



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

April 22, 2021

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, April 27 MAPS Reading Testing K-5th

Wednesday, April 28 MAPS Math Testing K-5

Thursday, April 29 MAPS Make-Up Testing

Friday, April 30 No School

Tuesday, May 4 Kindergarten 21-22 Information & Tours 3:30-6:30

Monday, May 17 School Board Meeting at 5:30

Friday, May 28 Last Day of School - **School On Site** - 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:

Director, Birch Grove Community School

Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

5th graders completed the science MCA test this week, so all state-wide assessments have been completed for the year. Please thank your child for all of the hard work!

Next week, we will be testing K-5 with the final MAPS test, our chosen local assessment (a standardized test is mandatory for all schools). Please be sure that your child gets extra sleep the night before testing and a good breakfast the morning of, and also see that students get to school on time. Remind students to do their best work and to take their time. Thank you!

We have COVID-19 saliva test kits available for all families. Please let me know if you would like one and we can send home in backpacks. Any family may take advantage of this, Saplings or K-5.

Please note that the school calendar says that the last day of school is Friday, May 28. **We will have school on-site this day, so it is NOT a distance learning day.** There is also an early release at 12:00. Considering this, the last Friday distance learning day is: May 21.

2021-2022 Kindergarten Information:

We normally invite soon-to-be-Kindergarteners to join us here during the school year for a half day in the K/1 classroom with activities and projects planned just for them. The half-day would end with Community Lunch, where parents and family could join in! This year however, Kindergarten Round Up will look different as we continue to prioritize the health and safety of students, staff, and families.

Kindergarten Information Meeting and School Tours: Tuesday, May 4 from 3:30-6:30

Tour the school and see classrooms, gym, library and check out the outdoor opportunities available. Meet teachers, staff, and administration to find out about our school:

- Licensed, Skilled, and Caring Teachers – Our K/1 teacher, Ms. Knottski, holds a Master’s Degree in Teaching
- An Educational Program that Focuses on Core Subjects ~ Reading, Writing and Mathematics ~ important building blocks for future academic success!
- Small Group Instruction ~ hard to find anywhere else, and so valuable for early learning
- Great Outdoor Opportunities ~ ice skating, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and an annual 3-day/2-night trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (2-5th grade)
- A monthly opportunity for parents and family to share Community Lunch with their child(ren)
- Special Education services on-site
- Incredible Outside Facility ~ playground, campsite in the woods with bonfire pit, ice rink/warming hut, pavilion, hearth oven, and nature trails



Face masks required indoors. If you can't make this event, no problem, you can catch the event below or schedule a private session and tour by calling Diane Blanchette, School Director at 218-663-0170 or email birchgrove@boreal.org

The Annual Dress To Play Open House: Tuesday, August 17 from 4:00-7:00

- Free grilled hot dogs and beverages!
- Meet school staff and board members!
- Ask questions, get answers!
- Tour the school and grounds!
- Meet other Birch Grove families and friends!
- Bouncy house inflatable! SO FUN!
- Art projects for kids!



Enrollment forms for the Saplings Program (ages 3-5) and K-5 will be available at this open house!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:
birchgrove@boreal.org ~ Birch Grove Community School Email
bgcommunityservice@boreal.org ~ Community Service Email
218-663-0170 ~ School Phone
218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone
Website: www.birchgroveschool.com



Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145

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**From Ms. Sheryl Martinson**

*Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week has flown by in a blur, the children were busy, busy, busy! We began the week by finishing up last week's weather theme with rainbows. We tried a new experiment called "a walking rainbow." We used 6 small mason jars, 6 rolled paper towels, water and food coloring. The water very quickly moved from jar to jar, ending up with an equal amount of water in each jar and the mixed colors of a rainbow. It was pretty cool. Tuesday began our Earth Day theme. The children learned what earth looks like from space, a variety of ways that we can care for the earth, and what can be recycled. We also got out a display of magnets for the children to explore.

The academic focus was syllables. We began by clapping the syllables of their names, then moved on to words. The big kids returned to color word recognition and took on the challenge of combining syllables and color words. These children that are moving on to kindergarten next year are raring to go! They like to work hard and are confident in their ability to do hard things. I love it!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

First grade worked on opinion writing this week. We focused on identifying a topic sentence and giving detailed sentences to tell the reasons for our opinions. The kindergarteners are practicing reading, writing, and letters. We are working on including spacing, punctuation, and correct spelling in our writing.

In math, the first graders and kindergarteners learned about money. We learned about the penny, nickel, and dime. We practiced counting them all together. We played a few whole group money games. The older kids got to pair up with the younger kids and practice their leadership and helper skills! We are also reviewing a few key concepts in preparation for the NWEA testing next week.

Testing is next week! Please ensure that your child gets plenty of sleep Monday night and Tuesday night. Also, make sure they have a good breakfast!! Remind your child to try their best and take their time!

Have a great weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This week we marked a big milestone on our paperchain counting how many days are left in school. This week the paper chain is no longer touching the floor! When it started, it was strung from end to end of the room with a loop or two! After school on Friday there will be 24 days remaining!

The excitement has grown as we near the end of the year. We have started several projects that focus on science, but are using many of our other skills also. We planted seeds and are documenting them as they grow. As of day 6, we have seen zero progress in our lima beans. We also started discussing the weather and will track the weather next week to learn how scientists predict the weather.

Our last big project is called Our Zoo. The class is split into groups and each group will be in charge of creating their own zoo. There will be research, fact checking, planning, learning to work as a team, and towards the end of the planning stage, a whole bunch of economics as we find out what it will take to keep our zoo successful!

Continue to read at home!

218-663-0170 ext. 26

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From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

Congratulations to 4th and 5th graders for finishing their MCA standardized testing. Students worked hard and took the test very seriously. Next week, we will finish all of our testing for the year with our MAPS testing. Keep up the great work, 4/5!

This week, 4/5th grade has enjoyed learning about different internal systems in the body this week. We learned about the circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems in humans and in animals. We supplemented our book studies with information from BrainPop and played a board game that taught us how blood moves different things such as oxygen, carbon dioxide, sugar and protein, and waste throughout the body.

We have also been working on new stories in reading. 4th grade read about a double dutch jump rope team from Long Island, focusing on the sequence of how the team was created. We watched a few videos of jump roping competitions and were completely awed by what these teams are able to do! In 5th grade, we read about the Myers family, a father and son who are authors and illustrators of children's books. We also spent some time working on our informational essays, working on adding appropriate introductions and conclusions to our work.

In math, fourth and fifth grade has been working on reviewing a variety of topics, including finding common denominators with fractions and dividing fractions. Students have been doing excellent work reviewing and expanding their knowledge of fractions.

Parents and loved ones, please be sure to check the weather forecast and send your student(s) with appropriate gear for the day. Some spring days are quite warm, while others make us feel winter has returned. Please make sure students have layers to wear outside to keep warm on the playground.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at any time via phone or email.

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