



## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

**September 26, 2019**

### Dates to Remember:

Friday, September 27 Swimming Lessons at YMCA

Friday, October 4 NO SCHOOL- Teacher PDD/Workshop Day

Tuesday, October 8 Community Lunch at 12:00

Wednesday, October 9 School Picture Day

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

### 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*

I need to start out my portion of the newsletter by saying how very impressed I am with every student and every staff member. I see such beautiful things as I walk down the hallway and as I visit each classroom - so much learning and positive interactions are happening! Please let your child know that they are doing a great job this year and encourage them to continue to work (and play) hard.

School picture day is coming soon on Wednesday, October 9. Lifetouch order forms were sent home yesterday in Take Home Folders for Saplings-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please check folders for this information. Pictures will be taken in the A.M. – exact time for Saplings/K-5 classrooms to be determined.

Please continue to send swim bags to school! Any day of the week is fine as long as they are here by Friday. Again, please be sure that children wear looser clothing on these days as it is easier to get dressed after swimming – please no leggings or tights. Thank you!

Please continue to check Take Home Folders daily and be sure to put them back in back packs so that they come to school each day. Thank you!

Thank you for choosing Birch Grove Community School!

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

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218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

Website

[www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com)



Look for:

Birch Grove Community School and Community Service

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**From Ms. Sheryl Martinson**

*Saplings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

The Saplings Room

This week we extended the farm theme to include farm machinery, crops and then scarecrows. The children have had a lot of fun wearing masks, pretending to be various farm animals, and sleeping in the barn. They also like to feed their farm animal friends with the wheelbarrow. The children have a vested interest in this play area as they have helped to create several parts of it, including the pigs in the mud puddle, the tractor, the corn field, the scarecrow and bales of "hay." One day we focused on corn. The children were interested in husking the corn, pulling off the silk, and squeezing a kernel.

There was a lot of great, new vocabulary in that. Eventually, corn muffins followed. And where there is corn, there must be a scarecrow to ward off the crows ☺ He is pretty cute, come check him out!

Small groups continue to be a work in progress-getting better each day. This week I introduced our first alphabet letter to work on - L, l. Upper case, lower case and the sound are all covered to some degree. The younger children watch the older ones for cues and follow along quite well! At table time, we are always working on an assorted variety of skills ranging from simply sitting in a chair and taking direction to writing letters, numbers and improving drawing skills. The children enjoy showing me what they can do and showing off their new-found abilities. So, we are off and running, there is much to do and much to learn - stay tuned for our weekly updates!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1 Elementary Teacher*

In Kindergarten, we are learning letters G this week. We also read a story about pets. We used inferencing skills to predict what will happen in the story. In math, we are practicing writing numbers 0-20 and we learned about circles, rectangles, and squares.

The first-grade students are continuing to practice reading and reviewing letter sounds. We read a story call Curious George Goes to School. We talked about the sequence of events in a story. We summarized the events that happened to Curious George in a flow chart. In math, we learned all of our addition partners up to 10!

We spent some time in the woods this week exploring and learning about our 5 senses. We used our science skills to observe and discover different things outside! We also spent some of our playtime in the woods! Fall is in the air, go out and enjoy the leaves!

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

Pine Martens have spent another week learning what it looks like for them to work hard independently. We have about 10 minutes of stamina to work individually and will continue to practice to work up to our goal of 20 minutes. This week we finished our All About Me posters that will soon be on display in the hallway.

In math we continue to look at strategies for taking apart and putting together numbers as well as beginning work on word problems. Third graders have learned multiplication by 2, 5, and 10 will be working on 9 next.

Our reading curriculum unit and social studies both involve looking at families. The things we enjoy doing together, the things we share, and how things are different from times before. We will be interviewing an older relative or friend soon. We are also looking at what it looks like to be a classroom family, a citizen, and a role model.

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**From Ms. Heidi Milner**

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

4th/5th grade is very excited with our progress in science. We are working on the scientific method. We have planned experiments and followed through the steps of observation, hypothesis, testing and taking notes, and finally, drawing conclusions. We practiced this model this week by making paper rockets and testing our theories for how to make them travel the farthest.

We also worked together as a whole class to read about libraries in remote areas around the world. We talked about cultures from around the world, comparing and contrasting to our own.

In math, 4th grade has begun to review subtraction and we are doing wonderful work! In 5th grade we are working with improper fractions and mixed numbers, also doing an amazing job!

Keep up the great work, 4th/5th graders!

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**From Ms. Klemmer**

*Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service*

Please remember that there is no Saplings program when there is no school. For non-school days, please see the 19-20 school calendar on the school website at [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com). You can also see non-school days in advance by looking at the top of this newsletter under "Dates To Remember".

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