



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

October 10, 2019

Dates to Remember:

Friday, October 11 Swimming Lessons at YMCA

Thursday & Friday, October 17 & 18 No School MEA

Monday, October 21 Annual School Board Meeting, Followed by Regular Meeting 5:30

Friday, October 25 Swimming Lessons at YMCA

Sunday, October 27 Halloween Carnival 2:00-4:00

Friday, November 1 No School

Wednesday, November 6 Picture Re-takes

Friday, November 8 Birch Grove Benefit at Papa Charlie's 5:30pm-8:00pm

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

Whew, another busy week! Things are going very well here at Birch Grove Community School/Service. All of the classrooms, including the Saplings, have been busy - it is great to see each classroom working so well so early in the school year.

Thank you to the Tofte Fire and First Responders for coming to Birch Grove and sharing with the Saplings and K-5. If you see a member, be sure to thank them! To see a few pictures, please go to the school Facebook page.

We have a new website! Check it out! It is now ADA compliant and works even better on your phone. Go to: www.birchgroveschool.com. Remember that you can find a lot of information here: school calendar, school board minutes, newsletters, monthly lunch menu, and more.

The annual Birch Grove Halloween Carnival is on Sunday, October 27 from 2:00-4:00. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this spooktacular event! Please send participants our way, as the more people that attend, the more fun it is. All Birch Grove students and Saplings receive a free \$5 punch card to the event (it will be sent home in Take Home folders the week before the carnival). Volunteers are needed to make this event successful, so if you are able, please sign up to help – we can't do it without volunteers. Cakes are also needed for the famous cake walk! I have attached a Halloween Carnival flyer – please post it wherever you can! A volunteer sign-up sheet is also attached.

Mark your calendars for the annual benefit for Birch Grove at Papa Charlie's on Friday, November 8th! Make sure to get it on your calendar. This is a great fund raising event for our school! Bring friends and family and enjoy a lasagna dinner, silent auction (get some great deals!), and great music. I have attached a flyer with more information. Please feel free to copy this flyer off and post in your neighborhood. Help our school by supporting this event! Thank you!

We have 2020 Wolf Ridge calendars for sale – just \$18.00 each! All proceeds go to support Birch Grove Community School. One calendar per child in K-5 will be sent home to each family next week, so please look for them. Please purchase yourself, or find a buyer – whatever works! Please send the calendar money in an envelope marked “Wolf Ridge” back to the school. If you can sell more, that would be great! To get more calendars to sell, please contact me, put a note in your child's Take Home Folder, call the school, or email me at birchgrove@boreal.org. Calendars are \$18 each. These calendars make great gifts - the holidays are right around the corner!!

Thank you for choosing Birch Grove Community School!

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



From Ms. Sheryl Martinson

Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

The Saplings Room

I hope you enjoyed the Sapling song at Community lunch. I was very pleased with how well the children stood up there and participated. Much of what I do with the children is introducing them to new situations and helping them to make appropriate responses. Standing in front of a crowd and singing is a big thing, that often results in tears or non-cooperation. That these children, some only a month into the program, participated beautifully is wonderful! And they are just so cute as well!!

The theme this week has been the book Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? by Eric Carle. Many of the children were already familiar with the book and were able to recite the words as I read the book. We then broadened their view with similar books, Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What do you see? and Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you hear? The children experimented with "story sticks" and we put together a class book entitled, Saplings, Saplings, Who do you see? The Brown Bear book was also a great extension to our ongoing lessons about color. After a child can recognize the various colors, there are many ways we can build on that knowledge. There is sorting, patterning, and learning the color words to name a few activities.

I have been offering a variety of activities that involve building fine motor skills and hand grip strength. Scissor practice, paper punches, tweezers, tongs, even playing with play dough, all help to strengthen those little hands getting them ready to hold a writing tool.

And finally, ready or not the weather is turning. Please remember to send hats and light gloves for outdoor play. If we don't need them - great - they can stay in the backpacks. If needed they are readily available. Meanwhile, let's hope we can enjoy many more days of nice fall weather, like earlier this week!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Elementary Teacher*

It was great seeing everyone at community lunch this week. The chili was amazing! Thanks for coming and enjoying lunch with us!

In first grade, we are learning new strategies to add. We learned how to add by counting on from the larger number. In reading, we discussed and drew concept maps for parts of a story.

In Kindergarten we learned the letter M and L. In math, we are continuing to practice counting and writing number 0-20.

We went on a continued to study leaves this week. We went on a leaf hunt this week. We were looking for big and small leaves, leaves of all colors, jagged edges and smooth edge, etc. After collecting the leaves we used our science tools, our senses, to sort the leaves in many different ways, record the leaves we found and used them in an art project making leaf men.

The weather is getting colder! We will go outside for recess even if it is wet. Please ensure that your student has enough layers and appropriate footwear for potential puddle hopping!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

Pine Martens had a busy week. We enjoyed sharing our pumpkin art and one of our pumpkin poems with those that joined us at Community Lunch. We also spent time this week looking at some of the great engineering structures around the U.S. We have read books about the Golden Gate Bridge and the Hoover Dam so far.

The fire fighter and first responder visit was a big hit on Wednesday. I was impressed with the depth of their questions. They knew the basics and wanted to learn more about how things work! We were able to work as a class community to help "save" one of students who was "injured." Everyone was all in and very responsible!

In math 2nd graders are wrapping up their first unit and will be taking their math test Friday. 3rd graders are still working through the multiplication unit and will be taking their test soon. Please continue to practice math facts at home.

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**From Ms. Heidi Milner**

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

This week in 4/5th grade we started a new unit in math! In 4th grade we are beginning multiplication, talking about arrays as a way to solve multiplication problems. In 5th grade we are beginning to work with decimals, finding similarities between fractions and decimals.

In our language arts block we spent some more time writing our narrative stories and editing them. We are well on our way to having a wonderful finished product, which we will bind together into a class book!

We have been working to spend more time outside, enjoying the fall colors and continuing our learning outside since the weather is so beautiful! We spent time outside Monday for gym class, where we played a cooperative game called "Chase the Dragon". On Tuesday, we went outside for

art, building fairy and elf houses out of materials we found in nature. We love spending time outside and enjoying the beautiful weather!

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From Ms. Klemmer

Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service

There is no Saplings on Thursday or Friday, October 17 and 18 as there is no school. Remember, if the school is closed, the Saplings program is also closed.

Please be sure to sign up to volunteer for the annual Halloween Carnival at Birch Grove.

Ms. Martinson will be present for the event in the Saplings room where she will have all kinds of fun activities for pre-school aged children to do. The carnival is on Sunday, October 27 from 2:00-4:00.

Tell all of your friends! We hope to see you there!

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