

## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

**March 21, 2024**

### Dates to Remember:

Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29 ~ No School – Spring Break

Monday, April 1 ~ School Resumes

Friday, April 12 ~ No School

Tuesday, April 16 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting @ 4:00

Tuesday, April 16 ~ Kindergarten Round Up!

Tuesday, April 23 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, April 24 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, April 25 ~ MCA Testing for 3-5<sup>th</sup>

### **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*

This has been a busy week full of hard work as we hit the academics especially hard leading up to spring break that starts next week. Please remember to have your child read over the break and/or access your child's classroom on-line platforms. Tickets will be issued for any reading or on-line work that happens over the break – we want to keep the momentum going at home too! Remind your child that the Tickets To Treasure drawing will be here before you know it!

We have had another bout of illness of staff and students this week with flu-like symptoms. While we continue to clean, have windows open, run air purifiers, and promote handwashing, illnesses are still spreading. We hope that everyone gets well or continues to stay healthy over the break and that everyone comes back on April 1 well-rested and healthy!

Tomorrow is Lights Out! Pajama Day! Saplings and K-5 may wear pajamas to school. There will be flashlights, lanterns and glow jewelry throughout the school tomorrow as well as all-school (K-5) lights-out Bingo in the afternoon. We all look forward to this last day before spring break!

LIGHTS OUT!



PAJAMA  
DAY

It's tomorrow!

**LIGHTS OUT - PAJAMA DAY!** Friday, March 22.

All Saplings and K-5 are invited to wear their pajamas to school on this day! Portions of the day will be "lights out" where students may engage in fun activities in a darkened classroom with flashlights, etc. and in the afternoon all of K-5 will play BINGO in the dark!

Did you know that BGCS has put out a WEEKLY newsletter for the past 20 years? Keeping our families, stakeholders and community informed has always been a priority! You can find weekly newsletters on the school website too! <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/News>



Look who stopped by this week! Dave Monson and Louise Trachta donated \$500 to the Saplings Program! Thank you so much for your support of one of the many BGCS programs that benefit our community. We appreciate your support! If you see them, thank them again, please! Go Birch Grove!

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](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org) ~ 218-663-0170

Website: [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://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](#)



~~~~~

**From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

Saplings Explored the Letter E with Ease this week!

Eggs! Saplings conducted a bouncing egg experiment this week by completely submerging eggs in a vinegar/food coloring solution to see what would happen if the eggs were left submerged for 2 nights. We will see the final results tomorrow! Be sure to ask your Sapling about it.

This week we read various books about spring and what seasonal changes happen, including the arrival of new baby woodland animals. The Saplings love stories that include baby animals!



Saplings may join K-5 tomorrow, Friday, for Lights Out Pajama Day!, and wear pajamas to school! The Saplings are looking forward to it. Ms. Silence will be subbing in the Saplings room tomorrow and is very much looking forward to it as it has been a while since she has been in this room!

We hope that the Saplings have a safe and healthy spring break, and we look forward to seeing everyone again on April 1.

218-663-0170 ext. 21

[rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com](mailto:rista.sharmabgcs@gmail.com)

[jessica.klemmerbgcs.com](mailto:jessica.klemmerbgcs.com)

~~~~~

**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

March has truly gone by quickly. We have been busy learning about sun, shadows, force, graphs, and time. Spring has sprung technically (it didn't but we can hope!) and we will be learning about growing things in April. Spring break is next week already! Please use the online resources and read over the break. We have had such great growth this year and I want to continue that!

We reviewed time, shapes, and numbers this week in math. Everyone is doing such a good job telling time! In language arts, we discussed sequence of events and cause and effect. Kindergarten reviewed the alphabet and 1st grade reviewed blends and vowel sounds.



We only have a few weeks left until we take our spring MAP tests. Please continue to reinforce and practice math and reading skills at home. Make sure to continue to read for 20 minutes every day. Every student can read out loud to you if the right book is chosen. Make sure to be logging this time spent in the reading/math log for "Tickets to Treasure". The students can earn prizes at the end of the year with their tickets.

Have a great spring break!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

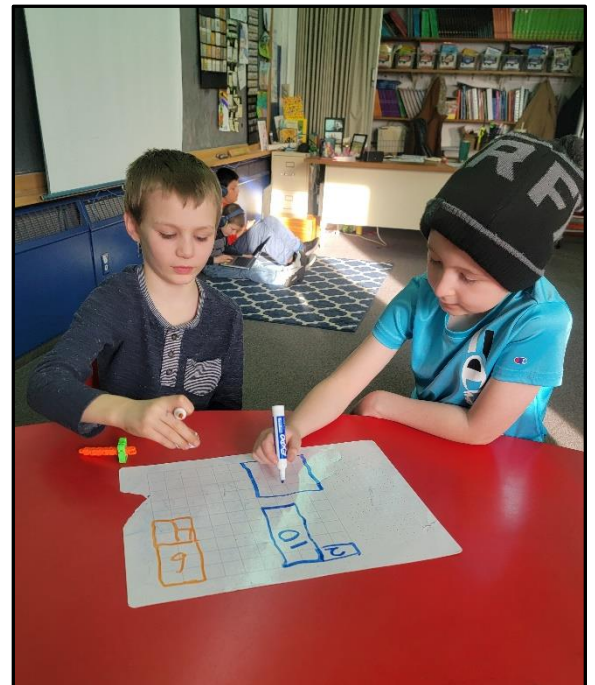
[sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com)

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

It was a great week before spring break! I cannot believe that the year is winding down to the end. We have been working hard on reviewing math concepts and developing our reading comprehension. Thank you to all that took the time to meet me for conferences. It was great to chat about the kids!

In math, we continued to do reviews on our material that we learned throughout the year. This includes 3 digit addition and subtraction for second grade. The third grade has been working on multiplication and division fluency particularly in word problems. Both grades have been working on time and graphs. This has been a really productive time.



In reading, we spent lots of time on important vocabulary words in the text with semantic word maps, complex sentences, and vocab task cards. We have been working through a main idea graphic organizer with our main book for the week and supported reading fluency through small group reading activities. All the extra work that the students have been doing in the last few months has been noticed.

In social studies, we continued on our research project by creating slideshows. All students have finished their final 5 paragraph essay. After our slideshows, we will create a timeline and a portrait of our famous person. Students have been excited about using a multimedia platform to portray information.

Enjoy spring break with the kids and we will see them when they get back!

218-663-0170 ext. 26

[samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.forsterbgcs@gmail.com)

---

**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**

*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

The fourth and fifth graders have had a busy week filled with hard work! Our goal is to finish the language arts and math state standards before MCA testing at the end of April. We will accomplish that the week after spring break, and then do some review of things learned at the beginning of the year.

The fifth graders' language arts curriculum has many readings about U.S. history, and this week the students learned about the history of cowboys in the U.S. from the 1500's to modern times. The fourth graders read about the redwood trees in California, and compared their growth timeline to a timeline of great events in world history.

In math, everyone is working on geometry. We are currently learning how to make and measure angles with protractors. All students are also working on a variety of math skills on either Khan Academy or Freckle online.

In science, we learned the difference between weathering and erosion. We did an experiment that showed the effects of ice, wind and water on a landform. Students wrote up lab reports on their results.

Have a great spring break!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

[laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.robertsbgcs@gmail.com)

