



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

October 14, 2020

Dates to Remember:

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
Friday, November 6 No School
Monday-Friday, November 9-13 Conferences
Thursday, November 19 Picture Re-takes

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 was a short, but active week at Birch Grove Community School! There is no school tomorrow or Friday for MEA. Please be sure to have your child read (or be read to) at least 20 minutes every day (or night!), especially during a break from school.

Today was school picture day! You still have 48 hours to order pictures on-line. Click on this link:

<http://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/pictureDayId/EVT2997HJ>

Picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 19 in the event that you don't like today's pic! (Please keep in mind though that should the school be in the distance learning mode, re-takes will not be possible.)

The days are getting cooler, so please be sure to dress your child(ren) for the weather, as we go outside in all but the most extreme weather.

Do you have a long distance learning plan for your family? In the event that we have to go to an all school, all distance learning plan, is your family ready for it? Please plan now so that it doesn't take you by surprise should BGCS have to pivot to this plan. Thank you!

Please continue to social distance at home so that we can keep coming to school!
Have a great 4 day weekend!

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

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Website

www.birchgroveschool.com



Look for:

Birch Grove Community School and Community Service #4145

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**From Ms. Sheryl Martinson**

*Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

Every week is busy. Take one day away and it feels like a whirlwind. But it was a good week. Our theme this week was "The Three Little Pigs." Most of the children were familiar with the story. So, we were able to build on that. We read multiple versions of the story, including one with three little fish and a big bad shark! We re-enacted the story in our classroom. We created a pig face and tried our hand at drawing a pig. A pig highlight of the week, that you may have seen on Facebook was our "pig pizzas." It was a good week.

To correspond with pigs our focus was the letter Pp and the color pink. We were also able to enjoy a rainy-day hike since almost everyone had a raincoat and boots at school. Thank you so much for sending your child prepared! And a reminder, if your child needs some outdoor clothes please let me know. I have some confidential sources that are quite willing to help.

I am so pleased with how well the children are doing, six weeks into the school year. We have a full class almost every day. The children are chugging along, working, playing and learning. Each day

brings challenge, fun and activity. Thank you for entrusting your child to our care! It is a privilege to partner with you!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Grade Elementary Teacher

It is a short week but a busy one!

Kindergarten learned the letter G and is continuing to learn about numbers! We are also practicing drawing, and identifying shapes. First grade continued to practice with letters of the alphabet, and we finished our first unit in math! We did a little art this week that required practicing our fine motor skills! We made a mosaic of our first initial using paper!

I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend! Please remember to have your child read or be read to for at least 20 minutes a day over the break!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

This was an exciting week for our class. We were able to regularly rotate small groups without much confusion and students were able to stay on task for each time period. It has only been five weeks of school, but we have been working hard at building our working stamina and establishing routines. Our focus for language arts was identifying character traits as we finished up the story Destiny's Gift. We also started outlining a narrative in writing. Students did amazing with this. I usually find that classes struggle with the writing and developing stage this early in the year, but so far, we are off to a strong start.

Second grade or "Platypus Math" are still working through their unit on word problems, this week we tackled compare problems by drawing a matching drawing or comparison bars. This group continues to accept and meet the daily challenge from their math lesson as we build on each new task. Third grade math or "Moose Math" found a new challenge this week as we explored the concept of area and related multiplication. Students have some strategy cards (flash cards) to cut out from their math book. Over our long weekend, it would be good to play some of the games that will be sent home today to practice and increase fluency. Learning some of these games where you need to move and think fast can make learning these math facts fun.

I would like to leave you with the preamble that the students wrote for our class constitution. We currently have a long list of specific rules that we will streamline, edit, and finalize before we sign our document.

*"We the Pine Martens, set these rules to lesson chaos, be safe, and keep peace in our classroom forever."*

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From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

While it was a short week at Birch Grove, 4/5th has definitely not been short on learning. We packed a lot into our three days together. In 4th grade, we read the tall tale "Stormalong" and talked about character traits, focusing on a characters emotions and motivations in the story. Meanwhile, 5th grade students read the story "Elisa's Diary," a story about a young girl who struggles to learn to speak English when moving to the United States. We worked on making connections to the story to improve our understanding of the theme.

In math, 4th grade expanded their understanding of place value and multiplication by learning a new way to multiply using the area of a rectangle. In 5th grade, we continued learning to multiply decimals and connected our learning to our knowledge of place value.

We were very excited to finally build our hearing enhancing prototypes in science. After two weeks of discussions, research, and planning, we built and shared our designs with the class. We utilized the engineering design process to help guide our work and improve our designs. It was a lot of fun to get creative in science!

As the season continues to grow colder, please make sure to send warm coats, hats, and gloves to school for our outdoor activities and recess time. We spend a lot of time outside so it is important to be dressed for the weather!

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