



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

November 18, 2021

Dates to Remember:

- Friday, November 19 School Picture Day
Wednesday, November 24 Teacher Workshop – No School/Saplings
Thursday, November 25 Thanksgiving Break – No School/Saplings
Friday, November 26 Thanksgiving Break – No School/Saplings
Monday, November 29 Dental Screenings for Saplings – 5th
Wednesday, December 15 *The Incredible Reindeer* Musical 6:00 PM

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*

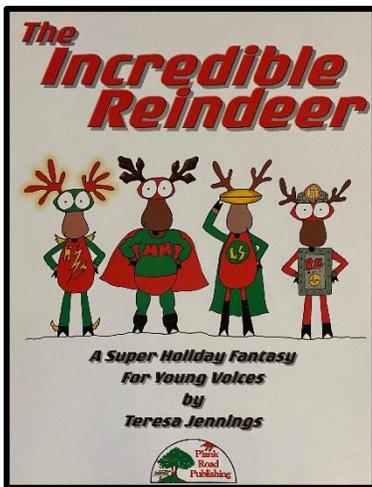
K-5 and Saplings families should have a quarantine plan in place in the event that we need to quarantine a group, classroom, the whole school, or the Saplings program. Should we need to quarantine, we will contact you as soon as possible. Please be aware that it could potentially be a phone call to you during a school day to pick your child up. We hope that a quarantine such as this is not necessary, but it is possible, so please prepare for this event.

PLEASE! If your K-5 student or Sapling exhibits 2 or more symptoms, do not send them to school! Continue to monitor your children at home for symptoms and do not send them on the bus or to school/Saplings if they are ill. Many of you have been cautious about sending your child(ren) to school if there has been some type of exposure in the household – THANK YOU! Please keep your children home if you are unsure of what to do – keep them home until you have answers from your

healthcare provider. We want to stay in school. 😊 Please monitor your child for illness before sending him/her back to school on Monday, November 29. Thank you!

School Picture Day is Tomorrow, November 19. Bruce Johnson Photos from Grand Marais will be our photographer this year. Picture envelopes will be coming out prior to picture day, but know that a picture will be taken of every student on this day, even if you do not turn an envelope in. Please note that you will not be able to view the picture before purchase, and that you will be contacting Bruce Johnson with questions about all pictures and picture orders. His information will be on the envelopes that will be sent home for each child. Many thanks to Bruce Johnson for making this happen for Birch Grove Community School! If your Saplings is not schedule to come on Friday, you may bring your child at 9:00 for pictures. Ring the bell when you arrive and we will let you in.

There is no school next week on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday for Thanksgiving break. Please be sure to have your children read over the break - 20 minutes a day/night would be great!



The K-5 winter musical, *The Incredible Reindeer*, will be performed on Wednesday, December 15. Unfortunately, the performances are not open to the general public this year due to COVID. The afternoon performance is at 1:00 and is for K-5 grandparents ONLY. The 6:00 evening performance is for the households of K-5 ONLY. We hope to open up the musical to the general public again next year. We were not able to do a musical last year, so it makes this one that much more special!



Please give to Birch Grove Community School today, November 18, on Give To The Max Day!

<https://www.givemn.org/donate/Birch-Grove-Community-School>

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:

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



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 Thanksgiving. The Saplings created a few turkey crafts. We also made a big tree and each Sapling told a teacher 3 things they were thankful for, we wrote each thing on a leaf and they glued it onto a branch! As a class we created a "Thankful Tree", Now it's hanging in our classroom. We also played a Thanksgiving themed bingo game.

Our letter this week was "Nn". Our color this week was pink. We introduced the letter by making it with wooden sticks, tracing it, and reading a small book about words that start with letter "Nn", and sounding the letter out. For one of our lessons, we had different colored pom poms, and glued them onto dots to create letter "Nn". For another, we traced the letter, then colored different pictures that start with "Nn".

In our art center we worked on mixing the colors red and white paint to make the color pink. In the ABC center we have the Saplings find the letter "Nn" and mark it with a pink dot. We also have them stamp the letter "Nn" with pink ink. In our science and sensory center, we have corn kernels with shovels, buckets, and tongs. We also have corn on the cob for them to feel and explore with. In our math center, we have various Thanksgiving puzzles along with a turkey and number matching game. In our pretend center, the Saplings pretend to make a Thanksgiving meal for their family. We have

placemats for them to know how to set a table. There are name tags for them to write their name and set it above the placemat. There is also a Thanksgiving grocery shopping list where they can practice crossing off what they've found.

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

Another great week in K/1! These past few weeks we have been talking about the weather and we've become 'Weather Watchers.' This a good topic to practice our science skills because everyone already has some background knowledge on the weather! We practiced measuring temperature with a thermometer, created thunder noises with paper bags, and observed and recorded the changing weather over the past few weeks.

In Kindergarten, we focused on the letter p and r this week and the word to. We are starting to read words and practice reading sight words in books! In math, we are working on addition and subtraction stories!

First grade learned about biographies and non-fiction text features. We also focused on s blends and are starting to get fluent with reading words with blends. In math, we are finishing up a unit about subtraction and addition!

Remember to keep reading with your student at home! Practice makes perfect!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

This week the second and third graders have focused on the 8 sounds that end in nk and ng. We teach them as 8 separate sounds; ank, ink, onk, unk, ang, ing, ong, and ung. You can help your students hear all the parts of words like string, blank, tank, bunk, and more. We have also continued to keep track of when we see ph, sh, ch, and th. The diphthongs that seem to be especially tricky this year. For writing we are creating a story about a Christmas character. This started as just a short journal entry, but the kids enjoyed it so much that we have continued to add details and build on our stories. This will be used as our first edited and published writing project.

In math we have finished our unit on word problem strategies, although we will continue to use them all year long. Will be moving to recognizing all the ways to express numbers, review counting up to 500, and begin strategies for adding and subtracting numbers above 20. Third graders spent the week learning about the different properties that are related to all operations and continued on the path of learning the 0-9 factors for multiplication and division.

After Thanksgiving, snowpants will no longer be optional. Students will need to have them on outside. If needed they can borrow from our borrow rack. As Ms. Blanchette stated in last week's newsletter, we do have extra if you have found it hard or impossible to procure a pair in your child's size.

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**From Ms. Heidi Helgesen**

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

4/5th grade spent time this week learning about mixtures and solutions in science. We learned that a mixture is a combination of things that can easily be separated, while a solution is a special type of mixture that cannot easily be separated. Students did a great job identifying the difference in class.

In reading, fourth grade read a radio play called "Invasion from Mars", based on the famous radio broadcast by Orson Wells of the novel The War of the Worlds. Students each read a character's role in the play and had fun predicting what would happen next. Students worked hard to identify the main characters, setting, and plot of the story, and used a graphic organizer to help them sort out their information. In fifth grade, we read an informational text about tree kangaroos. Students worked to identify scientific language in the text and we talked about how the word choice helped us to better understand what was happening. We also talked about cause and effect, looking at how human actions can affect what an animal might do. Students in both grade levels did an amazing job in reading this week.

In math, fourth graders completed their unit on multiplication. We spent time reviewing and practicing our four different methods of multiplying numbers and worked to apply our understanding to real-life situations. In fifth grade, we practiced long division with double-digit divisors, some of the most complex math we encounter in fifth grade. Students did a great job identifying the steps to solving a double-digit divisor long division problem and working to follow the steps to find a solution. They stuck with it, even when it was confusing and difficult. After a few guided practices they were able to complete the problems independently!

It is definitely getting colder out, so please be sure to send your child with lots of layers. We keep our classroom windows open due to COVID, so please make sure students have a warm sweater for the classroom. We also spend a lot of time outside throughout the day, so making sure students have warm winter jackets, hats, mittens, and boots is incredibly helpful to making those outdoor activities more enjoyable.

Thank you to parents for meeting with me during parent teacher conferences last week. I truly enjoyed speaking with all of you and working together to set up goals for this year. Please if you ever have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out!

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