



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

March 12, 2020

Dates to Remember:

Friday, March 13 No School

Monday, March 16 School Board Meeting at 5:30

Tuesday, March 17 Conferences

Thursday, March 19 Conferences

Thursday, March 19 Junie B. Jones musical in Silver Bay

Monday – Friday, March 23-27 No School Spring Break

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

This is a short week, ending today, and next week is also our last week before spring break. Please remember to keep your children reading over the break, and remind them that they can earn 1 ticket for every 20 minutes that they read to themselves, read to someone else, or are read to (remember to log reading). All students should be bringing home at least 2 books.

I want to assure families that we are keeping up to date with the latest information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health are in contact with schools with a weekly conference where up to date information is shared – some information is coming in daily. At Birch Grove, we have taken the following preparation plan steps that include: increasing the cleaning/disinfecting of our classrooms, increasing the cleaning/disinfecting of the building (contacted Tofte Township), and

cleaning/disinfecting the buses (contacted Arrowhead Transit). A review of handwashing and the appropriate way to cough/sneeze has been reviewed with students. Please review handwashing, coughing/sneezing with your children at home and encourage healthy habits. Should we move forward with any other plans, you can be sure that you will be notified. Stay healthy!

K-5 conferences are coming up, so be sure to schedule a time with your child's teacher. Every year, the goal is to have 100% of families participate, so please help us to reach this school wide goal.

Kindergarten Round Up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 from 8:00-12:30. All Saplings that will be 5 by September 1, 2020 were sent an invitation in the mail. If you are planning on sending your child to this fun event, please fill out the form and return in your child's Take Home Folder or give to Sheryl or Diane. If you know of a family that has a child that will be kindergarten age next year, please refer Birch Grove Community School to them. Our parents are our greatest public relations tool - we appreciate your support!

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 ~ 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



Look for:

Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145

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**From Ms. Sheryl Martinson**

*Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

This week the Sapling class did a book and author focus. We zeroed in on the books by Laura Numeroff. This is the "If you give a mouse a cookie" series. The children sequenced several of the books in a variety of ways. We read about a moose eating a muffin, so we made muffins. We read about a pig eating a pancake, so we had pancakes for snack. We read about a dog eating a donut so we frosted and enjoyed a donut for snack.

The children have been participating in some basic data collection in the past few weeks. We made a graph of what they want to be when they grow up, we graphed the pets in each home, and this week we sorted and graphed a cup of ingredients like chocolate chips that might be in cookies. Like so many things we do, this is just a little introduction of things to come as they move along in their learning.

I have also introduced the idea of opposites. This follows the concept of same/different which we have worked on a lot. Just another step as we journey down the road to kindergarten readiness.

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

This week, Kindergarten learned about W and Wh. 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 cause and effect. We also practice reading words with bossy r and oo.

In math, the Kindergarteners are learning numbers up to 100. We filled in a few 100 charts and they all did very well! 1st graders are learning about data and graphs. We collect a variety of data and are learning how to graph it. We are also learning how to read a key.

Conferences are next week! I look forward to meeting with everyone and sharing the growth we've seen this year! If you have not communicated with me about when to meet please email me so we can set up a time.

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

Students voted this week how to celebrate their 1,000 class point achievement. They chose a day with extra reading, pajamas, and a stuffed animal. On Monday, students are welcome to wear pajamas to school and bring a stuffed toy that fits in their backpack. We will spend extra time all around reading with friends-both human and stuffed!

This week in social studies we introduced some civic concepts, like voting, debating, and a bit about majority rule and minority rights. Through a series of discussions, the class chose to host their celebration on Monday, so that all students would be present and so that I would have time to plan an effective celebration.

In math we continue to focus on our math facts, large number adding and subtracting, and fractions. We are fully set into our new routine of adding some time each day to focus on problem solving skills and memory.

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From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

4/5 is doing a great job working hard in math! We are so proud that both grade levels have “leveled up”, starting the curriculum for the next grade level. This is fantastic news because it means we are ready to start more challenging work. We are learning to calculate area of different 2-D shapes and solve real world volume problems. Additionally, we have been working on learning how to measure angles.

Our readings have taken us into the genres of science fiction in 4th grade. We read a science fiction story from the 1950s and had a fun time talking about the “crazy” technology of the future, some of which is already a reality. In 5th grade we read a nonfiction narrative story about Lewis and Clark, and found the entire adventure very interesting!

We are continuing our work on our state travels project. We began summarizing our activity in art by drawing post cards from each state we have researched. We are having fun learning about the United States!

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**From Ms. Klemmer**

*Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service*

If you are planning on sending your child to Summer Saplings, you MUST contact me or Sheryl Martinson with the days that you are planning on using. Summer Saplings is NOT open on Friday's

this summer, only M-TH. You can find more information on the program at [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com) under Community Service/Summer Saplings. Thank you!

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