

## Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

May 2, 2024

### Dates to Remember:

Friday, May 3 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop Day

Monday, May 6 ~ Climb Theater show for K-5

Tuesday, May 7 ~ MAP testing for K-2 Reading

Wednesday, May 8 ~ MAP testing for 3-5 Reading

Thursday, May 9 ~ MAP testing for K-2 Math

Friday, May 10 ~ MAP testing for 3-5 Math

Wednesday, May 15 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip 2-5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, May 16 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip for 2-5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, May 16 ~ 911 for Kids! - Saplings & K/1

Friday, May 17 ~ Wolf Ridge Trip 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, May 18 ~ Gala for the Grove!

Tuesday, May 21 ~ School Board Meeting at 4:00

Tuesday-Thursday, May 21-23 ~ North House Folk School for 4/5

Friday, May 24 ~ Let's Plant Trees!

Monday, May 27 ~ No School - Staff PD/Workshop Day

Tuesday, May 28 ~ Magic Show/Anti-Bullying

Friday, May 31 ~ Last Day of School - End of Year Celebration at 10:00 with Early Release/Parent Pick Up at 12:00

### Mission Statement:

*Birch Grove Community School will promote academic excellence utilizing our unique natural setting to prepare students to become socially and environmentally responsible, self-directed, life-long learners.*

### **From Ms. Diane Blanchette:**

*School Director, Birch Grove Community School*

*Lead Coordinator, Birch Grove Community Service*

Whew! It is that crazy time of year where things go really fast. We still have K-5 MAP testing to do yet, we have a few shows and special guests coming to Birch Grove, we have trees to plant and trips to take, as well as a year end celebration to go - all before the end of May!

K-5 MAP testing is scheduled for next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:

- Tuesday – Reading for K-2
- Wednesday – Reading for 3-5
- Thursday – Math for K-2
- Friday – Math for 3-5

We ask that all K-5 families see to it that students get extra sleep the night before the testing – it helps if they are well rested. Breakfast will be served to all students that are testing that day. We look forward to our students having the opportunity to show off their “big brains”! Please reinforce at home that students should take their time and do their best work on these tests – thank you!

Please remember that there is no school tomorrow, Friday, May 3. We look forward to the return of students and Saplings on Monday!

Birch Grove Community School received an \$800 Wise/Lions Grant to purchase Finch Robots! These robots are programmable and will bring computer science to life and into all of the BGCS classrooms. K-5 will use this hands-on technology to learn and implement coding, work as teams, and have fun doing it! The robots can be adjusted to fit the needs of various ages from Kindergarten to 5th grade! Many thanks to the Wise/Lions Club! We can't wait to use them!



Birch Buddies ~ HIKE! after school program  
spring hike #2 was Poplar River!  
Exploring the North Shore!

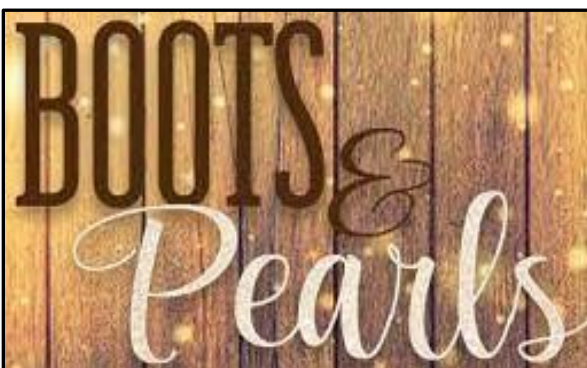
<https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Birch-Buddies>



Wood-fired Oven Day today! 2/3 made pizza sauce and pizza dough this week that the whole school used to make personal pizzas in the wood-fired oven! It was a little chilly and drizzled a bit towards the end of this awesome activity, but all had fun!







Saturday, May 18! Ticket/meal choice forms are available: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove>  
This spirited fundraiser for Birch Grove Community School, is semi-formal and held in the beautiful Lakeside Ballroom at Surfside in Tofta. The theme this year is "Boots & Pearls!" - think fancy Western! Enjoy champagne, appetizers, a fine dinner with wine, and an enthusiastic live auction. Join other supporter for a great night out in support of BGCS!

## Sponsorship so far for the 2024 Gala for the Grove:

### \$1,000

Grand Marais State Bank-Tofte  
Lisa Hemp  
Tofte Holiday Station Store

### \$500

Gregory & Jane Eide  
John & Shirley Heinzen  
John & Nancy Koloski  
LaBoda Grading Inc.  
North Shore Federal Credit Union  
Anonymous



### \$250

Arrowhead Cooperative  
Duclos Construction, LLC  
Krevechenko Services, LLC  
Mark Buckman and Sisa Nikula  
Roger & Jeanne Kegler

Thank you so much! More sponsors are needed for the event, so if you know of a business or couples/individuals that may like to sponsor this fundraiser, please call 218-663-01760 or see more information at: <https://www.birchgroveschool.com/Gala-for-the-Grove> Sponsorships come with tickets that you can use or give away to employees, friends or family!

Please have your child read (or be read to) a minimum of 20-30 minutes per day/night. If there is one thing that you can do at home that has a huge positive impact on your child's academic growth, this is it! Happy reading!



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

[birchgrove@boreal.org](mailto:birchgrove@boreal.org) ~ 218-663-0170

Website: [www.birchgroveschool.com](http://www.birchgroveschool.com)

School Spirit Store Link: <https://birchgrove.logosoftwear.com/> You can use GRAB15 for 15% off and free shipping for orders over \$125

Face Book: [Birch Grove Community School and Community Services #4145 | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Birch-Grove-Community-School-and-Community-Services-4145/)





**From Ms. Rista Sharma-Connor**

*Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service*

It has been a short but sweet week. Rain or shine, we have been exploring nature and our surroundings embracing every little sign of spring. We were even able to have a bonfire in this wet weather, thanks to all the birchbark that Saplings collected as a team.

Saplings practiced sounding the tricky letter "Q" this week. They worked together to build a class Quilt made out of paper. It turned out adorable!

The Saplings enjoyed the last day of lantern lunch on Wednesday and are excited to have a "picnic" style lunch every Wednesday moving forward until the end of the school year.

Social emotional learning is on- going everyday and it is great to see the Saplings showing those life skills throughout their routines. We have really made great progress!

Have a lovely weekend!

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**From Ms. Sara Knottski**

*K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

The Kindergarteners and 1st graders are doing their MAP testing next week on Tuesday and Thursday. Make sure that they get plenty of sleep next week and remind them to take their time and try their best! I am excited to share the results with you at the end of the school year. It is always fun to see growth from the beginning of the school year to the end!

This week, K/1 reviewed all grade-level topics in math. They all did a great job remembering old topics! We played lots of games to review. In language arts, we are continuing to practice reading, writing, and spelling! It is time to focus on perfecting grade-level skills!

Another pizza party was had today. This time the whole school joined in to make their own personal-sized pizza! We will be doing more ticket drops for tickets to treasure over the next few weeks. Make sure to log all reading and math facts practice so your student can receive tickets!

Have a great weekend!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

*2nd & 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher*

This week's theme was pizza making! It was an amazing way to have the week after testing and before another round of testing. It felt exciting and new. Each student had their own favorite part (though they may never share it.)

In math, we continued to work on new information in each grade but focused on reviewing as well. I have wanted to keep the excitement about learning happening while still strengthening the concepts that we may need to work on still. Third grade worked on adding and subtracting large numbers as well as multiplying 2 digit numbers with 1 digit numbers. It was a great way to refresh multiplication facts without feeling repetitive. Second grade continued with their multiplication strategies as well as addition and subtraction with larger numbers. This was fun and helped students develop their own personal learning strategy with mathematical concepts.

In language arts, we focused on Benjamin Franklin this week with multiple different articles. We compared and contrasted those texts. Vocabulary has become a favorite of the students so we worked on developing complete and complex sentences with these words. We also used context clues to build understanding as they identify vocabulary words in a text.

We spent the week reading recipes, reading pizza articles, doing pizza math, and making tomato sauce. We also made the dough for our woodfired pizza event today. It was a great way to utilize our resources as well as teaching a new skill. It was so much fun. We will utilize these skills later this month when we make woodfired cookies!



Reminder- Wolf Ridge is coming up so please be on the lookout for information and paperwork coming home!

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**From Ms. Laurie Roberts**

*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher*

Although the year is winding down, we still have more work to do in grades 4 and 5. We are calling May the “Month of Work, Sprinkled With Fun Stuff.” We are continuing our routines of reading and math rotations, along with writing, science and social studies.

In math and science, we are focusing heavily on measurement. We are using both the customary and metric systems. We are also going through a lot of math vocabulary that we have used throughout the year, and making sure we remember what all of the words mean.

In reading we are reading one story a day and answering comprehension questions. In writing, we are writing a podcast, with a focus on opinion writing.

As for some of the fun sprinkles in May, we will be going to Wolf Ridge, the North House Folk School, and there will be some fun presenters coming to BGCS. Watch the newsletter for more information in the next couple of weeks.

Have a nice long weekend!

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