



# Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

**May 13, 2022**

## Dates to Remember:

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 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, May 26 Field Trip for K-5 to Duluth – Duluth Aquarium and Defy Trampoline Park!

Monday, May 30 No School – Memorial Day

**Thursday, June 2 Last Day of School ½ Day: Graduation Celebration is at 10:30,  
Early Release at 12:00**

## **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*

Whew, we finished all MAP testing in both reading and math for all K-5 students this week! Please thank your child for doing their best work and doing a great job of testing. Much growth happened this year! Results will be shared with families with the year end report cards.

With testing completed, we will turn our attention to many year end activities. Wolf Ridge is coming up next week, and I know that 2-5<sup>th</sup> graders are very excited. Please be sure to check Take Home Folders for more information about this adventurous trip, and be sure to turn in all forms so that your child is able to participate. Ms. Helgesen, Ms. Silence, Ms. Klemmer, and Ms. Sharma will be accompanying the group on this 3-day, 2-night trip to the environmental center. How exciting! If there is anything that you think your child's teacher should know prior to this trip, please reach out –

it's okay, many families have questions about this trip, especially since this trip is sometimes a child's first overnight.

We will also be taking an all school (K-5) trip to Duluth on Thursday, May 26 to the Duluth Aquarium and Defy trampoline park. Transportation is tricky to arrange for a trip like this, so be sure to read the information that is coming home soon concerning transportation. We appreciate families changing up their schedules a bit for this special day. Waivers will also need to be signed for participation at the trampoline park and students are not allowed to partake unless there is a signed waiver. Please watch for this paperwork. Also, students will all need to wear "grip" socks (sticky type nubs on the bottom of the sock foot) in order to participate. Please send a pair with your child on this day - if you have extra, PLEASE send these along so that those that don't have them can borrow them for the day. I have heard that you can purchase grip socks there, but that they are very expensive. Please send extra if you are able - we want everyone to be able to play!

**Saplings Families!** Because of the above K-5 field trip, please note that there will be no transportation provided on Thursday, May 26 to or from Birch Grove on this day for Saplings coming on the Lake County bus. For Cook County, there will only be transportation available in the morning, there will be NO transportation available in the afternoon. We appreciate your understanding of these arrangements so that K-5 can have a special day!

**\*\* Please note that the last day of K-5 school and Saplings is on Thursday, June 2. The end date was moved some time ago due to a snow day. Students are released early this day! Buses leave at 12:00. The K-5 Graduation Celebration is at 10:30.**



We are adding to our **AWESOME TEAM!**

**If you know someone who is also AWESOME and think that they might like a position here at Birch Grove, please refer them to our website for our job openings.**

\*New! Adding 1 Paraprofessional for 22-23. Join our 3 returning Paraprofessionals!

\*School Cook (PT) ~ We need nutritious, yummy meals in 22-23!

\*Saplings Assistant ~ Work with Ms. Alayna and 3 & 4 year olds! 22-23!

<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Employment-Opportunities>



**Enrolling Now! We have a few spots left!**

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>

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:

[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: <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](https://www.facebook.com/Birch-Grove-Community-School-and-Community-Services-4145) | Facebook



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

*Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week our theme was Under the Sea and our focus was on Octopi, squids, eels and jellyfish. We were able to borrow an Under the Sea walking library kit from Cook County Schools for our dramatic play center, so our theme was based on that! We had an awesome pop-up book, felt fish with seaweed to create your own underwater world, and a fish and sea weed building activity. Our week

was filled with fun facts and crafts on Octopi, squids, jellyfish, and an eel science experiment with baking soda, vinegar and gummy worms! We also played sharks and minnows and had a few nature walks.

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

The Kindergarteners and 1st graders finished MAP testing this week. They were all trying their hardest and taking their time! I am excited to share the results with you at the end of the school year. It is always fun to see growth from the beginning of the school year to the end!

This week kindergarten worked on our blending skills. We are working on being more fluent when reading 3 letter words and we are learning more sight words. 1st grade learned about how to decode long words. In math, we all worked on reviewing key kindergarten and 1st-grade concepts. We look forward to practicing our skills by playing math games!

K/1 enjoyed a great celebration on Friday for accomplishing our whole class math facts goal. We had a pajama and stuffy day with our class pet, Kota the dog! We danced and cracked open a pinata, and enjoyed ice cream! It was an extravagant celebration!

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

If you remember what we had planned for this week, you already know the most exciting part of our week. Our chicks have hatched! As of Thursday morning, there are sixteen chicks out of the shell, and we should stay at about that number. Of course, all the kids from the whole school want to bring home a chick or two. However, if parents do want a chick or so, they will need to contact me directly. I'm sure you can imagine how many kids are telling me they are getting a chick and then their parents look at me and say they are definitely not!

We are so ridiculously close to reaching our class goal of math facts. I am certain that by next week I will be sharing that we made it! This week we have been cemented our knowledge in numbers and using what we know to explore new things. For example, we have built a tower of 10,000 small cubes, by bundling anytime we see a ten (ten ones, ten tens, ten hundreds....). We practiced our mental math, our visual representations (drawing math problems).

Our reading has focused on the science of living things. We read several books about plants and animals, focusing on how they are alike and different. We were pretty amazed to notice how similar a daisy and a chicken are when we compare them.

Keep reading and talking to your child at home. As always, ask them questions that require more than a yes or no. Ask them why they think things happened, or why they made a certain choice. Help them hear and use new words that have deeper meaning than "good" or "awesome."

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**From Ms. Heidi Helgesen**

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

It was another busy week in the fourth and fifth grade classroom. Students worked hard on their end of year tests, showing what they have learned this school year. I am very proud of their patience, persistence, and ability to rise to challenges! Way to go 4/5!

This week in math, we continued to work on our math road trip problems. The theme this week was money. Students answered a variety of word problems, specifically practicing their adding and subtracting decimal number skills. Students remembered a lot from the school year and did a great job solidifying their understanding of the topic.

In reading, this week we focused on filling in our interactive notebooks, adding notes about the difference between mood and tone, as well as the different genres of fiction. The book that students are creating will act as a reference for their future studies, helping them to remember literary terms and better understand the concepts we have talked about this school year.

We also spent time working on our poetry books, adding an acrostic poem to student's collections. Students worked to identify personality and character traits that described themselves and then turned their self-understanding into a poem. It was fun to read the poems they created and we are very excited to compile our collection into a book to share!

Next week is Wolf Ridge! Students are very excited to spend some time playing and learning together at this amazing environmental learning center. Please check backpacks for the packing list and reach out if you have questions, concerns, or need anything.

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