



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

October 29, 2020

Dates to Remember:

Friday, November 6 No School

Monday-Friday, November 9-13 Conferences

Monday, November 16 School Board Meeting at 5:30

Thursday, November 19 Picture Re-takes

Thursday, November 26 No School – Thanksgiving Break

Friday, November 27 No School – Thanksgiving Break

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

Thanks to all of the staff for ending the week on a high note with costumes, a carnival, special treats, games and laughter. It is great to see our young Saplings and K-5 enjoy themselves!

Please note that there is no school next week on Friday. Staff will be engaging in training, and teachers will also be getting ready for conferences that will take place the week of November 9. Information on conferences will come from your child's teacher. Please watch for it!

Be sure to send winter clothing for all of the time that we spend outside, including recess. It has been rather chilly out!!

Please be safe this Halloween weekend! We look forward to having our students back on Monday safe and sound!

Please continue to social distance at home so that we can keep coming to school!

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

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218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

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Website

www.birchgroveschool.com



Look for:

Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145



From Ms. Sheryl Martinson

Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

Ms. Martinson is taking a well-deserved camping trip with her husband and dogs this and next week. All of the Saplings families received a nice update from her. We hope you enjoy your camping excursion, Mrs. Martinson!

Thank you to Jessica Klemmer for being the best substitute ever! The Saplings are in very good hands and having much fun. Jessica is always the “go-to” person as she has many talents, skills, and enough energy/motivation for ten people!

I got to see the Saplings at the mini Halloween Carnival. They all looked so cute in their costumes! A good time was had by all!

~Ms. Blanchette

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

We had a fantastic Halloween on Thursday! We enjoyed the Halloween games we played in the gym! We are all continuing to learn our addition and subtraction facts in math. In language arts, the kindergarteners learned about the letter l and the word see. The first graders are working on learning sight words.

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**

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

This week was fun of course. Our weekly story was all about a bat, we learned that the pipistrelle bat is only as big as your thumb! We debunked some myths about vampire bats. They prefer large animals like horses, cows, and pigs. They also do not "harm" these animals, just bite them and lick up some blood, like a horse fly.

We worked hard all week finishing up unit one in our math books. We set a new rule that students could not move onto computer math until they had completed all the odd problems on their daily paperwork. Suddenly students were very fast (and correct) at their math!

We also practiced using Google Classroom in class. I assigned them a few daily questions throughout the week and a few simple "quizzes." One of the quizzes was choosing their favorite ice cream flavor from five options. Little did they know that their wishful ice cream flavor choice from their quiz would come to the classroom! Thanks to a donation from Coho Bakery in Tofte, we all enjoyed an ice cream treat on Thursday. After I collected the student quiz responses, I placed the order. Ms. Allen went to pick up the order while we were going through the carnival in the gym. When we got back to the room to enjoy our Halloween cake treat, we had ice cream to go with it! Thank you to all the people that made our mini carnival and treats possible.

Next week we will have a math test starting on Monday. I anticipate everyone being done with the test by Tuesday, and we will relax with a movie in the afternoon. We recently finished the book The One and Only Ivan and will be looking for differences and similarities between the book and the movie. We already moved onto the next read aloud. A book from the Wayside series. We are already hooked and look forward to that part of our day.

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From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

While in communication with Ms. Milner, I worked with and supervised the 4/5th grade this week. I have found the 4/5th grade students to be eager and supportive of others in their learning!

This week we continued to practice addition/subtraction of multi-digit numbers in 4th and multiplication of decimals in 5th. All students have been brushing up on basic multiplication facts independently and in small groups. After students work independently, they work in pairs to compare work and answers, then work together cooperatively to correct opposing answers. They work through math facts and processes to come to an agreement (and the correct answer). It has been fun to witness.

In reading, students have been reading independently and as a whole. As in math, students are paired off to review multiple choice answers about the reading. Students find evidence in the text to support their answer(s) to each other. Again, it has been fun to see students working together. We also had a spelling test this week, and I continue to read aloud *Inkheart*, the class chapter book.

4/5 also impressed me this week with their creativity as we watched a video on two techniques to blend watercolors. Their work turned out great! We will be doing more watercolor projects next week.

On Thursday, we had some fun with helicopters during recess, did a Halloween word find (difficult level) for prizes, changed into costumes, attended the carnival, and ate spooky cake! Happy Halloween!

~Ms. Blanchette

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