



Birch Grove Community School & Community Service Weekly Newsletter

October 16, 2024

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, October 17 & Friday, October 18 ~ MEA - No School

Friday, October 25 ~ VOA, School Authorizer, Fall Site Visit

Sunday, October 27 ~ Annual Halloween Carnival 2:00-4:00

Thursday, October 31 ~ Trick or Treating at the Tofte Forest Service 1:00

Friday, November 1 ~ Staff PD - No School

Monday, November 4 ~ Staff PD - No School

Tuesday November 5 - Friday, November 8 ~ K-5 Conferences

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

Short week, short newsletter!

There is no school tomorrow or Friday for MEA! We hope that staff and student alike enjoy some time off from school. We will look forward to seeing everyone back to school on Monday, October 21!

Please start to send jackets to school next week. We spend time outside everyday and it is getting colder.

We started Lantern Lunch today! Ask your K-5 student how it was! Lantern Lunch will continue on Wednesdays through the winter.





Birch Buddies ~HIKE!
Temperance River hike was damp
with high spirits!



Last Fall Hike:
October 21 School to Tofte Peak - 6:00 Pick Up

We have 4 of 26 volunteer spots filled!

The Annual BG PTO Halloween Carnival – VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED! Please consider volunteering for the carnival that is on Sunday, October 27 from 2:00-4:00. Lots of volunteers are needed to pull this annual event off. For those BGCS families that are planning on attending and enjoying the carnival with their child(ren), perhaps consider bringing two adults to the carnival so that one can enjoy the carnival with your child(ren) while the other volunteers to work, then change places halfway through the carnival! It's a win-win for everyone! Also, be sure to let grandparents, neighbors and friends know. The volunteer activities are easy to do, and consider the joy you will be bringing to many children! Please go to this link to sign up to volunteer! Volunteers must be 16+ <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C45AAA92AA2FF2-52035793-bgcs>



Please have your child read (or be read to) 20-30 minutes per day/night (or more!). 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 ~ 218-663-0170

Website: 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](#)



THE ANNUAL BIRCH GROVE HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

2:00 - 4:00

AT BIRCH GROVE IN TOFTE



- ~ FUN FOR ALL AGES!
- ~ KIDS GAMES!
- ~ WIN PRIZES!
- ~ CAKE WALK!
- ~ COOKIE DECORATING!
- ~ FABULOUS FOODS!
- ~ BINGO! WITH CASH PRIZES FROM
GRAND MARAIS STATE BANK~TOFTE



**WEAR A COSTUME (OR NOT) AND
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



**IT WILL BE A SPOOKTACULAR TIME!
RAIN, SHINE, OR SNOWFLAKE!**



**CARNIVAL TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH - CASH OR CHECK ONLY.
MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES CAN BE ENJOYED FROM ONE TICKET.**



**STACY'S NORTH SHORE TREATS:
CASH, CHECK, CREDIT CARD, VENMO OR PAYPAL ONLY.
CARNIVAL TICKETS NOT APPLICABLE.**

From Ms. Emily VanDoren

Seedlings Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

The Seedlings continued our pumpkin theme from last week and we continued to play our pumpkin themed games. We also listened to some fun pumpkin songs that included action movements to help develop our gross motor skills and language development.

In addition to our walks along the bike path, we also spent time each day getting energy out on the tennis court by kicking, throwing, bouncing, and chasing after kickballs. We have also been playing games such as "Red Light, Green Light", "Simon Says", and have been singing songs to get our bodies moving.



With the cooler weather, we have been sure to bundle up when we spend time outside. If you would like, you are welcome to leave a set of hats, mittens, etc., at school to use for your Seedling. Have a wonderful MEA weekend and I look forward to seeing you all after the break!

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From Ms. Pam Holm

Sapling Teacher, Birch Grove Community Service

On Monday the Saplings observed Christopher Columbus' discovery of America and concurrently recognized Indigenous People's Day. We continued to hone our cutting skills by crafting replicas of the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria and simulating their cross Atlantic journey. Additionally, we constructed a hut modeled after those of the Taino Natives, whom Christopher Columbus encountered upon landing in the Bahamas. We identified the locations of our homes within the United States on both the globe and world map.

This week's music activities involved creating percussion music with Lummi sticks, a musical instrument named after the Lummi Native American peoples. The sticks' songs target gross and fine motor skills, as well as bilateral coordination, an important skill that will help children develop skills such as tying shoes, getting dressed, playing toss and even riding a bike.



The remainder of the week, our **Monster Mash** theme dominated, featuring explorations of the color purple, monster slime creation, and Monster eye counting. I integrated the two themes through a reading of Maurice Sendak's *Where The Wild Things Are*, Max's sailing journey to the land of wild creatures. This story offers numerous lessons. I focused on the significance of home and the idea that sometimes, no place compares. We explored the elements that make our homes special. We reflected on how the wild things may have terrible roars and teeth and claws, but still embraced Max as one of their own into their tribe.

The Saplings then drew geometric shape-inspired sketches of their own wild thing concepts. I had them replicate visual textures that we observed on the creatures, creating impressive *Wild Things* results.

Enjoy your long traditional MEA weekend!

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From Ms. Sara Knottski
K & 1st Grade Elementary Teacher

This week was short but sweet. We started a science unit about weather and seasons. We discussed what good weather detectives look for when observing the weather. We drew observations showing what the sky looks like, what types of clothes one should wear, and what the wind is doing based on how much the flag is flying. We will continue to learn about the weather and seasons over the next few weeks.

The first graders learned about parts of a story. We discussed and made a concept map of the characters, setting, and plot. In math, we are learning about how to add by counting on. We can count on from a big digit number now. The students were successful in adding $87+7$! Representing subtraction was introduced this week.

The Kindergarteners learned about the letter H. We talked about how it is the puppy dog sound because it is the sound a dog makes when it pants! In math, we are practicing addition and subtraction. We are learning about how adding is more and subtracting is less. The students also learned about and practiced writing numbers 6-10.

Have a fantastic long weekend and remember to read!

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**From Ms. Samantha Forster**

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

It has been a wonderful short week! We did a normal week and packed as much learning in as we could. Our focus in social studies was rights, responsibilities, goals, and choices. We practiced learning about tradeoffs through graphic organizers and group discussion. Students talked about how every decision has a trade off or consequences. They also talked about how every goal has multiple alternative routes and how to choose which is best for your lifestyle. In art, we are still learning about the European continent so we did an art project inspired by Picasso.

Reading has started to become a fun and interactive activity. We spend lots of time talking and writing about literature. Comprehension is our goal so I spend time each day asking questions and mapping out stories. This week we focused on the cause and effect skill and the story structure while reading our anchor text. My goal is to have students all be able to monitor their own comprehension so we stop after each page to dive into these skills. We learned about the prefix mis- and created words with that prefix. Also in word study, we learned about what makes words singular or plural and the correct way to adjust words when putting a different ending on. I can't believe the growth that each individual has had already this school year.

In math, we are done with unit 1 this week in both grades. Second graders have spent the last month refining their knowledge and practicing with word problems so that they can take those skills into the next unit with bigger numbers. Third graders practiced their fluency with multiplication and division facts so that they were feeling confident to apply them in multiple ways. I love how hard everybody has been working to become proficient in their skills.

It has been cold at school. Please send your child with hat, mittens, sweatshirt, and coat to school each day. It is better to have these items if needed than not at all. Reach out if you are in need of anything and we are more than happy to help!

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From Ms. Stacy Coronis

4th & 5th Grade Elementary Teacher

This week in reading we took advantage of a short week and practiced our fluency by performing the play "The Three Little Elephants". All students chose a character to play, read their lines in the script, practiced expression and used their strong performance voice. The class really wants to perform for the other classes so we will see if we can fit that in our schedule! In math the 5th graders learned how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions using pictures at first and then they learned how to do this without the pictures. It is a tough skill! 4th graders are adding up large numbers, rounding to the largest place value and then using the estimate to check their answers.

In Social Studies we are using flashcards to sort and learn about the landforms and bodies of water on our planet. Ask your child to tell you what the following items are; butte, swamp, canyon, delta

and many more! We are almost ready to use our mapping skills to start our Pirate Island project. The kids are excited for this project and have been brainstorming themes for their island.

Now that the weather has turned more chilly, please send your child to school with clothes warm enough for outdoor play. We do have items in the front hall of the school if your family is in need of jackets, snow pants, hats, mittens and boots.

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