



Birch Grove Community School Newsletter

May 5, 2017

Tuesday-Thursday May 9-11 NWEA (MAP) Testing for 2nd-5th

Tuesday, May 9 Community Lunch ~ Last One!

Friday, May 12 Climb Theater at BGCS!

Tuesday, May 16 School Board Meeting 6:00

Friday, May 19 Planting Pine Tree Saplings with the Forest Service 12:45

Friday, May 26 and Monday, May 29 No School

Saturday, June 3 Gala for the Grove!

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

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

NWEA-MAP testing for K-1st grade was completed this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you for your support at home, and thanks to the students for doing their best! "Go Bobcats, Rock the Test! Go Bobcats, Do Your Best!" A celebration will be planned in May for all students once all of the testing has been completed. Go Birch Grove!

VERY IMPORTANT!! If your child has eye glasses, PLEASE send them with your child to school!!

It's the 2nd-5th graders turn for NWEA-MAP testing!

NWEA (MAP) Testing starts next week May 9-11, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for 2nd-5th grades.

Tuesday: Math
Wednesday: Reading
Thursday: Make Up Day

- Please see that your child gets to bed early the night before the tests – we want them well rested! ☺
- A breakfast sandwich/ scrambled eggs, fruit, milk/orange juice, etc. will be served each morning, Tuesday and Wednesday for ALL students, K-5
- Healthy snacks will be provided for testing students
- Encourage your child to do their best work!
- Remind them of how proud you are with all that they have learned this year! ☺

Our last Community Lunch of the year is next week on Tuesday, May 9th. We hope that you will be able to join us! Please feel free to invite others! Adults: \$5, Children: \$3

Birch Grove families are invited to help us plant red pine saplings at the Tofte Forest Service on Friday, May 19. Meet us here between 12:15 and 12:30 as we are due at the forest service at 12:45. All are welcome as we go on this service learning adventure! All students will also bring home a red pine to plant – thank you to the Tofte Forest Service!

The Gala for the Grove is on Saturday, June 3. All Birch Grove Community School families should have received an invitation in the mail for this event. The Gala is one of our major fundraisers for the year, so please spread the word as we would like for all of the tickets to be sold. A downloadable copy of the invitation is on the school website at www.birchgroveschool.com. Just go to the home page, click on Events, and then Gala for the Grove. Sponsorship information is also available at this site. Please help us to make this event successful by spreading the word! If your employer would like to be a sponsor to the event, or donate an item for the raffle or live auction, please give me a call at 663-0170. All ticket sales and donations are greatly appreciated!

Wolf Ridge field trip fees for 2nd-5th grade were due by May 1. Please send a check written out to Birch Grove Community School in the amount of \$30 per child. If the \$30 per child is a hardship for your family, please talk with me and let me know. 663-0170. Thank you!

Registration for summer programming will start next week. **SPACE IS LIMITED!** Enrollment will be open to the general public as well, so if you know that you need care, you must register as soon as possible. Sara Silence and Pam Foster will be the main supervisors for the Summer Saplings program and Adam Maxwell will be the main supervisor for Campsite Kids. I am very excited to have these excellent staff members on board this summer! Their backgrounds and experience is very impressive, and I know that they will make the summer programs enjoyable for all of the children!

Have a great weekend!

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 officially welcomed spring with this week's theme of flowers. We started out the week discussing what plants need to grow. Each child planted a couple sunflower seeds in a cup and I put a couple seeds in a wet paper towel and a ziplock bag. It was very fun for the children to look at the seeds in the paper towel each day. They saw the seeds swell, next a little sprout poked out and then they observed that sprout as it grew a little each day. The children imagined their own seeds doing that hidden in the soil. We continued the plant exploration with the various parts of a plant including the roots and stem. We dumped out a plant to see the roots, we also put white carnations in colored water to see how the stem carries the water to the flower.

This week was also the "Grand Opening" of the newest eating establishment on the west end, "The Saplings Play Café." The children are enjoying preparing and serving meals to their friends. Although, I suspect the part they like best is the little bell that rings whenever they open the play door!

I'm going to live dangerously and say that boots and mittens are no longer needed for outdoor play! But, please do remember that it can still be wet or windy and send clothing to keep your child comfortable outside.

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From Ms. Sara Lizakowski
K/1 Teacher

K/1 finished their MAPS testing this week. They all were working hard, had a good attitude, and were respectful to others testing! Great job K/1 students, time to celebrate!

This week we are working on a special art and writing project for Community Lunch. It is a collaborative project that they all are working hard on together. Come check it out next week during Community Lunch.

We discussed things that plants need to grow this week. We discovered that they need air, water, soil, and sunlight. We made more observations and noticed that they are outgrowing their cups. We determined that it is time to replant them!

Thanks for ensuring all children were well rested this week!

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From Ms. Holly Sandefer

2/5 Teacher

We are close to the end of the school year, and time is fleeting! Please watch your child's take home folder for information and permission slips for our Wolf Ridge learning opportunity! Our trip will take place the last week of school, June 5-7.

In math we worked on money and time. We are working on counting change back as well as figuring elapsed time.

We are learning about the human body in science and we studied the eye this week! Our eyes are interesting and somewhat complex organs! We made observations by looking deep into a partner's eyes, then we made an eye model!

We learned about and worked on self-discipline as our character builder. Self-discipline is an important skill, especially when faced with less than ideal tasks or activities.

We will be completing our final round of testing next week with our NWEA tests! Please make sure your child(ren) gets plenty of sleep, attends school each day, and eats a healthy breakfast. Continue to encourage your child(ren), as they have worked extremely hard this year! I appreciate your continued support!

All my best!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

Reading and Math Teacher (Sled Dogs)

This week in math, Sled Dogs were able to eat their way through a fractions unit. They worked really hard and used quite a bit of division also to solve some real world problems. They have been making great progress in our new math journals, and have increased their stamina for independent work by about 33%.

In reading we are looking at fables. Students are reviewing and comparing several fables. They have started working on their own as well as a class fable. I am curious to find out what kinds of animals and morals they will choose to elaborate on!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

## Community Education Coordinator

I have been encouraged by the variety of solutions I have been able to find to help parents better afford care for their 3-12 year old children. Through our Birch Buddies, Saplings, Summer Saplings, and Campsite Kids programs, we can serve students five days a week, year round. If you would like more information on one of our programs, brochures will be available by the office at Community Lunch next Tuesday.

Next week also marks when our summer enrollment availability opens to the public. I know there are many families looking for care this summer. If you plan to have your children attend this summer, please let me know so I can accurately post and report our program openings.

Last but not least, **Birch Buddies** will be open again on Wednesdays after school beginning next Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The next non-school Birch Buddies is May 26<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up needs to be done by May 12<sup>th</sup>. I will also be hosting Birch Buddies after our early release on June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>. For these two days only, no prior registration is needed but of course still appreciated.

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