



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

October 28, 2021

Dates to Remember:

- Friday, October 29 BGCS Mini Halloween Carnival for Saplings-5th
- Friday, October 29 School Board Special Meeting to Approve the Annual Report 5:00
- Friday, November 5, Teacher Workshop – No School/Saplings
- Monday-Friday, November 8-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Monday, November 15, School Board Meeting at 5:30
- Wednesday, November 24 Teacher Workshop – No School/Saplings
- Thursday, November, 25 Thanksgiving Break – No School/Saplings
- Friday, November, 26 Thanksgiving Break – No School/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

It was a great Halloween week, with the crescendo happening tomorrow with a mini-Halloween Carnival happening in the afternoon. The Tofte General Store not only brought real pumpkins, but Halloween cakes and a goody pumpkin for all Saplings-5th graders, so it should be a great Halloween Friday here at BGCS. Students may bring a costume to put on in the afternoon tomorrow, if they so choose. Please no bloody-type costumes or costumes with weapons. Pictures of our day will be posted on the school Facebook page, so be sure to check it out.

Please note that with the “goody pumpkins”, some of the items in the pumpkin may not be for all ages. All Saplings – 5th graders will be asked to wait to dig into pumpkins until they get home. There

will be plenty of other treats given this day, so they won't suffer that much! Please check pumpkins over when your child gets home, and also note that there is a \$10 produce voucher from the Tofte General Store. Hopefully your child won't lose it before they get home! 😊

The weather is turning cooler, so winter jackets may be in order as we spend time outdoors every day. The heat in the building is currently being worked on, and should be working well next week.

Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up the week of November 8, so be sure to sign up for a time slot that works for you. BGCS strives for 100% participation from every Birch Grove family, so please help us to keep this goal. Thank you!

As some of you may know, we typically have a Scholastic Holiday Bookfair each year here at Birch Grove in December. We would open up the fair to the public, especially on the December Community Lunch day and the evening of the winter musical. Purchases help us to earn Scholastic Dollars that we use to purchase school library books. Unfortunately, as we did last year, we will have the bookfair online this year, and hope that we can do in-person next year. Additionally, due to potential warehouse and shipping issues, we will be starting the book fair early this year so that all books ordered will be received by Christmas and before we leave for winter break. Please watch and listen for the start of the fair - we hope you visit the site as books make great gifts for children! 😊

Please have your child read a minimum of 20 minutes a day/night, especially when we don't have school!

Have a safe and spooky Halloween!

Picture of the Week!



One of the joys of living up North -
Every Friday is "Flannel Friday" at Birch Grove! Join us!



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

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bgcommunityservice@boreal.org ~ Community Service Email

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Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145



From Ms. Alayna Carrier and Ms. Mari Maldonado

Sapling Teachers, Birch Grove Community Service

This week our theme was Halloween! Every day we sang our Halloween song together from last week. We've also made a pumpkin by ripping orange paper and gluing the pieces in a circle on a black piece of paper. We played Halloween Bingo with things to find like a witch hat, spider web, pumpkin, haunted house, and more! We created Shape Monsters where each Sapling picked either a rectangle, circle or oval for their monster head. After that they picked between circles, hearts, stars, squares, and rectangles to finish their face. Each Sapling colored their own mask, at the end of the day they had time to put them on and play with them and their friends. We also made cookies where the Saplings got to pick a Halloween themed cut out!

Our Letter this week was, "Ll". We introduced the letter with the sound and created the letter with wooden sticks. We also had a dotter marker worksheet where the Saplings followed the dot to make letter "Ll". The children glued black dots in a line to make the Letter "Ll". We also had a worksheet where the Saplings had to find the letter "Ll" and mark it with a dotter marker.

In our math center we had a Halloween maze where Saplings had to use a dry erase marker to get the ghost to his haunted house. We had a monster number match puzzle and a costume number match puzzle. In our Art center we had various Halloween color sheets and a sheet where Saplings cut along the dotted line to get to a various Halloween character. Each Sapling got their own mini pumpkin. With the mini pumpkin they put spooky stickers on it to make a face! In our ABC center we had a game where the Saplings mark the letter "Ll" with a black dot. Our pretend Center this week was called "Costume Closet" where the Saplings could choose from multiple costumes, try

them on and practiced trick or treating with a friend. Our science center was filled with black sand which was our color of the week. The black sand had plastic eye balls, ears, horns, and mouths in it. We also had a slime box where the Saplings found little pumpkins hidden in it and used kid sized tongs to take them out.

Hey you.... BOO! Have a spooky Halloween!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week K/1 started a science unit about weather and the seasons. This is a great time to start using some scientific skills to observe the changing of the seasons. We discussed what weather we experience in each season and the order in which the seasons come. Next week we will be working on observing the weather and learning why weather changes.

In math, the kindergarteners are learning about addition and subtraction facts and teen numbers. 1st grade is learning about subtraction and how to represent it! In language arts, the kindergarteners learned about the letter I and J and the word see. The first graders are working on learning sight words and how to write complete sentences.

Reminders:

Please be reading with your child at home. First graders are capable of reading on their own! Just listen to them and help out as needed. Kindergarteners can follow along with you as you read or try to read on their own.

It is getting very cold outside. Please make sure your student has the proper attire. They should have a warm jacket, a hat, and mittens

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

Our five days back to school after MEA went by surprisingly fast and of course were very unsurprising in how busy they were! In the beginning of the week, we reviewed our letter blends and started focusing on blends that are found at the end of words like -nd, -mp, and two of our familiar blends -sk and -st. Students brought in ingredients to make a blended trail snack (trail mix) with ingredients like dried fruit, graham crackers, pretzels, and treats (marshmallows and candies). On Wednesday we started getting excited about the upcoming Halloween adventures and introduced

the /oo/ sound. Everyone was a little TOO excited when Mrs. Silence came in wearing a white sheet over her head, but we quickly brought ourselves back on track to read and sort a variety of words that featured the /oo/ sound and softer oo sound as in book. On Thursday we tampered it down a little and dressed up a class mascot instead.

We continue to work through word problem strategies in math. Second graders started working through problems that had them comparing information while third graders focused on figuring out which operation they needed for each problem. Third graders also found patterns and tricks to tackle 3's and 9's this week. Did you know there are at least four separate strategies to work on nine's facts, besides just having to memorize them?

We have also continued our exploration of matter and the properties of different types of matter. Thursday we will see what happens when we apply heat to items. By early next week I hope to finish off the unit with some engineering based on the properties of items and an edible changing matter treat.

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**From Ms. Heidi Helgesen**

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

It is the week of Halloween, and students were incredibly excited to celebrate at the end of the week. We worked hard so we could have a class celebration on Friday. Students in 4/5th grade helped to bring in our carnival supplies and will help to run the games for K/1 and 2/3 before their turn to attend the carnival themselves. We are super proud of our leaders in the school for their responsibility and kindness!

In our reading this week, fourth grade read about how kids around the world get books in unique ways. We used a venn diagram to compare and contrast the different ways and wrote summaries about what we read. Students in fifth grade read about fossils and specific fossil hunters around the world. Students did a great job recalling information, summarizing findings, and connecting the reading to other stories and experiences.

In math, fourth grade continued to explore multiplication, learning different methods for solving a problem. We began with the area model, or place value sections method where we used a drawing to show how things can be multiplied. Then we explored how we can use the expanded form of a number to multiply. Finally, we used algebraic notation to more quickly solve our multiplication problems. At the same time, fifth grade students worked on multiplying decimal numbers. We realized that when we multiply two decimals our answer is actually smaller. We connected our thinking to place value and began to rationalize why this method works. Students did a great job showing their work and using math talk to explain their thinking.

In science, we continued to learn about matter. We talked about the properties of matter and how we can measure the properties of length, weight, and volume. Students used balance scales, graduated cylinders, and the centimeters side of a ruler to measure various classroom objects. Students were precise in their measurements and worked well together as a team to complete their work.

In social studies, we learned about the Declaration of Independence. Students worked together as a whole group to read parts of the important document and begin to understand what it means. We answered questions and drew pictures to help us understand why the United States broke away to form a new country and what the values of the founders were. Students did a great job interpreting the Declaration of Independence!

Thank you parents for remembering to send lots of layers for students to wear at school. This is incredibly helpful as we continue to eat snack and lunch outside on sunny days. Please be sure to continue to send layers to make sure students are comfortable in all sorts of weather!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out by phone or email at any time!

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