



# Birch Grove Community School Newsletter

**May 12, 2017**

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

All of our testing was completed this week! Thank you to all of the students for working hard and showing off their beautiful brains! We will have a Celebration of Knowledge party on Thursday, May 25 in the afternoon!

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!

Please return all school library books as soon as possible. Help us to keep our library healthy by returning all library books! Don't forget to look under the bed!

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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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 forms for Campsite Kids and for Summer Saplings have gone out in Take Home Folders this week. If you know of a family that could use care this summer, please keep our Community Education programs healthy and recommend our programs. **SPACE IS LIMITED!** Enrollment is also 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!

218- 663-0170

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From Ms. Sheryl Martinson  
Saplings Teacher

It has been a busy and fun week in the Sapling classroom. We are watching a cup full of Painted Lady caterpillars gorge on their food. They arrived very tiny and have grown, and grown and grown! Perhaps by the time you read this, each will be hanging upside down in their little chrysalis! As you would probably guess, the children have been replicating caterpillars and butterflies in multiple activities. They used pasta to show the various stages of the metamorphous. They made pom pom caterpillars and paper plate butterflies. They learned a little about symmetry, how a fragile butterfly protects itself and the difference between moths and butterflies. Whew, like I said, it has been a busy week!

Instead of focusing on a new letter this week, we honed in on a couple concepts. The older children practiced clapping syllables, worked on sounding out words and tried some creative drawing. The younger children reinforced basic shapes, colors and one-to-one correspondence. They all tried their

hand at lacing. We have surely enjoyed the improved weather with as much time as possible outside!  
Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Lizakowski  
K/1 Teacher

This week the K/1 students supported the 2-5 students during their testing. We gave positive encouragement and made sure we were quiet around the building! I think we are all glad to be done with testing!

We are discussing fractions in math. We split a giant "chocolate bar" into many different pieces. We compared who got a bigger piece and how many pieces fit into a bigger piece.

We are researching about animal habitats. It has been fun to start to learn about how we can find information. We looked at books and we used the internet. I think the children found it a lot easier to find information on the internet! Each child picked an animal and researched where it lives. We will be making presentation about where the animals live.

Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Holly Sandefer  
2/5 Teacher

2-5 grade finished their NWEA testing this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Everyone worked hard – thank you so much! Ms. Silence was in the classroom later in the week as Ms. Sandefer took a few days off. Special projects and activities have filled our week! Please look for information on the annual Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center on Monday – it will be in Take Home Folders. Please be sure to fill out the paperwork and turn in to the school office as soon as possible. Have a great weekend! ~ Diane Blanchette

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

This week I enjoyed some time driving cross country with my husband and subbing for Ms. Sandefer. It has been fun and exhausting to jump full time into one classroom. Sled Dogs have been finishing up some big writing projects along with the classroom. I have enjoyed seeing the progress of the

projects each day, we are working hard to amaze Ms. Sandefer with the amount of work we were able to accomplish this week.

In math Sled Dogs and the rest of the class have been working on making change. Thursday we did some role playing with a doughnut bakery and paying with bills only. Making change, and counting back change can bit tricky, but I each day I have heard another experience about how the students are able to see this math at work in their lives.

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From Ms. Sara Silence  
Community Education Coordinator

We have sent out the summer parent handbooks to all Birch Grove families this week. Openings have also been posted on Facebook, the school website, and in the Cook County News Herald. Programs are about 40% filled. Even if you are unaware of your days, it is important that we hear from our Birch Grove families, as we want you to have priority in enrollment.

Please continue to share your love for Birch Grove with your friends and family.

Have a very happy Mother's Day weekend, maybe take her out fishing for opener!

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