



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

November 4, 2021

Dates to Remember:

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
Monday, November 29 Dental Screenings for Saplings – 5th

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

There is no school tomorrow, Friday, November 5 due to teacher workshops. Teachers will be preparing for K-5 conferences that are coming up next week. Please be sure to communicate with your child's teacher and sign up for a time slot. We strive for 100% participation from our families every year for conferences. Please help us to make this goal and sign up for parent-teacher conferences. Thank you!

The Scholastic Holiday Bookfair will be online again this year. The bookfair opens on Monday, November 8 and runs until Sunday, November 21. All books should be delivered in time for Christmas. Please use this link to access the fair: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/birchgrove>

It has been decided that we are going to move forward with the annual winter musical this year! The musical performances are scheduled for Wednesday, December 15 at 1:00 and 6:00. However, we may only do the evening performance this year (with only a practice run in the afternoon), and the performance will only be for immediate family members of Saplings - 5th grade. It will be closed to the general public this year. Typically, the biggest roles go to the 4/5th graders, so if you know that your child will not be able to attend school on December 15, or will not be able to attend the evening performance, please let us know. We do not want to assign a major role to someone who will not be at the performances. Thank you and stay tuned for more details to come. Excited!

We have a variety of winter jackets, snow pants, boots, etc. here at school. We borrow these out in the event that a child forgets theirs at home, but we have quite a bit of winter gear accumulated. If you would like to take some gear home for your child to have, please let us know. We can either fit a child here and send home (or let you know that we don't have the correct size) or you can come and look and take what you would like. We want to make sure that everyone has great winter gear as we go outside every day in all but the most extreme weather.

Many of you have asked about school pictures. Unfortunately, Lifetouch did not schedule with us this year and have not answered our many attempts at scheduling. Perhaps they are short on staff, or we are too small of a school for them now? We will continue to reach out to them in hopes that we can schedule soon.

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:

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 Community Helpers. We learned about different jobs like a veterinarian, a chef, an EMT, and a farmer. Each day we colored a worker then added it to our 3D community, we had a decorated cardboard building for each job to go with the worker. While we colored, we talked about what each of their jobs is like. Our Pretend Center this week was a vet clinic where the students were able to take their dogs and cats in and take turns grooming, and fixing their pets. When we learned about being a chef, the Saplings had different vegetable cutouts where they got to pick which ones they wanted, glue the pieces to a piece of paper, and then color them to create their own salad! The Saplings practiced being an EMT one day to save Mrs. Mari, we made sure to check the scene first, then ask the patient if she was okay, then we treated her. On the day that we learned about Farmers, we had a cardboard cow with a plastic glove filled with milk as the udder. The Saplings practiced being a farmer by milking the cow.

Our letter this week was "Tt", and our color was brown. We made the letter with wooden sticks. We also used a brown crayon to color in dots to make the letter. The Saplings loved making a tree, we talked about how the words tree and trunk start with letter "Tt". A teacher painted their hand and a bit of their forearm, we made a print on the paper, then with their fingers they made little green dots to create leaves on a tree. We also had a worksheet where the Saplings searched for the letter "Tt", colored it brown, and traced letter "Tt" for Tire. Recognition, sound, and tracing were all introduced!

In our math center we had 2 community helper games. One was a worker memory game. The other was a matching game where we would match the worker to the workplace. We had teachers, policemen, soldiers, pilots, mechanics, a doctor, and more! In our art center we created the color brown by mixing green and orange together, we also had multiple community helper color sheets for the Saplings to color. In our ABC center we had the Saplings use different colored ink to stamp the letter "Tt" on paper. We also had a game where the Saplings were to find the letter "T" and mark it with a brown dot. In our sensory and science center we had seashells, brown wood shavings and brown pinecones for them to feel and explore with!

Have a great weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

alayna.carrierbgcs@gmail.com

mariprovi.maldonadobgcs@gmail.com

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

Conferences are next week! If you have yet to sign up for a time slot please do so before Friday at 9pm. I will have some preparations to do and last-minute signups will be hard to get ready for.

The first graders learned about r blends such as SR, BR, TR, SHR, THR, etc. They also read a story called How Animals Communicate. We discussed and made a concept map of the main idea and the supporting detail. In math, we are learning about how subtraction and addition are related.

The Kindergarteners learned about the letter K and P. We made a list of things that start with a P such as a pizza, panda, pig, parachute, and pineapple! In math, we are practicing addition and subtraction and learning about teen numbers.

With the weather change this week I wanted to remind you to practice self-help skills at home. Students should be able to put on most of their winter attire on their own. It is quite time-consuming to help 18 children bundle up! In addition, please make sure things fit correctly and they do their job of keeping your child warm! Waterproof clothing is helpful!

Have a fantastic long weekend,

218-663-0170 ext. 22

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

~~~~~  
From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

We ate our way through the week, AGAIN. Our phonics lesson for the week was focusing on compound words and finding words we already know inside a new word. We chewed bubblegum,

made applesauce, and watched milk go from milk to milkshake, to ice cream! The last two were actually for our science unit on matter, but I made the lesson work for both topics.

In math we spent the week tackling complex word problems. These are problems that do not have to have enough information to solve and we have to identify what is missing (a total or a part), before inventing that number and solving. We also crossed out extra information we don't need and looked for hidden information. Spelling a number in word form or using a phrase like "pair" are examples of hidden info.

It's time to start breaking out and sending winter gear. The weather will go up and down in temperatures and wind for the next few weeks, but we will continue to spend at least one hour outside each day. Students also need to have a pair of shoes for the day as winter boots should not be worn in class. Thank you!

218-663-0170 ext. 26

sara.silencebgcs@gmail.com

~~~~~  
**From Ms. Heidi Helgesen**

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

It's been another busy week in 4/5th grade! We kicked off the week in math with an extension of our learning on multiplication. 4th grade reviewed four different methods of multiplying numbers, including an area model method, expanded notation method, algebraic notation method, and traditional groups above method. Students did a great job reviewing these skills and expanding their critical thinking when they started multiplying by larger numbers! In 5th grade, we continued to talk about multiplying decimals, remembering our helpful hints to help us get the correct answer. Students also practiced estimation to check if their answer was reasonable. Both groups did a great job reviewing and expanding on what they learned.

In reading, 4th graders read a story about kids who worked together to help their local library on wheels. It was a reader's theater, so students had fun choosing a character to play and reading with fluency. Students did a great job discovering the theme of the story: kids can make a difference in the world! 5th graders read a story called "The Case of the Missing Deer," which perfectly coincided with the opening of deer season! Students did a great job reading for comprehension and summarizing the story using a graphic organizer.

In science, we continued to talk about matter. We discussed the different properties of matter and worked to classify different objects based on color, shape, length, whether it was magnetic, hardness, and if it was reflective.

Meanwhile, in social studies, students began studying the constitution. Students learned that this important document sets the purpose for our United States government. We brainstormed what we thought the purpose of the government is and realized how difficult it is to define. We also talked about how it is important to study these major documents so we can be good citizens and informed voters. Students did a great job critically thinking about this important document from our country.

We got our first dusting of snow this week! Students were so excited to go play in the snow and enjoy the start of winter. Please be sure to send winter gear each day, including boots, snow pants, a winter jacket, hat, and gloves/mittens. We are currently going outside at least twice a day, so more than one pair of mittens or gloves would be incredibly helpful to keep hands warm all day!

Parent teacher conferences are being held next week, so please be sure to check your email for the online sign up and choose a time that works for us to meet! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out at any time. Looking forward to meeting with everyone at our first conferences!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

[heidi.helgesenbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.helgesenbgcs@gmail.com)