



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Newsletter

September 12, 2019

Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 16 School Board Meeting at 5:30
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sept. 17, 18, 19 MAPS Testing
Friday, September 20 Swimming Lessons at YMCA
Friday, September 27 Swimming Lessons at YMCA
Friday, October 4 NO SCHOOL- Teacher PDD/Workshop Day
Tuesday, October 8 Community Lunch at 12:30
Wednesday, October 9 School Picture Day

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

Newsletters will be emailed each week, usually on Thursdays (sometimes Fridays if it is really busy around here!). **Newsletters will be emailed to the address that you indicated on enrollment forms.** If you would like to add an email address to the newsletter group, please let us know. Newsletters are also posted on our school website at www.birchgroveschool.com

Be sure to check out our website at www.birchgroveschool.com. You can find the school year calendar, newsletters, hot lunch calendars, school board minutes, pictures, upcoming events, resources, and all kinds of other information. I hope that you will be a regular visitor to our site. Have your children check it out too, as it has links to educational sites that are changed frequently.

Facebook:

Be sure to “like” and “follow” Birch Grove Community School and Community Service’s Facebook page and be sure to share with others! We post regularly – it can help to keep you up to date with events and activities!

Each student has been given a Take Home Folder. Please check this folder daily! Use this folder to communicate with your child’s teacher, return forms and paperwork, send lunch/money, send bus passes, etc. **Take Home Folders are checked every day – backpacks are not!**

Bus passes – you must send a bus pass if you want your child to be dropped off at a stop that is not their normal stop or if your child should not ride the bus home and someone will be picking them up. Please include your child’s name, the date, and where you want your child to be dropped off (or that they should not ride the bus and who will be picking them up) and put it in your child’s folder.
Folders are checked every day, backpacks are not!

Hot lunch is served on Mondays and Tuesdays. Cold lunch days are Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays - families send a lunch from home on cold lunch days. Hot lunch tickets are \$1.00 - \$3.00 per lunch – depending on your family’s income. Lunch and milk tickets can be paid on-line through Brightwheel – if you are not already registered, look for an email soon from Brightwheel! Students are expected to have white milk or water during lunch. You can send milk or water from home, but both are available here on site each day (milk is .50). NO POP, PLEASE NO CANDY! ☺ (Little treats that you find in a Lunchable is okay, or an occasional other little treat, but as a rule, please do not send candy as a part of your child’s lunch or snack.) Microwaves are available for heating up food at lunch time – microwaves **are not for cooking food**, only heating prepared food. Please remember to pack utensils, although we do have utensils if you forget to pack them.

Also, please send a back-up lunch to be kept at school for the inevitable day that one is forgotten at home or on the bus – it has already happened this year. A back-up lunches will be kept in student lockers. Non-perishables foods should be used for back-up lunches.

Lunches can be paid on Brightwheel (preferred), but we can also accept checks. **PLEASE do not pay in cash.** Paying through Brightwheel or by check/money order are the only acceptable forms of payment. If you have any questions, you can contact Jessica by calling 663-0170 or email her at jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com

Please see that your child has appropriate clothing to go outside. We have a daily 30 minute recess everyday – we also go outside for other occasions. This year, we will be starting a new program that will be held outside in the woods behind the building (more information on this later), so we will be going outside even more than we have in the past. If you need help getting outside clothing/shoes, please let us know, as we may be able to help with that.

As a reminder, we can’t accept cash! Brightwheel, checks and money orders are the only form of currency we can accept. Thank you!

Building code: All parents will need a building code to enter the building as the doors to the building are locked. The old code will be changing soon! You will receive a NEW building code in the next few weeks of school. Remember to only share this code with people that are picking up or dropping off your child. When in the building, please do not open the door for anyone that rings the buzzer- school staff will answer the door.

SWIMMING LESSONS for K-5 ~STARTING NEXT WEEK! Every Friday from September 20 to November 15 when school is in session.

- Friday, September 20
- Friday, September 27
- Friday, October 11
- Friday, October 25
- Friday, November 8
- Friday, November 15

We will be taking our cold lunches with us to have lunch in the YMCA. **Please send a swim suit, towel, hairbrushes, pony holders, etc. in a plastic bag to school as soon as possible!** After each swim day, we will send the plastic bag with all articles home to be washed/dried. Please send the “swim bag” back to school as soon as possible so that your child has it for each swim lesson. Permission slips will come home in Take Home Folders with more information. Please send back ASAP.

Thank you for choosing Birch Grove Community School! We are looking forward to a great year!

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

birchgrove@boreal.org ~ Birch Grove Community School Email

bgcommunityservice@boreal.org ~ Community Service Email

218-663-0170 ~ School Phone

218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service Phone

Website

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 continued our theme of "Friends," focusing on how friends act towards each other and how to be a good friend. The book Rainbow Fish was a good starting point for a discussion on sharing. We also thought about and participated in activities that showed us how we can help each other and work together. On Friday we will "work together" to make some yummy cookies - shhh, don't tell the children!

The children continued to work on their "Sapling Friends" that will soon be hanging in the hallway. They have colored the skin and eyes, glued on some hair and have finger-painted the clothing. They are looking pretty cute! The children also made their own rainbow fish to take home early in the week.

I was even able to begin some assessments. This is an integral part of teaching, but not my most favorite part. Mrs. Klemmer has been a huge help, popping in and out of our classroom when we needed an extra pair of hands.

Thank you for sending rain boots, coats and even hats and light gloves as the weather warrants it. As I've said many times, we play outside every day and it is so much more fun for the children if they are appropriately dressed for the weather. If you are having trouble acquiring any outdoor wear, please let me know. We have some resources to help where it may be needed. If you haven't seen it yet, I posted some cute outdoor play pictures of the Saplings on our Facebook page. Check them out! And finally thank you again for entrusting your child to our care. I have an awesome and sweet group of children. I am looking forward to a wonderful, busy, and fun year!

218-663-0170 ext. 21

[sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com)

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From Ms. Sara Knottski

K & 1 Elementary Teacher

We are working hard in K/1st grade! We started math and reading groups this week. Students are working at different stations during math and reading times. We have also completed a poster called "All About Me." The students drew and wrote about their favorite things, family, and themselves. Check out the posters that will be hanging in the hall all year.

This week we are focusing on the letter C and A. We are learning the procedure of how we are going to learn new letters throughout the year. The students have been writing C and A, saying the C and A sound, and talking and reading about words that start with C and A. Kindergarten will be building their alphabet knowledge as the weeks go on. 1st grade will be reviewing the letters as we focus on reading and writing.

In math we are learning to write and recognize numbers. 1st grade is reviewing how to write numbers and counting up to 120. They are also learning about partners of 5, such as 3 and 2. Kindergarten learned how to write, recognize, and count numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4. Ask them to write these numbers at home, see if they remember!

Please send students with back-up clothes and back-up lunches to keep in their locker.

As always feel free to contact me by phone, email, or in person if you have any questions!

218-663-0170 ext. 22

sara.knottskibgcs@gmail.com

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**From Ms. Sara Silence**

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

Ms. Silence was with us on Monday, but is gone for the remainder of this week as she is on an Alaskan cruise with her family. We hope she is making some great memories! Ms. Silence will be back next Tuesday and will be sharing some videos of her trip with her students. In the meantime, Ms. Penning is the in-house substitute for this class. How lucky are we that Ms. Penning is a retired teacher?! Thank you Ms. Penning for contributing your experience, skills, and knowledge to the Birch Grove team!

218-663-0170 ext. 26

[sara.silencebgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.silencebgcs@gmail.com)

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From Ms. Heidi Milner

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

We have had a spectacular week in 4th/5th grade! We began our math, reading, and science curriculum. In reading we have been working on summarizing stories and improving our own story telling through writing. We have been using descriptive words and a three-part story format to help us write entertaining stories. In math, we have started the year out strong. In 4th grade, we are recalling place value drawings and the different forms we can use to write our numbers, including standard form, expanded form, and written form. In 5th grade, we are continuing our exploration of fractions, diving into equivalent fractions and representing fractions on a number line. In science, our class is learning about simple machines. We have started with a few experiments, including creating a marble run and building our own levers. So much good learning is taking place!

218-663-0170 ext. 23

heidi.milnerbgcs@gmail.com

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**From Ms. Klemmer**

*Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service*

Please remember that you need to contact us 24 hours in advance if your child is going to be absent from the Saplings Program. Accounts will be charged if there is not a 24 hour notice. You may call 663-0170 ext. 21 (Saplings Room) and leave a voice message at any time, or you can email both Sheryl Martinson ([sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com)) and myself ([jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com)). If we have a voice message or email 24 hours in advance you will not be charged. Sheryl will know not to expect your child and that she has space for one more child that particular day, and I will know to credit your account.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

218-663-0170 ext. 26 Community Service

[jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.klemmerbgcs@gmail.com)

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