



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

December 9, 2021

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, December 15 *The Incredible Reindeer* Musical 1:00 and 6:00 PM
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

Next week, on Wednesday, December 15, there will be an afternoon performance of *The Incredible Reindeer* at 1:00 only for the grandparents of K-5. The evening performance will be at 6:00 and is only for the households of K-5. Please keep within the parameters of these performance invitations.

We have snow! Please send all winter gear every day: snow pants, snow boots, winter jackets, and mittens/gloves. Please also be sure to have a pair of “inside shoes” for your child to wear. These shoes can be left in lockers so that they don’t have to be packed every day. At Birch Grove Community School, we go outside every day in all but the most extreme weather – most days, we go outside multiple times. 😊

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

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



From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Mari Maldonado

Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

This week our theme was The Gingerbread Man. We decorated gingerbread man cookies, sequenced the story from beginning to end with a cut and paste sheet, and also decorated a gingerbread man as a craft. Our pretend center was set up as a puppet show with the puppets being characters from the story. Our math center had a gingerbread man memory game, and sort by size gingerbread men. We read The Gingerbread man as well as The Gingerbread girl story.

Our focus this week were numbers 6-10 and squares. Each lesson we went over sets. Each day was a new number we focused on. The Saplings created their own sets with mini bears by either shape or color to get to the number of the day, then practiced writing the number on the chalkboard. Our art center had various color sheets with the number of the day, squares, and gingerbread men. The science and sensory center had different sized and colored squares and cubes for the Saplings to build with. Our ABC center has laminated sheets with each Saplings name on them, they have been doing great at tracing their names with a dry erase marker!

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

I hope everyone enjoyed the unexpected day off!! It has been a busy week! The musical took up a lot of our time in the afternoons this week. I think it will be a very successful performance and the students are excited and happy! 😊

Kindergarten learned about the letter S this week. We also practiced breaking down teen numbers into tens and extras. First graders reviewed digraphs this week. In math, we are learning about place value and addition in the teen numbers.

Please continue to read 20 minutes a night with your child. It can make a huge difference in the amount of growth and learning in a year. Utilize some of our online resources for different math and reading practice!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

The snow day didn't slow us down any in the Pine Martens. We just bounced along just like our namesake. We were able to do some creative writing and thinking around snow, and it spurred some fun details being added to our writing. This week we tackled the final copy of our second published writing. Students have worked hard on developing an idea, having a beginning, middle, and end, along with having a theme throughout. As students print onto the final copy, they will be focusing on handwriting, remembering that all letters start at the top and ensuring correct letter size.

In math we continue to work with place value and recognizing one, ten, or a hundred more or less of a number. We adjusted to daily math games where we are playing and interacting with numbers to help us visually see and feel the difference and connections between numbers. This has added some needed practice and also a little more fun to our math time.

Students have also been busy preparing for the musical. So far I have only heard bits and pieces. I am excited to see and hear the production next week! Please help your child practice their lines at home.

Keep reading and talking about books, stories, and the world around you with your child! These build critical thinking skills which are essential to learning!

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**From Ms. Heidi Helgesen**

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

Students did a great job this week coming back after our surprise snow day! Both grade levels finished their division units in math, with fifth grade mastering dividing with decimals and two digit numbers and fourth grade mastering the process for long division. Both groups have worked so hard on this unit and stuck with it, even when the work was confusing or difficult. We celebrated our end of math unit with a few extra minutes to play in the snow!

Both classes have also been working hard in reading. In fourth grade we read the story "Me and Uncle Romie," about the collage artist Romare Bearden from Harlem. Students did a great job picking out character traits to help them better understand James, the main character and his relationship with his uncle the artist. In fifth grade, we read about conservation in the Everglades in Florida. We identified that the author's purpose was to persuade us to do our part in water conservation and inform us about the unique aquatic environment of the Everglades.

This week, students also learned about letter writing. We learned about the formatting of a letter and then practiced. Instead of writing a letter to Santa asking for a list of toys, we used our powers of persuasion and imagined a situation where students' names were accidentally put on the naughty list! Students had to write a letter to persuade Santa that this was a mistake and convince him to put their names back on the nice list. Students did a great job with the writing!

Students are getting ready for the musical and are so excited to share what they have been working on. Over the next week, please make sure your child practices their lines each night. They should know the surrounding lines, as well as their own. We are practicing a lot at school, but when nerves kick in next week, a little extra practice can make a big difference.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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