



# Birch Grove Community School Newsletter

**April 28, 2017**

Tuesday-Thursday May 2-4 NWEA (MAP) Testing for K-1

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

Tuesday, May 9 Community Lunch ~ Last One!

Friday, May 12 Climb Theater at BGCS!

Tuesday, May 16 School Board Meeting 6:00

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

Whew! It has been a busy week!

MCA testing for 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade was completed this week – even with school closed on 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 for May for all students that tested this week and for all that will test in the next two week. Go Birch Grove!

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

# It's the Kindergarten and First Grader's Turn!!!

**NWEA (MAP) Testing starts next week May 2-4, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for Kindergarten and First Grade**

Tuesday: Math or Reading  
Wednesday: Math or 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! ☺

Andrew Broz, a program specialist, from the International Wolf Center in Ely, visited K-5 this week on Thursday afternoon. 2-5 sat in on "*Wolves at Our Door*" and K-1 had their own program called "*Wolf Tales*". Much information on the grey and red wolf was shared with our students. Ask your child what they learned! Here are a few pictures below.



Thanks to all of our students, staff and volunteers, for cleaning up the community center grounds, a

portion of the Forest Service grounds and around the bike trail for Earth Day! Many thanks!

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 theme this week in the Sapling classroom was spring weather. I had thought that by the end of April we could assume the snow and winter weather were over. I had not counted on an ice storm! Nevertheless, we proceeded with our lessons on rain, storms, clouds, wind and a young child's spring favorite - mud. One day I brought in an umbrella and tarp and it "rained" in the classroom! Another day we experimented with how things blow with a fan, how much force it takes to blow certain objects and what shape of objects blow the most easily. Today we had some fun with mud. We made a chart using descriptive words for mud, we practiced our letters in brown paint "mud" and we finished up the week by making some "mud" cookies. Next week we will follow up on "April showers bring May flowers" with a flower theme. Spring has to come eventually, right?

The letter of the week was X. As you know there are not very many words that begin with x. We used x-ray as the main word and then discussed how x more often comes at the end of a word. It was a good exercise for the children to listen for the ending sound in words such as fox, six and ax. We also used a short predictable reader about rain. The children used the pictures as clues and then pointed to the words and "read" each page. The duck likes rain, the beaver likes rain, and we all like rain. The children are seeing groups of letters as individual words, practicing left to right progression and even just practicing holding a book and turning the pages one by one. These are all stepping stones along the path of pre-reading.

The children and I are looking forward beginning the month of May next week. We have birthdays to celebrate, new themes to investigate and more learning to do! Thank you for all you do to help the children and our class from home. It has been a fun year and we plan to enjoy it and work hard to the finish! Have a great weekend, everyone!

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From Ms. Sara Lizakowski  
K/1 Teacher

K/1 will have the NWEA MAPS testing next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure that the children get plenty of sleep those nights! I am excited to see the growth from the scores at the beginning of the year to now!

We are growing green beans in the classroom! This week we saw leaves grow, the stem get thicker, and the plant growing taller. We learned about the different parts of a plant and identified them on our plants. We used the growth to write observations using our new vocabulary about parts of a plant.

Kindergarteners learned the double rule ll, ss, ff, and zz. First graders learned about ed and the different sounds they make. In math both K and 1 are reviewing a variety of math concepts.

We had a visitor this week! We learned about wolf tales from the people at the International Wolf Center. We talked about the fiction of various wolf tales. We also talked about the facts we know about wolves. It was a very interesting presentation!

Have a great weekend!

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From Ms. Holly Sandefer

2/5 Teacher

The 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students completed MCA testing this week. I congratulate each student as they worked hard to get through the tests! They did their best!

We explored with magnets in science! We made some great discoveries!

Our character builder focused on effort. We discussed putting forth our best effort, even when faced with challenging tasks.

We enjoyed a presentation from the International Wolf Center! We learned a lot about wolves and enjoyed the videos during the presentation!

All my best!

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From Ms. Sara Silence

Reading and Math Teacher (Sled Dogs)

With MCA testing, I have spent two of my days subbing in K/1 and Ms. Sandefer has had the Sled Dogs. We have continued our work memorizing our doubles facts through twenty five as well as build our number skills with measurements and graphing.

In reading we have looked at two Reader's Theater scripts. Reader's Theatres are books that are written into a script for children to read and possibly act out. It has been a great way for the Sled Dogs to practice fluency reading familiar passages as well as work on reading with expression and the feelings of characters.

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From Ms. Sara Silence  
Community Education Coordinator  
218-663-0170 ext. 26

It has been wonderful having some time to put towards planning out the summer. I have only heard back from a few families regarding summer plans. I know that it is still early, but remember to let us know your plans as soon as possible. We do limit the number of children in each program.

If you are looking at possible assistance for child care this summer, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) may be able to help. I recently spoke to Dawn Erickson in Lake County. There are funds to help qualifying families with child care related expenses year round. Children qualify until age 12. CCAP funds can be used at both of our programs in the summer. I will have applications early next week to send home. Please send a note to me if you are interested.

Cook County is currently out of CCAP funds, but people are encouraged to continue to apply so that they can get an idea of the needs in the county. I also have applications for Cook County.

This week I also confirmed that Birch Grove Community School will again be a host site for Learning Opportunities Through Stories (LOTS). We will host LOTS on Wednesday evenings beginning in late June. This time with stories, language skills, and FREE books is aimed for families with children in preschool, but I always have a selection of books for children of all ages.

As always, you can reach out to me any time.

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