



Birch Grove Community School Newsletter

June 2, 2017

Friday, June 2 Tickets To Treasures Drawing

Saturday, June 3 Gala for the Grove!

Monday-Wednesday, June 5-7 Wolf Ridge Trip for 2/5 AND

K/1 Trip to The North American Bear Center in Ely, MN

Thursday, June 8 Last Day of School - Graduation at 10:30, Early Release at 12:00

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:
School Director

Whew! The end of the school year is here! Next week there are a lot of comings and goings!

K/1 will be going to the North American Bear Center in Ely. Be sure to pack a large lunch, lots of snacks, and a full water bottle. Children always seem to be extra hungry when on a field trip. Remember to dress your child in layers as well, as you never know what the weather will be. Please remind your child that behavior expectations are high when out in the community and following directions is essential. We want everyone to have a safe and fun trip! When your child gets home, have them tell you what they learned about bears! Both Ms. Lizakowski and Ms. Klemmer will be going on the field trip and they are just as excited as the children!

2/5 will be going to the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center with Ms. Sandefer, Mr. Kreider, Ms. Brown, and Mr. Maxwell. Students will leave Birch Grove at 10:15 on Monday morning and will return to school on Wednesday at 1:45. Be sure to send all of your child's gear with them to school on Monday for this 3 day trip. This trip is a part of the school program and behavior expectations are high. Please remind your child that following directions is expected of them. We want this to be a

safe and fun trip for all. If you have any questions about this trip, please give Ms. Sandefer a call. I look forward to hearing all of the stories the students will come back with!

The graduation ceremony will be held next week on Thursday starting at 10:30. Everyone is welcome to attend. After a short ceremony, parents and families are welcome to visit students' classrooms to take pictures. If you are taking your child home after the ceremony, please be sure to let your child's teacher know - this day gets a little crazy, and we want to be able to account for all of our students. Children remaining on site at 11:30 will go outside to eat their cold lunches. Buses will leave for routes home at 12:00 for an early release. Birch Buddies is open the after 12:00, so be sure to sign your child up if care is needed. Birch Buddies is also open on Friday the 9th as well.

Summer programming will start Monday, June 12. Children must register for Summer Saplings (ages 3-5) and for Campsite Kids (K-5). Sara Silence and Pam Foster will be working in the Summer Saplings program and Adam Maxwell will be working in the Campsite Kids program. All three are highly qualified and have a great summer in store for the summer children.

Everyone at Birch Grove would like to thank you for letting us be a part of your child's life this year! It has been a pleasure to see your children grow! We hope that you have the best summer ever! Please encourage your children to continue to read, read, read, over the summer months. Thank you for the great school year!

Have a great summer!

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

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From Ms. Sheryl Martinson  
Saplings Teacher

The Saplings had a GREAT time at the zoo! Thank you so much to all the parents that brought their children and helped out. You were the key to a wonderful day! And...even though it rained for almost the entire drive to Duluth, not a drop fell the whole time we were at the zoo! The children enjoyed checking out all the animals. The big lions and tigers were very impressive, the piles of bats were kind of creepy and the baby lemur was adorable. We also enjoyed a special presentation by one of the zoo animal experts. The children learned about and touched a millipede, a corn snake, a rainbow tree frog and a beautiful black bunny. It was fun to discuss favorite animals and what the children saw and learned when we returned to class the next day.

Like everyone else we are starting to wrap things up this week. We are covering the last letter of our alphabet study, the letter Q. The children practiced the letter and sound and put together a Quiet Queen project. Many of the children are becoming quite proficient at puzzles. Last week we put

together a 100 piece puzzle. This week we got out some smaller, but more difficult puzzles. The children take them on and work their way through it until finished.

I am very pleased with the progress of all the children - socially, emotionally and academically. In the day by day work, it may not be so evident. But, when I look back to where they started at the beginning of the year ..... it is amazing! I am very proud of each child!

There are many things you can do to ensure the growth will continue through the summer. Read books! Talk about letters, shapes and numbers! Spend some time in the kitchen with your child! Go on hikes and bike rides! All these things will keep your child active, engaged and healthy. Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you and your child around - perhaps at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration or maybe the Holiday gas station? And finally, thank you once again for the privilege of being involved in your child's life. They are all GREAT kids and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with them!

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From Ms. Sara Lizakowski
K/1 Teacher

Thank you to all the parents for all the support throughout the school year. Together we ensured that each child learned and grew! This year has been fabulous and full of great memories. It has been a pleasure to teach each kid in the K/1 classroom. I am excited to see the Kindergarteners to return to the K/1 classroom next year as 1st graders! I have seen great growth throughout this year and I am excited to continue to see them grow next year! I am also excited to see the 1st graders continue to grow next year. They are off to new adventures in 2nd grade and in a new classroom. I know they will succeed in their new classroom!

Thank you, again, for all the parent support. I look forward to working with you again next year.

Have a great summer!

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From Ms. Holly Sandefer  
2/5 Teacher

We accomplished quite a bit this week, despite the fact it was a short week.

We cleaned and organized the classroom and your children were a tremendous help! I cannot express how appreciative I am for their helping hands and leadership!

In math we reviewed concepts of student choice.

We decorated drums (thank you Mrs. Silence), tie dyed shirts, walked to the beach at Blue Fin, and made ice cream in a bag!

Our Wolf Ridge trip is next week, Monday-Wednesday. Please send your child to school with their gear for the three day trip! Students are allowed to bring one stuffed animal, I ask the stuffed animal to be small enough to fit inside their bag. Please DO NOT send electronic devices or fidget spinners for this trip. We are scheduled to browse the Wolf Ridge gift shop, only students with money will browse the shop. If your child would like to make a purchase, please send money with them. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Have a fabulous four day weekend and all my best!

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From Ms. Sara Silence
Reading and Math Teacher (Sled Dogs)

Sled Dogs have been busy this week with year end preparations, celebrations, and activities. We have finished up with the fire books we were ready last week and will finish out the year with a silly story about a mustache. In math we looked at reading a thermometer with positive and negative numbers. We joined the whole class for a little science experiment and made ice cream.

Below are two more Sled Dog fable features.

The Mouse and the Crow by Daniel

Once upon a time.....

On a warm fall day a crow and a mouse began building their homes for the winter. The mouse worked hard all the way until the winter. The crow quickly built a nest and had fun all fall in the warm sun.

Once winter came, the mouse was warm in the tunnel he built under the ground but the crows nest quickly froze and he had a long cold winter.

Moral: Take your time

The Fish by Signe

There was a fish named Fins who lived in a bowl. Each day a boy named Brian gave him four flakes of food. Fins wanted more food. Fins knew that the food was on a shelf above his bowl. He jumped out of his bowl and knocked down the food. It fell on the floor and not in his bowl. The next day there was no food left so the fish went to bed without dinner.

Moral: Be thankful with what you have.

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From Ms. Sara Silence  
Community Education Coordinator

There is a lot of information here, but please read all of it!

This week I have finished up a grant request for a new program service for Birch Grove families, Literacy Enhancement and Retention Now (LEARN). Even if grant funds do not come through, I am excited to implement parts of this new program into the summer. LEARN will focus on enhancing reading skills for students that may need a boost to return to school in the fall at grade level. Each summer, many students back slide from where they are in June requiring some reteaching in the fall instead of moving forward. Paired with our excellent, literacy rich summer program LEARN will address any gaps in reading, math, and social skills. Keep an eye out for publications and advertisements as I get this program started!

One of the best ways to keep your child learning this summer is to keep the whole family reading and having meaningful conversations with each other. Coming home with the newsletter today is information on summer reading programs from Grand Marais and Silver Bay libraries, along with Arrowhead libraries mail a book program. There is also a design a library card contest and some other fun things that are happening out in your community this summer.

Next week, Birch Buddies will be available on Thursday afternoon (early release at 12) and all day Friday. If you need either of these days, please let me know so we can have enough staff on hand. I'm expecting a lot of kids and need to be prepared.

Summer programming starts June 12!

Learning Opportunities Through Stories (LOTS) will be starting again on Wednesdays. Beginning June 21st from 5:15-6:00pm. LOTS is designed for families with children birth to age five. Community Ed has extended the age to include children of all ages that would enjoy and benefit from FREE new books each week and a time to talk to others about books they are reading.

Note: I have not had confirmation on pizza night in the HEARTH (brick) oven on Wednesdays. LOTS and Community Ed will be partnering to offer families a light meal during LOTS.

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