



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

October 1, 2020

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, October 14 School Picture Day!

Thursday, October 15 No School MEA

Friday, October 16 No School MEA

Monday, October 19 Annual School Board Meeting at 5:30 via Zoom with
Regular Meeting To Follow

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 is cooling off! Please be sure to send warmer clothing with your child to school, as we will go outside most every day, in every weather. All students can leave a sweatshirt or sweater in their locker for these days that are cooler, but where a winter jacket may be too much. Also, remember that we will have windows open year-round for fresh air – the building can get pretty warm in the winter in certain rooms, and cooler in others spots, so be sure that your child can pop on an additional layer if they are cold. Thank you!

Lunches: please send food in microwavable containers if they need to be heated. Remember to send a “back-up” lunch of non-perishable foods in the event that your child forgets a lunch. We do have additional food items for each classroom in the event that a lunch is forgotten at home and a back-up lunch is missing as well. There are soups, peanut butter and crackers, fruit cups, applesauce, and pretzels available (so you don’t have to make a special trip to school to bring a lunch).

Free and Reduced forms: some families have not filled out the Free and Reduced forms. We will be sending home these forms for families to fill out. PLEASE do this, as it can mean additional funding for our small school. We would greatly appreciate it!

If your child rides a bus to school, please remind them to make good choices while riding: keeping seat belts on the entire ride, keeping hands to self, using inside voices talking to those that are seated around them (not across the bus), talking kindly to one another and the bus driver, sitting in assigned seats, and not eating on the bus. In general, being respectful of one another. Should there be any issues on the bus, please encourage your child to talk to a staff member when they get to school, or to talk to you. Feel free to email me at birchgrove@boreal.org or call 663-0170 and I will address any issues right away.

Picture Day is Coming!

Picture Day is:

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Picture Day ID:

EVT2997HJ

Order today at

mylifetouch.com



Lifetouch

Family vacations: should your family choose to go on vacation this school year, you must contact me prior to the vacation to determine what will happen with school work, and what may need to happen upon the return from vacation (isolation). This year, a camping trip is different from flying somewhere and going to a highly populated area/area with high cases of COVID. I will work through your plans with you, keeping the safety of our students, Saplings, and staff at Birch Grove in mind.

Please continue to social distance at home so that we can keep coming to school! Have a great weekend!

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

From Ms. Sheryl Martinson

Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

The theme in the Sapling classroom this week has been Apples. There are so many hands-on activities that make this a fun week. We began by cutting up an apple and naming the parts - core, seeds, stem, etc. We discussed the various colors that apples might be. We discussed how they grow and how they get to our houses. One day we dedicated to "apple science." This was the first of many "experiments" that we will try this year. I explained to the children that an experiment is something we decide to try. We have an idea what might happen and maybe it will, or maybe something will surprise us. Explode was the favorite answer when I asked the children what might happen to our apples! We put apple cubes in a variety of liquids to see what would happen. We sliced some apples and tried dehydrating them. We ate apples several times and we had an apple taste test to see which kind of apples were our favorites. We even squeezed in a couple small apple craft projects.

Our focus was the letter F, f and reviewing the colors red and yellow. For the youngest children identifying and matching colors is our goal. For the older children, I push to try to learn the color words. As you might expect most of the children are somewhere in that middle of that spectrum. For a fun sensory activity this week, we got out the shaving cream. I asked the children to use descriptive words to tell me about the shaving cream and then they tried making some letters, shapes and yes just played in it.

We have had a good week, now it is your turn to enjoy the weekend with your delightful little ones!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week we finished creating classroom rules together, got classroom jobs, and brainstormed ideas of what we should do if we are not following the rules. It was a busy week of collaborating and working on social studies skills.

Kindergarten focused on the letter A and numbers up to 7. We are really getting good at learning new letters and numbers. We are really focusing and responding well. We also read some books and focused on the main idea of a book.

The first graders continue to practice numbers and letters. We are working on blending letters together to read words and review sight words. We read a few stories and focused on understanding a character's actions.

Please send students with emergency clothes, a backup mask, and a backup lunch to keep in their locker.

As always feel free to contact me by phone, email, or in person if you have any questions!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

Our theme this week was how things are connected. We learned about and practiced equation chains and cemented our knowledge that the equal sign means "the same as." For phonics we made word links, connecting words with the same ending to beginning sound such as doG --GoaT--TabLe--Light.

We made several varieties of connectors on Thursday to get our hands and minds connected with this idea. For morning meeting on Thursday, we used a ball of yarn to greet each other. It ended up looking like a giant spider web! We took turns pulling on our section and were surprised to notice if one person pulled, half the class could feel it. This was connected to how our choices and actions in class can affect those around us. In the afternoon we made a paper chain to represent all the remaining days of school. It's a very long chain! Lastly, each student was able to practice some knot tying skills and learn a few new knots with a piece of rope. Hopefully all of these activities didn't actually leave anyone "tied up in knots," but helped them remember our math and phonics focus for the week.

We continue to be outside three or four times a day. Please make sure your child is prepared to be out in the weather. Each time outside is approximately 30 minutes, with a one hour stretch for lunch and recess at midday.

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**From Ms. Heidi Milner**

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

4/5th grade has been learning a lot this week! We continued to write our narrative stories, now adding dialogue to help enhance our previous writing. The stories students have written are incredibly creative and show amazing skill.

We have also continued our reading instruction with the stories "My Librarian is a Camel", which provides information about unique libraries found in rural parts of the world. In the story "Off and Running", we talked about voting for a class president and considered qualities of a good leader through compare and contrast of the story's characters.

We also worked on phonics, sorting spelling words by long I and short I sounds as well as the long o sound. This was a great review for students and helped to better make sense of our spelling work.

Our math work included the start of a new unit for fifth graders, considering place value and multiples of ten. This background understanding will help us multiply and divide decimal numbers later in the unit. Fourth grade has continued to practice subtracting large numbers, specifically borrowing across greater numbers to find answers. We also talked about the relationship between addition and subtraction and how we can use addition to check our work in subtraction.

Finally, in science we finished our first lesson from unit 1. We considered criteria, constraints, and limitations while building a tower out of index cards to support the weight of a book. Students did a great job working together and problem solving during this challenge. Keep up the great work, 4/5!

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