



# Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

**May 21, 2020**

## Dates to Remember:

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  
Friday, May 29 Last Day of School  
Monday, June 1 Chromebook Return To BGCS  
Monday, June 8 Start of Campsite Kids and Summer Saplings

## 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!

There is no school (distance learning) tomorrow, Friday, 22 or Monday, May 25. Please enjoy your Memorial Day weekend! Stay safe, have fun!

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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

On Monday, June 1, there will be a Chromebook pick up. If your child borrowed a Chromebook, please have the Chromebook and power cord ready to be picked up. Please put the Chromebook in a plastic bag with your child's name on it. If you would rather, Chromebooks can also be dropped off in the entry of Birch Grove. If you are going to drop off rather than pick up, please let us know by email at [birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org), or call the office and leave a message at 218-663-0170.

Campsite Kids (K-5th grade- must have completed Kindergarten) and Summer Saplings (ages 3-5) are opening on June 8! 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](http://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](mailto:jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com)

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

[birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org) ~ Birch Grove Community School Email

[bgcommunityservice@boreal.org](mailto:bgcommunityservice@boreal.org) ~ Community Service Email

218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

Website ~ [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://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](mailto:sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com)

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week K/1 participated in whole group video meetings. We went on a few virtual field trips, played math games, and did show-and-tell. This is a nice way to end the year on a positive and fun note!

As the school year comes to a close and summer begins, please remember to keep learning on your mind. Most importantly, keep reading! Our students should be reading every day for 20 minutes a day! Also use some resources from the school year to practice math and writing throughout the summer.

Have a great long weekend and I'll see you next week to wrap up the school year!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

Pine Martens have been working on finishing up the year-end work this week. Since students enjoyed writing their research book, they are ahead of schedule on that project. We also finished all the math curriculum, even the extra stuff to prepare them for next year. Our focus for these last few days will be finishing up any assignments that did not get finished on Think Central. As students finish their year-end test and finish up old work, I will send them out some Dairy Queen treat coupons.

Next week I will meet with students on Thursday only, at their Thursday time. Friday, I will be on the class Meet from 8:30 to 10 and all are welcome to come and hang out, play games, do a little show and tell, and other shenanigans. Students can come and go at any time.

This year has been different for sure, but our Birch Grove students were still able to adapt and grow. I look forward to seeing you all in person through the summer and next fall.

218-663-0170 ext. 26

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**From Ms. Heidi Milner**

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

4/5 has spent the past week summarizing and cementing our learning from this school year through a variety of activities during our face-to-face video meetings. We summarized our reading comprehension with activities using "Pixar Shorts", 5-minute films that we analyzed using our reading strategies from the school year. We also practiced our math skills and logic skills by participating in a "Pixar in a Box" lesson that required us to do some calculations together along with some art work to learn about how animated films are made. Finally, we participated in the Wolf Ridge online lesson about watersheds and learned a bit more about the unique area we live in. It has been a lot of fun in 4/5th grade this week!

Just reminder to parents that next week our schedule looks different.

- Tuesday May 26th and Wednesday May 27th, no face-to-face lessons due to our school parades to celebrate the end of the year
- Thursday May 28th and Friday May 29th whole class meeting from 10:00-11:00 to celebrate as a whole group the end of the school year with some fun activities

Thank you to parents, loved ones, and community members for all that you have done and continue to do to make this a successful school year!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

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