



# Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

**March 9, 2023**

## Dates to Remember:

- Thursday, March 16 ~ School Authorizer Site Visit
- Friday, March 17 ~ Snow Day Make Up-School Is In Session!
- Tuesday, March 21 ~ BGCS School Board Meeting 5:30
- Monday-Friday, March 20-24 ~ Conferences
- Monday-Friday, March 27-31 ~ No School, Spring Break
- Friday, April 7 ~ No School, Scheduled Staff Workshop
- Tuesday, April 11 ~ Kindergarten Round Up and Step-Up Day

## 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*

BGCS's charter school authorizer, Volunteers of America - MN, will be here for the annual spring visit on Thursday, March 16. This visit is much more informal than the fall visit, and will include classroom observations and discussions with me, the school director. The fall and the spring visits are required annually, according to the school's 94 page charter school contract, among other requirements. We look forward to this annual visit and welcome the opportunity to show off BGCS!

Conferences will be held March 20-24. Your child's teacher will be sending out information soon so that you can schedule a day and time that works for you and your family. As always, we ask you to help us meet our annual goal of having 100% parent/guardian participation in conferences. We appreciate your support and involvement!



Campsite Kids enrollment is full for summer 2023. If you would like to get on the waiting list, please turn in your enrollment forms. Campsite Kids staff this year will be Sara Knottski, K/1 teacher, and school director, Diane Blanchette. This summer is going to be *on fire* and we are looking forward to it!

Spring break is coming soon! Please be sure to return any overdue library books so that your child can check out extra books for Spring Break. Please have your child read every day/night over the break and be sure to record minutes on the Tickets to Treasures log. Thank you!



Kindergarten Round Up has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 for children that will be starting kindergarten next year (must be 5 by September 1). All children in the Saplings program that are eligible for kindergarten next year have received invitations via Take Home Folders. If you know of a family that has a child eligible to start kindergarten next year, please refer Birch Grove Community School to them. We appreciate endorsements from our families – you are our best PR! Please help spread the word. Thank you!

BGCS is looking for a Saplings or K-5 parent to join the school board. It is important that we have parent representation on the board. New board member must start training within 6 months of being seated and must complete training within a year – training is provided, as is on-going training. Board members must be able to attend monthly meetings. Board meetings have just recently been changed to the third Tuesday of each month. If you are interested, please call 218-663-0170 and we can discuss it. We look forward to adding another BG parent (or two) to the board!



Picture of the Week!

For more great pictures go to our Facebook page!

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

One of the joys of living up North -  
Every Friday is "Flannel Friday" at Birch Grove!  
Join us by having your child wear flannel too!



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) ~ Birch Grove Community School Email

[bgcommunityservice@boreal.org](mailto:bgcommunityservice@boreal.org) ~ Community Service Email

218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

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

School Spirit Store Coupon Link: <https://www.logosofwear.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 was full of leprechauns and magic! The Saplings created leprechaun traps around our classroom, played freeze dance with Irish music in the gym, and had a few fun Saint Patrick's themed crafts. Saplings worked on practicing some simple magic tricks with a wooden pencil, a spoon, and a coin - see if they can show you the tricks at home!



Gravy, special retired sled dog, visited for a day this week. Gravy and the Saplings had a blast running around the woods in the campsite together! We spent a lot of time outdoors this week with the nice weather. The Saplings even excitedly noticed some parts of grass near the sidewalk!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

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

This week, Kindergarten is practicing letter sounds and reading words. We have learned about all of the letters of the alphabet and are working on solidifying them! We have been working hard on writing. We practice writing at least three times a week with a focus on sounding out words, spacing, letter size, and punctuation. We are getting better every day! The first graders learned about drawing conclusions. We also practice reading words with bossy r.

In math, we are learning about time! We all learned about the difference between an analog clock and a digital clock. We discussed how many hours are in a day, how many minutes are in an hour, and how many seconds are in a minute. We also learned which way the clock turns and what the hands mean. Kindergarten can tell time to the hour and 1st grade can tell time to the half-hour! Test them at home! 1st grade made a book about what we do each hour of our school day!

As a reminder, keep logging reading and math practice on the log sheet for tickets to treasure. If you need a new one just let me know or send the full one to school and I will switch it out!

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This week we focused on reading fables that were written as plays. This challenged us as the reading format was different than usual, but it spiced up our usual readings to be more interesting as we reread the books several times. Friday we will spend time reading them out loud as a play and work on our expression.

In math "Youngers" (second grade) are finishing up the first part of their unit on 3-digit addition to 1000. The next step is GULP..... 3-digit subtraction. Parents can help at home by practicing those subtraction facts 0-20. The more automatic these facts are, the easier time students will have with more challenging problems and more steps.

Our landmark projects are finished! They will be on display in the school for about a week and then will be sent home. I'm sure some photos will make it onto Facebook as well. The kids worked so hard on this project and did a great job. Our next writing project will be creating a mock fairytale, and hopefully creating a multimedia piece as a finale.

As always continue asking and answering questions with your children. If you read to them at night, don't forget to stop and wonder about what is happening. Think out loud!

I will send book orders in on Saturday. Class code to enter at [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs) is HCMK2.

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**From Mr. Jeff Hoffman**

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

Many of us, students and staff alike, feel that spring is around the corner, and with that feeling comes the inevitable shift of focus towards what needs to be done before MCA testing. With that in mind, this week I had all of the students go through a math practice test and circle what they were unsure of, did not know, or felt they would have trouble solving. I will use this information to guide full class, small group, and individual instruction going forward. With the warmer weather, on Tuesday afternoon we went to the campsite as a class to discuss the types of energy that the sun gives off, along with some talk about fractions. In social studies this week, we have been covering the reasons for the creation of the U.S. Constitution and the Great Compromise of 1787, which led to the creation of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Our reading and spelling lesson next week is lesson 23, if you need another copy of the spelling list, please let me know. In math we will be wrapping up our units on measurement, perimeter, and area. We are also nearing the end of our Starbase Minnesota lessons as well. While we won't likely finish next week, that project will be done before we go on spring break. I am also hoping to have time to get in some more coding on MIT Scratch as well. The students really enjoy doing coding, and it does teach computational thinking along with problem solving skills, making a positive for everyone.

Spring conferences are the week of March 20th. More information will be sent out on those soon.

While visions of spring dance about in everyone's head, students still need to bring all of their winter gear to school each day. It is better to be over prepared than under prepared!

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

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