



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

May 28, 2020

Dates to Remember:

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

What an adventure this school year has been! In these unprecedented times, and the challenges that comes with them, Birch Grove staff, students, parents, families, board members, and community rose to the challenge. We are so very proud of everyone - you are all amazing!

This week most of the staff were able to hit the road and take a field trip to all of our student's homes. A video was created by Cathy and Mark Penning to highlight the visits and celebrate the end of the 19-20 school year. You will find it attached to this newsletter email. We hope you enjoy it.

We wish our 5th graders the best as they move on to middle school. We know that you will do well and we will cherish the memories made at Birch Grove. Be sure to stop by anytime and let us know how you are doing - Community Lunch is always open to you - you can have lunch with us anytime!

A huge thank you to our Birch Grove families! Thank you so much for choosing our school and our Saplings program - we couldn't do it without all of you. Please remember to recommend our elementary school and programs - the Saplings program, Summer Saplings, and Campsite Kids - to other families that you know. **Parent recommendation is the best advertisement/public relations**

tool that our small school has. Please take every opportunity to spread the word of what a gem we have here in Tofte, Minnesota. We appreciate your support!

Another huge thank you to all of the school and community service staff: Sheryl Martinson, Alayna Carrier, Sara Knottski, Sara Silence, Heidi Milner, Michelle Blanck, Jessica Klemmer, Cathy Penning, Mark Penning, Rista Sharma, Deb Hutcheon, and Julie Aldinger. All of these staff members are of the highest quality, and it was a privilege to know and work with them. They are the absolutely best! Thank you all so much for the great year!

Please make sure that your child READS over the summer months. If you need books, please let us know and we will make arrangements for your child to check out school library books.

Report cards will be sent home through the mail in the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always available to talk with you about your child.

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, or call the office and leave a message at 218-663-0170.

A letter will be sent out to all families this summer about the 2020-2021 school year. As you may know, schools are already preparing for a hybrid of distance learning/blended learning for next year. Because of our size, our school may not be impacted as much as a larger school would be, and we are thankful for that. Please continue to check your emails from Birch Grove as we may be sending out various requests or surveys so that our families are included (as much as we can while still being compliant) in any plans that we make. A formal plan will be finalized later this summer.

Campsite Kids (K-5th grade- must have completed Kindergarten) and Summer Saplings (ages 3-5) opens 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 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

From all of us at Birch Grove to all of you, we wish you the best summer ever! You deserve it!

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



Find us on:
facebook®

Look for:

Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Sheryl Martinson**

*Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

Summer Saplings opens on June 8. Have a great summer!

The school year Saplings program opens on Tuesday, September 8. If you are already enrolled with us, be sure to let us know what days you want to lock in, and please recommend this program to others. I look forward to seeing you all in September!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

[sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com)

~~~~~  
From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

It was great seeing everyone during our school parade! The happy smiley faces were nice to see in person after a few months of video chats!

Thank you all for the hard work throughout the school year! Especially helping facilitate all the learning this past few months. I've seen lots of growth both academically and socially! I can't wait to resume school in the fall and continue to work towards growth!

Have a great summer and remember to keep reading!!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This last week of school has been both exciting and bittersweet. It was fun to see the outside of all the houses I have gotten to know so well with distance learning. It will be hard letting go of seeing students every day. I look forward to seeing most of the students at times in the summer.

Pine Martens have been turning in their research book this week. They worked with parents to create a multimedia experience. I will share a link with Pine Marten families so that students can view each other's books. This class really enjoyed non-fiction, and creating both of our research books.

Thursday, I met one last time with students to finish our end of the year reading assessment and measure how much they have grown this year. It always surprises me how far we can go in one year!

Thursday afternoon Pine Martens cooked together with siblings. We made rice krispie treats! We will meet Friday morning as well. I will be on from 9 am to 10:30. Students can join at any time and stay as long or as little as they would like.

Keep reading and doing math games all summer. Raz-Kids, Prodigy, and Readworks will stay active. Students can share any summer adventures and discoveries with me by email or posting on their Seesaw journal.

Have a great summer!

218-663-0170 ext. 26

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

~~~~~

From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

This week we were able to celebrate all the wonderful growth and learning that took place this year with a car parade and whole class google meeting times. It was so much fun seeing students again and being able to celebrate the joy of learning with our Birch Grove Community. I am so proud of everything our students have accompanied this school year, from mastering new math skills to increasing reading comprehension to discovering new ways to keep learning from a distance. Our students are resilient, strong, and determined young individuals and I am so proud of them. Keep up the great work and remember to read this summer!

A special shout out to our fifth-grade students who will be moving on to middle school next year! This was a turbulent end to their time at Birch Grove. Our fifth graders are outstanding leaders, incredible scholars, and caring people. I am beyond proud of how they have handled this school year. Best of luck to our fifth graders as they move into middle school!

Thank you, parents, loved ones, and community members for your care and support this school year! None of our successes could have been possible without the amazing community surrounding our school. Thank you for all that you do. I look forward to seeing you all again at our open house in August!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

heidi.milnerbgcs@gmail.com

~~~~~