



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

May 20, 2021

Dates to Remember:

Friday, May 21 Last Distance Learning Day

Thursday, May 27 Pizza Lunch Outside & Tickets To Treasures Drawing

Friday, May 28 Last Day of School On Site - Graduation Ceremony at 10:30 and
Early Release at 12:00

Monday, June 14 School Board Meeting at 5:30 via Zoom

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

Tomorrow, Friday, May 21, is the last day of distance learning! Hurrah! Please be sure to return all distance learning materials to school on Monday.

We still have quite a few library books that are missing. Please help your child to search high and low for overdue books and return as soon as possible. Thank you!

Next week is the last week of school! Please see that your child is getting enough sleep so that they are able to better manage the special events, activities, and excitement that comes with the end of the year. Tired kids can turn into poor behavior choices and emotional meltdowns - this is good advice for all of the adults here too! 😊

On Thursday, May 27, Saplings-5th grade will have an outdoor pizza lunch. Pizza from the Schroeder Baking Company, veggies and fruit are on the menu, so if your child does not like pizza, please pack

a cold lunch. A few lucky K-5th graders will also get a malt/shake of their choice from the Bakery (winners from Bingo Black Out were Trygve and Lucas!).

Friday, May 28 Last Day of School ~ Small Ceremony at 10:30 and Early Release at 12:00

We will have a small graduation ceremony on the last day of school starting at 10:30. The ceremony will be outside on the grounds by the playground. We will also have the paint by number projects set up in the tennis court for families to view. Please pack a cold lunch for your child this day that does not need to be heated – children will eat lunch before the end of the day, and leave at 12:00. Families of students may attend – we are asking that guests be limited to immediate family (no general public will be invited). Masks are not mandatory as long as everyone is social distancing. Please, if you are able, bring a camp/lawn chair for your use. We will have chairs available for family, but if you can bring a chair, it would be greatly appreciated. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held inside with students only, so pay close attention to the weather, please. Should it look like rain, we will notify families as soon as possible that we will be moving inside with a ceremony for students only.

One year-end survey was emailed out to each of our K-5 families. A good portion of families have already completed the survey. Thank you! If your family did not receive the survey (sent to a main email address on file), please let me know.

Gala for the Grove ~ Unfortunately, we will not be able to have our traditional Gala for the Grove fundraising event in person this year. However, we be having an on-line auction! The on-line auction is June 5th-12th. You can find the auction at:

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/Gala-for-the-Grove-2021-23180>

Follow us on Facebook for event updates and highlights of the auction items. Thank you in advance for your support of Birch Grove Community School! I have also attached a letter about the Gala 2021.

Next week will be the last newsletter!



The program is filling up – don't wait! Enrollment is now open for the 21-22 Saplings program (ages 3-5), Sept-May, according to the BGCS school calendar. 4 of 4 STAR Parent Aware Rating! Click the link for more information/registration paperwork. <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Saplings-Program> Please refer this program to others – thank you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145



From Ms. Sheryl Martinson

Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

The current excitement in our classroom is caused to two small cups. Each originally held 5 tiny caterpillars. Last week we watched them eat and eat and eat and eat, they grew bigger and bigger. This week before our eyes each one crawled to the top, dropped down to form the J shape we were watching for, and formed a chrysalis. I am a little concerned that they won't emerge as butterflies before the end of the school year. But I guess we will cross that bridge if we come to it. We have done several "life cycle of a butterfly" projects and learned a fun song to go along with it. In one activity, we used pasta shapes to represent the various stages that a butterfly passes through. We also discussed symmetry as found in a butterfly's colorful wings and how a butterfly protects itself from predators. We also sorted moths and butterflies after learning some of the characteristic differences.

Butterflies also went well with some of our academic reviews. We used butterflies to look for details in matching. Butterflies also helped with a review of color words.

Almost every day packages arrive with items purchased with our Parent Aware grant. The children are loving the new sandbox, climber, trucks and toys that we have put out. One day we brought out the cardboard boxes, cut doors and windows, and that was great fun too!

So.... one more week left.... I will be sad to pass many of this great group of children on to kindergarten. But I am also excited to see them move forward well-prepared and ready to hit the ground running.

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

What a great second to the last week of school. The weather was finally warm enough to be outside in shorts and a t-shirt! We spend as much time outside as we could. We ate lunch outside, played, and did a science project in the woods. The bugs came out in full force one of those days. K/1 students met our addition and subtraction goal for the year. We had a movie and ice cream sundae party on Thursday. It was a great way to celebrate our smart, successful brains!

We are finishing up our math unit for the year. We are discussing numbers up to 100 and adding and subtracting tens. We played a few different games like mystery pictures and bingo. In language arts, we are continuing to practice reading and writing as much as we can handle.

This year was very successful in K/1. It was amazing to be at school most of the year! It is always wonderful to see the growth of each child from the beginning to the end of the year. Thank you to all the parents for the communication, collaboration, and work you put in this year to make it a

successful one! I hope you all have a great summer and I look forward to working with some of you again next year!

Mrs. Knottski

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This has been a productive week as we finished up some of our last projects. Our zoo posters are beginning to come together, although some groups are still struggling in the planning stage as they think of SO MANY ideas and possibilities. Our paint by numbers projects are done and displayed around the room. We look forward to sharing them with the other classes when the weather cooperates and with all of you at graduation next Friday. Groups are also working to finish up their literature circle chapter books. No one wants to be left on a summer long cliff hanger! It's a good thing that our days include some extra time to be reading to self.

Students that still need to return library books were sent home with a reminder this week along with the titles missing. Please look this weekend to find and return these books! Students will also be taking home some of their year end supplies and extra materials (like sweatshirts). Please remind them to empty their backpacks so they come back empty so we can fill them up again!

We plugged away at our "Yes Day" list including extra time in the gym, a game of dodgeball, free time on the computer, and having a student be teacher for the day! We planted a mini garden and decorated it with some of our leftover acrylic paints. Most students decided to take these home right away to watch them sprout at home. Students were able to choose three different types of seeds. They were all vegetables and they should start sprouting by next Tuesday!

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From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

It was a busy week in 4/5th grade. Students worked hard to finish up a number of projects. First, students worked to complete their final informational writing projects. All students wrote a cause and effect essay about how erosion changes landforms. This final project tied in with our final science topic and was a great project for connecting across subjects. We also worked to complete our math review for the year, finishing up talking about line plots and place value.

During the week, we also got ready to perform our final reader's theater presentations of Cinderella Bigfoot and the Hobbit. Students worked on fluency and practiced reading into the microphone on Google Classroom. They also created puppets for their characters out of paper bags or popsicle sticks. We are excited to share our work with our class on Friday this week!

Thank you so much to parents and loved ones who searched and found missing library books at home! We now have all the books back from our classroom. Thanks so much!

Next week will look a little different for 4/5th grade. Once again, we were unable to attend our yearly trip to Wolf Ridge due to COVID, so instead, during the final week of school, students will participate in environmental learning on site at Birch Grove. We will utilize a bunch of outside resources from Wolf Ridge, Tofte Forest Service, the International Owl Center in Houston, MN, and the Finland Food Chain. We are looking forward to getting outdoors and having lots of fun learning like we normally would at Wolf Ridge. During the final week of school, please be sure to send students with a water bottle and lots of layers since most of our day will be spent outside. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out either via phone or email.

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