



Birch Grove Community School Newsletter

May 25, 2017

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

Friday, June 2 Tickets To Treasures Drawing

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

It has been, and will continue to be, really busy here until the end of the school year! Be sure to check the Dates To Remember above - the list is just as much for us as it is for you!

There is no school tomorrow, Friday, May 26 or on Monday, May 30. Please enjoy the Memorial weekend!

All library books should have been returned to our school library. Thank you for helping us to keep our library healthy...and thanks for looking under the bed! ☺

We had a special Testing Celebration lunch of pizza and root beer floats! Julie Bittinger, our volunteer librarian, invited her husband (I would include his name, but I don't know it at this time - sorry!) to the library to perform a magic show for students after lunch. A great movie with popcorn ended our special day!

All math boxes should have been returned to school. We are still missing many boxes. ☹️ These were purchased new this year and are intended to be used again next year. Please check at home for boxes and send to school as soon as possible. Thank you!

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!

Campsite Kids and Summer Saplings are filling up! If you need summer care, please turn in your registration so that there is sure to be a spot for your child(ren). Space is limited!

Have a great Memorial weekend!

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

218- 663-0170

birchgrove@boreal.org

www.birchgroveschool.com



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From Ms. Sheryl Martinson  
Saplings Teacher

The Saplings are all very excited about the upcoming trip to the Duluth Zoo, next Tuesday! I'm hoping for a nice sunny day! This week our focus was on Asian animals. We learned about elephants (and the differences between African and Asian elephants), camels, pandas and tigers. With pandas and tigers, we discussed endangered animals. The children thought about why some animals are endangered and what people can do to help the animals. It is going to be so much more meaningful to visit the zoo after we have talked about and studied these animals.

The children helped me change up the play area this week. We now have a camping play area. After I set up the tent, the children helped create a paper towel roll and tissue paper campfire. They also stocked the lake with fish for the magnet fishing pole! The children have made me some delicious s'mores in the new play area!

Our letter of the week was Y. Beside learning the letter Y, the older children have been writing some words and stretching their drawing skills. I often tell them that I am not good at drawing. But, just like them, I give it a try and it is fun to see what we can come up with!

I hope you are able to enjoy the holiday weekend with friends and family. Take some to talk with your children about the meaning of Memorial Day! I am grateful to those who have sacrificed so much for our country!

218-663-0170 ext. 21  
[sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.martinsonbgcs@gmail.com)

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From Ms. Sara Lizakowski  
K/1 Teacher

The K/1 class will be taking a field trip to the North American Bear Center in Ely, MN. Permission slips will be sent home with each child. Be sure to sign it and return it back to school! We spent some time learning about the bears that live at the center and we watched a live feed of part of the bear's habitat! We are getting excited!

We are closing out the year by learning about different strategies to add and subtract in math. In reading the Kindergartners are getting a preview of what the 1<sup>st</sup> grade reading books look like. The first graders are finishing reading the first grade reading books!

We had a blast planting trees last Friday! Everyone was working hard and engaged. Be sure to water the tree the children brought home if you planted it!

Be sure to keep checking backpacks for artwork and materials being sent home. We have started to clean up the classroom and the students have a lot of work hanging up in the classroom!

Have a great long weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 22  
[sara.lizakowskibgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.lizakowskibgcs@gmail.com)

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From Ms. Holly Sandefer  
2/5 Teacher

I cannot believe May is almost over! I wonder where the time has gone this school year!

Parents, thank you for completing the necessary information for your child(ren) to attend Wolf Ridge! I know the students are excited to go, as am I!

In math we worked on dividing decimals, the partial quotient, multi-digit multiplication, money, fractions, and multi-digit subtraction with borrowing, whew!

In science, we are learning about space and the students are completing research and creating projects with partners! I love to see their creative brains in action! I also love to hear the excitement in their voices when they make discoveries! We hope to present our findings tomorrow (Thursday).

We may tie die t-shirts next week. Please send a white or lightly colored shirt with your child(ren) by Wednesday, May 31.

Have a fabulous four day weekend!

218-663-0170 ext. 23  
[holly.sandeferbgs@gmail.com](mailto:holly.sandeferbgs@gmail.com)

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

This weeks news brief features stories authored by two of the Sled Dogs. After reading many fables, and learning about writing a story with a lesson, the Sled Dogs created their own.

In math we spent time learning about perimeter, area, and measurement. Students have enjoyed time choosing pages to work on their workbooks as well. They are very excited to take them home in just a few short weeks now!

#### The Sloth and the Cheetah by Carson

Once upon a time....A cheetiah was walking when the woods and saw his friend Sloth. Cheetah said to Sloth, "Hey let's race." Sloth said, "Okay, you are fast but I might win." The race started and the cheetah leaves to go find food. Then he runs the wrong way, and gets lost. The sloth wins the race at last.

Moral: Slow and steady wins the race.

#### The Cheetah and the Tiger by Dayne

"It's time for school," said Mom. "I'll be there." said Tiger. "I will not." said Cheetah. "Yes you will." "NO I won't" said Cheetah.  
"Suit yourself, but your brother will beat you."  
"No he won't. I can beat him in two minutes."  
"OK, I'll make a deal with you, beat your brother and he will miss school. If he beats you, you miss school."  
Later that day Tiger listens to his mom and gets ready for school while Cheetah is watching TV instead of getting ready to go.  
"The bus is here!" and Tiger gets on the bus first and Cheetah misses the bus.

Moral: Fast or slow, you should be ready to go.

218-663-0170 ext. 26  
[sara.silencebgcs@gmail.com](mailto:sara.silencebgcs@gmail.com)

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From Ms. Sara Silence  
Community Education Coordinator

I am happy to see that many of our students will be joining us for summer. I also have received a few registrations for new families. There are now brochures by the front office, the Grand Marais Library, local post offices and a few other locations. I am sending home one for each family to share with friends.

We will be having Birch Buddies this Friday and Monday from 7:30-5. If you suddenly need care, please call ahead. Our plans include a couple walking field trips and cooking, so we may not be here if you just drop in.

218-663-0170 ext. 26

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

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