



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

December 16, 2021

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, December 21 – All School Pajama Day!

Wednesday, December 22 – Sunday, January 2 Winter Break! No School

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

Please, PLEASE, please, keep your child home if they are ill: if they have a cough, fever, sore throat, any indication of illness. We want to keep our K-5 learning on-site and we want to keep the Saplings Program open! If you are not sure if you should keep your child home, err on the side of caution and keep your child home. Also, if you are concerned enough to have your child tested for COVID, they should not be in school until you have received negative results back. Thank you!

Thank you to all for attending the winter musical, *The Incredible Reindeer!* Thanks to all the students and staff for their hard work – everyone did a wonderful job! What a great way to end the 2020 year!

Students will be taking home extra books next week so that they have plenty of reading material over the winter break. Please have your child(ren) read a minimum of 20 minutes a day/night. This will help to increase academic growth – we need your support at home. 😊

Next week on Tuesday is All School Pajama Day! Students can wear pajamas to school and bring 1 small stuffed animal. Please still send boots and all winter gear as we will still be going outside (as we do most every single day).

We will not be sending out a newsletter next week, as we only have school on Monday and Tuesday. Birch Grove Community School/Services wishes you all a safe and joyous winter break! See you all back here at Birch Grove on Monday, January 3.

Picture of the Week!



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:

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bgcommunityservice@boreal.org ~ Community Service Email

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218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

Website: www.birchgroveschool.com



Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145



From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Mari Maldonado
Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

This week our theme was Christmas. We made some fun Christmas crafts including Christmas trees, wreaths, snowmen and candy canes. We even got to see the k-5 practice their musical! The Saplings loved seeing some of their older siblings and friends perform.

We have been focusing on numbers 1-10 with various worksheets. We worked on tracing numbers, a number dot to dot, and coloring the correct number of objects to match with the number given. We have also been learning about triangles. The Saplings had color work sheets with triangles, and a Christmas tree craft where they stacked triangles on top of each other to make a tree.

Have a great break!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski
K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

Happy last few days before break! It has been a crazy busy week. The musical took up a lot of our time this week but it was a very successful and fun performance!

We spent the week reviewing key topics in both reading and math. We practiced sight words, letters, reading, writing, and answering questions about stories. In math, we reviewed shapes, place value, addition into the teens, and numbers up to 120.

I will send a winter break challenge worksheet to encourage the students to continue to practice their skills over the break. The tasks should be spread out throughout winter break. If they complete it, sign it and send it back after the break. There is a prize for those who complete the sheet waiting for them after the break!

Please have your child read over break! All students are capable of reading to you with the appropriate book. 20 minutes a day will make a big difference in academic growth! Utilize our online tools for additional reading and math practice!

Have a wonderful break!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

What a week! Students did an amazing job at the musical this week. The evening performance is always a little less held together because of a break in routine (it's so exciting to come back to school at night!). But they sang their songs, said their lines, and of course looked cute! This week we have been focusing on "Ketchup and Mustard," meaning all the old work that needs to be done. Some are enjoyable and just need a little time, but some have been put off making it a little sour to work on-like mustard. When their to-do list gets erased from the board they have been moving on to free time. The first few are set to enjoy some extra free time by Friday.

In phonics we did start our unit on vowel teams. Kids will be singing the rhyme, "When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking." If they transform into a country singer, it's from the video that goes with the song. This week we looked at the team "ea," next week we will look at "ee." In math we have continued to spend time each day playing and building with numbers. This has helped some of us really cement our knowledge of numbers while also challenging others to see numbers in a new way. How about representing $2x+5$ in math blocks?

In the Pine Martens, we always login with Google. This helps us keep track of less login information with kids who are new to laptops. I will be sending login instructions out to parents in email and on ClassDojo. Platforms that you can access over break include:

Epic (books): www.getepic.com

Prodigy: www.prodigygame.com

Freckle: www.freckle.com

Lalilo: www.lalilo.com (we've moved to Freckle now, but kids may still enjoy)

As always, reading, writing, and planning with your child will help them grow and develop the critical thinking skills they use every day.

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**From Ms. Heidi Helgesen**

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

Our class had a great time preparing and presenting our school musical! It felt great to share our hard work with our loved ones. While things were different in some ways, students did a great job adapting to changes and were very excited to participate in the musical again.

In between rehearsals this week, fourth and fifth grade got some amazing work accomplished in both math and reading. In math, we talked about algebra and how to simplify equations using both the distributive property and the order of operations. In reading, we met in small groups to practice reading fluency and answer critical thinking questions while citing evidence in the text. Fourth graders also read "Dear Mr. Winston," a hilarious story told through a letter written by a not-so-apologetic kid who is made to write an apology note because she accidentally scared a librarian by bringing a snake into the library. Students used the text to make inferences about the main character

to help us understand the story better. Meanwhile, fifth graders read the story "Storm Warriors," about a young man who wants to grow up to be a surfman (a person who rescues people from ships that crash near shore). We also drew conclusions to help us better understand the main character and what qualities he shows that make him an excellent surfman in training.

This week, we also worked on our winter project-based learning assignment. We made gingerbread houses on Friday, but before we built, students designed their gingerbread house, budgeted for supplies at our "store", and calculated the area, perimeter, and volume of their gingerbread house. This project solidified many skills we have been working on this year in math and applied our learning to a real situation. Students did a great job and had a lot of fun building their houses.

Next Tuesday, December 21st, we will have a pajama day! Students can wear pajamas, robes, and slippers and bring a small stuffed animal to school. Please be sure to still send boots for running around outside along with the rest of the winter gear.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at any time.

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