful and proud to be located in this community!



The Tickets To Treasures program starts next week! In this program, K-5 students earn tickets a few different ways: by logging reading that takes place at home, by time spent on on-line platforms at school and at home, and other ways determined by each classroom teacher. Tickets earned go into a drawing for prizes of the student's choice. Prizes are displayed in the library and the drawing takes place at the end of the school year. Log sheets will come home on Monday in Take Home Folders.

Many thanks to Rhonda Silence for scoring \$502.80 for BGCS from Box Tops for Education! You can do this too, as it's now SUPER easy. Just download the app, add our school and then take a photo of your receipts! The app will read your receipt and pull the items that qualify! Even if your recruit doesn't end up having a qualifying item, you will be asked if you want to enter the weekly sweepstakes. Rhonda always clicks yes! More information on this program is at the end of the newsletter.





Birch Buddies ~ SKATE! starts on Tuesday, February 6 and will run on every Tuesday of the month. Skates and helmets are provided though participants can bring their own. Thanks go out to Tofte Township for use of the ice rink, warming house, and outdoor bathroom. We are excited for Birch Buddies ~ SKATE!

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.logosoftware.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*

Snow is finally here to stay for a while and the Saplings are beyond excited. This week Saplings are learning the letter "J". We are using manipulatives and crafts to become familiar with the letter J. Saplings created a list of words that start with J, but their favorite one was jellyfish, so they made jellyfish out of paper plates. We also did some research on jellyfish and found out that they have no bones and some even glow in the dark!

We spent a lot of time playing in the woods this week. Climbing up a snowy hill and sliding down was an activity that was on repeat, as they enjoyed it so much. During these times, a lot of teamwork and helping each other out to get to the top of the hill was being observed. It's amazing to see them finding amusement in every season that is ever so changing without any complaints.

Our local children's book illustrator, Kari Vick, visited the classroom and read some really great books to the Saplings. One of the books that was written by Author Bob Allen and illustrated by Kari, "Monica the Muskie", really seemed to catch the Saplings interest. Alongside her book, Kari read



other children's fishing stories by Bob Allen called "Walter the Wily Walleye" and "Walter Under the Ice". These are books that are meant to encourage kids to view the outdoors as a place to explore, learn and enjoy. We really appreciate Kari donating her time to read to the Saplings!

Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

K/1 has been busy this week! We are working on a geography unit about where we are on a map. We read a story about a child making maps and identifying where she lives on different maps. K/1 started working on a similar project. They are curious and excited to learn about Earth and our location on it!

The kindergarteners learned the letter qu. They learned that Q is always with U. We are practicing sight words and becoming more fluent in reading three-letter words! We are working on a unit about teen numbers and adding and subtracting in math.

The first graders read a story about a big race. We discussed the main idea and supporting details in the book. In math, we are learning about place value and adding one and ten to a number. We are working on being able to identify how many tens and ones are in a two-digit number.

We have MAP testing next week! Please help by making sure your child has enough sleep, a good breakfast, and talk with them about how it is important to try their hardest.

Please continue to read, write, and practice letters at home!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

This week has been full of preparation for our MAP tests coming up. This includes online platforms specifically curated to the MAP test and student's scores, independent reading, partner reads, and math reviews. Students are feeling like they have the skills to tackle this test and that has seemed to ease the anxiety that they may have felt for the testing. We have been touching on how it means to feel proud and how that looks when they have pride in themselves. We have spent some time playing in the recently fallen snow, which is a fan favorite.

In language arts, I have been using Lexia data to create individualized mini lessons for students. This has been met with excitement and lots of optimism as we work together to identify sight words and decode unfamiliar words. We have talked about pronouns, different tenses of verbs, and reviewed suffixes. Lastly, we spent time writing and manipulating different vocabulary words to increase their language knowledge base.

In math, third grade have been working on developing their skills with fractions. We have transferred that knowledge to measurement and being able to measure things to the nearest fraction of an inch. We will later use fraction knowledge to talk about time. In second grade, we spent lots of time with subtraction. We subtracted word problems, across zeros, and practiced our regrouping skills. Each student is able to subtract numbers in the hundreds value. This has been major growth since the beginning of the year and they feel accomplished.

We talked about human impact on the environment this week in social studies. This was met with lots of enthusiasm and discussion. We reviewed maps and built on those skills. Students were amazed that the human population is greatly impacted on water and we discussed why that is. We will end the week with making our own impact poster.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

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From Ms. Laurie Roberts

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

The fourth and fifth graders' wish for snow came true! They have been enjoying the snow during recess and campsite time. They painted watercolor pictures of themselves making snow angels, and were also able to make some real ones outside.

In language arts, the fifth graders are deep into their unit that includes articles and stories from early American history. They are continuing their work on using past, present, and future verb tenses in their writing. The fourth graders have been reading interesting articles on insects, and are working on participles in grammar. All students are writing every day during the Writer's Workshop time. Their current stories are about winter, and include good descriptions of their main characters. Everyone seems to enjoy the creative process of writing!

In math, all students have been doing a short review of the geometry, measurement, and fractions that they learned last year. We will go deeper into those units after our review is finished.

We are learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in social studies, and are also making art projects on the subject.

Tickets to Treasure will start next week! Students can earn a ticket for each 20 minutes of reading at home. Tickets can also be earned for every 20 minutes of Lexia completed at home. Tickets will be drawn for prizes, so the more tickets the better! Reading/Lexia Logs will be sent home Monday 1/15 for parents to record and sign.

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Dear Families,

Are you looking for a quick and easy way to support our school?

Box Tops for Education has been around for over 25 years, and it really can make a difference. In fact, the Box Tops program has helped give almost one billion dollars to schools since 1996.

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See a list of participating products at
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Box Tops earnings really add up, and the more people that participate, the bigger the impact we can make. So let's give our teachers the support they need and give more kids the opportunity to succeed. **Together, we can help make a big difference.**

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