



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

May 14, 2020

Dates to Remember:

Monday, May 18 School Board Meeting at 5:30*

*Members will be attending by phone/electronically due to health pandemic (statute 13D.021)

Friday, May 22 No School-No Long-Distance Learning

Monday, May 25 No School-No Long-Distance Learning

Tuesday, May 26 Home Visit Celebration for Lake County students

Wednesday, May 27 Home Visit Celebration for Cook County students

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

Keep up the good work at home! We are so proud of the work that our families and students have done with distance learning. You all are doing a great job!

To celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer, the staff at Birch Grove Community School will be visiting your child (observing social distancing) on:

- **Tuesday, May 26: Lake County**
- **Wednesday, May 27: Cook County**
- Visits will start around 9:30 am and will continue until we are done. You will receive a phone call from our staff parade just prior to our arrival. Please wait for us outside, you will hear our vehicles honking as we arrive!

- If your child has Birch Grove spirit wear, or would like to dress up (or not), they may do so. Each student will get a little gift from us, 5th graders will get their medallions, and all will be asked to wear a graduation cap so that we can take photos. Families are welcome to be in pictures as well!
- All of our staff will be wearing face masks. We will keep a distance of 6 feet, with the exception of giving the gift and cap (we can lay it down and families can pick them up, if you prefer), and we will collect the cap when leaving. While we all may have the desire to give hugs, we will need to refrain. 😊 Please remind your children that we will not be able to do this during our visit - we want to be good examples of social distancing.
- We look forward to seeing your children - it has been so long since we have seen them in person. We will be making a video from the pictures taken on our visits. We hope to reveal it on Friday, May 29, the last day of school.

Our next delivery/pick up date is Monday, May 18. If we are delivering to your home, please have anything that you want returned to the school ready, bagged up, and on your front door step. If you are returning items on your own to the school, please bag up items and put in the tubs on the left-hand side on the entry (not on the right, these items are being picked up by families). There is a sign that tells you what to do and where things go.

We are planning as if we are opening our summer programs, Campsite Kids (K-5th grade) and Summer Saplings (ages 3-5) on June 8 - we will keep you updated. If you have not already turned in your registration paperwork for Campsite Kids, you can find the registration paperwork on the school website at www.birchgroveschool.com under Community Service/Campsite Kids. If you have not already notified us if you intend to send your child to Summer Saplings, please email Jessica Klemmer with your intentions at jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com

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



From Ms. Sheryl Martinson

Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

The Saplings Program will be closed until the end of the school year. We are planning for Summer Saplings to open on June 8. Please enjoy your time at home with your children!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

As the school year comes to an end remember to keep reading daily. This will help tremendously to deter summer slumps. Continue to practice math through math games too!

Everyone has continued to work hard in the last few weeks. This is awesome! There are no distance learning setbacks for our students at Birch Grove! Keep up the good work for the last two weeks! We will be continuing to discuss time and money for the rest of the year. Make sure our students get to play with a real clock and real money! We will be doing a few different times for meetings coming up. Be sure to read the emails carefully.

218-663-0170 ext. 22

[sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com)

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

This week we have made it halfway through our Ranger in Time book. Nearly all of us are reading it or listening to it together. Some of the students are reading ahead and that's okay, as long as they don't give any spoilers! One concerned reader called another today to ensure the fate of some characters. They were also excited to call each other and chat of course.

Both grades also started the last unit in their books. Second graders are learning about number line problems (harder than they sound) and then moving onto perimeter. Third graders are learning about liquid measurement now and will soon move onto shapes and angles.

This week we also started our research book about Big Cats. I will admit that I was concerned about this big writing project with distance learning. The students (and families I'm sure) have really taken charge. They are writing a paragraph a day and hopefully adding some illustrations. As I am checking in on the progress each day, so far kids are excited and on track. I can't wait to see and hear the finished projects.

218-663-0170 ext. 26

sara.silencebgcs@gmail.com

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**From Ms. Heidi Milner**

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

4/5 has completed another week of distance learning. This week we explored Viking culture in our reading. We read and learned about Norse mythology, learning that days of the week were actually named for Norse gods and goddesses. We also learned about everyday life of Vikings, finding out that they were not just raiders and thieves, as commonly portrayed, but craftsmen and tradesmen.

Our math work had us connecting Greatest Common Factors and Least Common Multiples with finding equivalent fractions. We worked hard to put together pieces from our various studies on factors, patterns, and fractions to solve problems. We've been doing a great job and learning a lot!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

[heidi.milnerbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.milnerbgcs@gmail.com)

