



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

May 7, 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

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

Thank you for your continued hard work at home! Keep up the good work and be sure to reach out if you are having any challenges – we will do everything we can to help.

Birch Grove Community School received the "2020 Minnesota Department of Education Finance Award" for 2019 financial reporting. The school has received this award at least 12 times! Go Birch Grove!

The Gala for the Grove 2020 has been canceled, and a date set for the Gala for the Grove 2021 ~ *Masquerade*. For more information, go to: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>

Thanks to all that sent pictures in for the "It's Gonna Be OK" video. Thank you also to Cathy and Mark Penning for creating it. Nice job! The video was posted on the school Facebook page and will be attached along with this newsletter. Enjoy!

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

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**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!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

Thank you for your continued hard work from home! As we wind down the school year over the next few weeks remember to keep working at home! One of the most important things we can be doing is ensuring that our students are reading! Keep up the good work!

We will be spending the next few weeks talking about time and money! This is a very hands-on topic. If you have any analog clocks or coins around the house make sure your student can look and touch the real stuff! Teaching time and money is one of my favorites!

Have a great weekend! Enjoy the nice weather!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

*2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher*

Another week that shows us that spring is finally here! Pine Martens continue to make progress on their skills. Although distance learning has its challenges, these kids continue to work hard and continue growth. We have seen the most growth in math as we focus individual and group time on skills that need more support. Second graders are finishing up their math books with a sneak peek at fractions and dividing. Third graders are revisiting fractions on a number line and mixed fractions.

In reading, we continue to do focused reading books (leveled readers), comprehension passages, and reading in our chapter book Ranger in Time: The Great Earthquake. Next week will change our daily writing time from journaling and response to spending that time writing our very own non-fiction book about a wild cat we had been researching when we began distance learning. I was hoping to come back to school to finish it together. I am still excited though to see the finished books, complete with illustrations!

There are three weeks left of school. Keep working hard parents and Pine Martens! You are doing a fabulous job so far!

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From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

4/5 has been out of this world with our distance learning this week! This week's theme has been astronomy! We began with the story "Team Moon", which is about the technical aspects of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon and all the things that went wrong with the lunar landing. We connected our learning this week to our previous reading of "Hidden Figures", a story about Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, three black women who helped NASA put the first American into space. We also read the play "Woman in the Moon", a Chinese folktale about a woman who accidentally ends up living on the moon while trying to save the kingdom.

In math, 4/5 continued to work on combining reading skills with mathematics to solve word problems. We read passages about different planets in our solar system, and then used the information in the paragraphs to help solve mathematical problems. This practice involved a lot of critical thinking and reviewed a variety of different math skills we worked on this school year. We also learned what an Astronomical Unit is and used it to calculate distances between planets in our solar system using decimals. Finally, we reviewed our skills with coordinate planes to graph a variety of constellations on a grid.

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