



Birch Grove Community School Newsletter

May 19, 2017

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

Thursday, May 25 K-5 Testing Celebration Party!

Friday, May 26 and Monday, May 29 No School

Monday, May 30 Saplings Field Trip to the Duluth Zoo

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

Birch Grove K-5 and Saplings had a visit today from our neighbors, the Tofte Forest Service today. Red pines were planted in the back of the building, and a few special trees, yellow birch and butternut were planted in the front. All children got to try their hand at planting at least on tree each. Students will each come home with one tree each to plant at home. They are pros at doing this now and can show you how! Thank you so much to the 8 forest service rangers that showed and helped us how to help the earth and plant a tree! Pictures will be available on Facebook soon!

The Climb Theater was here last week on Friday and performed a presentation on aquatic invasive species. Ask your child the following questions:

What did you learn?

What can we do to keep our lakes healthy?

What do we need to clean off of our boats?

What else should we clean?

What should we drain out of our boats?

How long should we let our boats dry before going back in the water?

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!

There will be a Testing Celebration Party on Thursday, May 25. Students will have pizza and root beer floats for lunch. There will also be a magic show in the library and a movie with popcorn in the afternoon. If your child does not like pizza, please send a cold lunch on this day. Thank you!

Please return all of the 2/5th grade Math Boxes. We want to be able to use these next year as well!

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 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

Things are growing and changing in the Sapling classroom. This week the children are bringing home sunflower seedlings that we planted a couple weeks ago. I was very happy to see that everyone had at least one sprout pop up. After sprouting a bean seed in wet paper towels, we threw it in a cup with some dirt. The children are impressed by how much larger the bean plant is than their sunflowers. Hopefully, the sunflowers will catch up with and pass the bean plant eventually!

AND.... Yes, we have chrysalides! I'm happy to report that all five caterpillars formed a chrysalis and are resting peacefully in the butterfly enclosure awaiting the big moment!

And since we are on the living creature thread, the next couple weeks will be focused on animals. Our study will be organized by continents. This week we are learning about African animals, including hippos, lions, zebras, giraffes and gorillas. Next week we will turn our attention to Asia. To go along with the animals, we created a simple world map with the seven continents. The children are putting pictures of the animals on the appropriate continent. We also have a chart for dividing the animals into herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. There are so many interesting things to learn about each animal.

The focus letter this week was Z – yes, as in zebra! We continue to reinforce and review all the other concepts learned this year as well. The older children are also stretching up to writing the number 9. They are counting by 10's and backwards from 10. I can almost see those brains growing!!

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From Ms. Sara Lizakowski
K/1 Teacher

Life cycle was the topic this week for our plants. We discussed the different life cycle stages that we witnessed in our plant growth. We saw our plants as a seed, then we saw it germinate and sprout. We also discussed what is going to happen with our plants, the growth of a flower/fruit!

The students researched and gathered information about different habitats. Each student was assigned a group to study one habitat. They made sensory boxes of that habitat then wrote about the different features and animals that live there. Finally they presented their findings to the rest of the class. I think the students enjoyed looking at other groups habitats!

Birch Grove k-5 will be teaming up with the forest service this Friday to plant sapling trees! This will be a great community service project and it ties in well with our studies of plants! Go Birch Grove!

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From Ms. Holly Sandefer

2/5 Teacher

Thank you to Mrs. Silence for covering my class for part of the week last week. I was able to watch my brother graduate with his Doctorate, I was surprised by my oldest brother as he flew in to see us for a surprise visit, I was able to spend time with my family, and participate in my graduation as well!

Our Wolf Ridge trip will take place the last week of school, June 5-7. If you have not completed the blue papers in the Wolf Ridge packet, please do so by Monday, May 22, so I can provide a final number to Wolf Ridge.

In math we worked on money and time as well as learned the partial quotient method for long division.

We are learning about the human body in science and we studied the ears this week! We made an ear model, discussed frequencies, tone, and pitch, and explored with instruments! We also learned about the skin and body defenses!

Our character builder focused on perseverance. Showing perseverance when faced with new and challenging tasks will help build stamina and self-confidence.

All my best!

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

Sled Dogs finished up work on their fables this week. These stories helped them focus on points of view of characters, sequencing a story, and of course, weaving a moral into a story. We also approached this week a little different with spelling, since we had no "spelling words." We still spent the same amount of time on writing and phonics, but it changed up our routine. The kids of course thought it was a special treat. :)

In math we have finished up our goal of knowing doubles facts to 25. Students have been practicing math fact skills all year. Next week we will be looking at units of measure and will include a few trips around the school area and a few experiments. It is sure to be something they will be talking about.

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From Ms. Sara Silence  
Community Education Coordinator

The summer enrollments have been rolling in. Thank you! Now that advertising has gone fully out, it is important that our Bobcat families have first pick! I have also had some interest already from students outside the school. Keep up the good work! I know that parents telling parents about the things they love at Birch Grove is the main reason Diane and I are contacted.

Birch Buddies.....the last two days of Birch Buddies are May 26 and 29. If you haven't signed up and need to...

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