



# Birch Grove Elementary School for the Arts



PARENT NEWSLETTER  
MAY 14, 2008

4690 Brookdale Drive  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
763-561-1374  
Fax 763-549-2300  
district279.org/elem/bg/

Dear Parents and Legal Guardians:

### MCA-II testing:

April is a very busy month for staff and students at BG. The students in grades 3-6 took the MCA-II assessment on April 16, 17, 21, 22. This is the State of Minnesota's way of taking a "snapshot" of the knowledge and skills students in grades 3-6 are developing in math and reading.

Through these four days of testing, students are refreshed between testing sessions with arts experiences. Guest artists work with students to energize their thinking and help each student do his or her very best in school and on the tests.

Also during MCA-II testing, students in grades 3-6 are served a balanced breakfast at school at no cost.

A special thank-you for your help. Thank you for sending your children to school ready to show their best work everyday. A good night's sleep and getting to school on time are helpful in the learning process. They provide a good start to a great day of learning.

### Staffing news

Due to the district's budget reduction program, there will be many staffing changes next year at Birch Grove as with all schools in the Osseo district. We will say good-bye to some, welcome to some and welcome back others.

### JiJi Math

In my many conversations with students, JiJi is often one of students' favorite things to do here at BG. The current rotation of JiJi and recess this year for grades 2-5 will continue

(MCA-II test result, and a grade of A or B in grade level math). These are criteria set by parents and teachers at the all the recess meetings.

As always, thank you for your partnership. The educational journey takes everyone to make it work. Together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

MaLie



**NEW START/END TIMES FOR BIRCH GROVE 2008-2009 SCHOOL DAY:**

**Start** time of 9:30 am.

**End** of the day will be 4:00 pm.





**ExCEL and Enrichment  
Grace Ellefson**

**Testing Information**

Birch Grove students nominated for the 2008-09 TAG programs have been assessed and the results will soon be mailed to students' homes. Parents of assessed students in grades 1-5 are encouraged to attend one of the informational sessions listed in the letter accompanying the results. **(This is a change from the last newsletter.)**

**Enrichment Opportunities: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Egg Drops**

All fourth graders will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Egg Drop on **May 15 at 9:45 AM.** Participants will design a capsule that will protect two raw eggs from breaking when dropped from the roof of the school onto a hard surface. Entrants will receive a certificate of participation. Buttons will be given if both eggs survive. More information, including the rules, will come from Mrs. Ellefson soon.



**CML**



Congratulations to Alex Hinojosa, 5<sup>th</sup> grade for a top cumulative score of 6! Three 6<sup>th</sup> grade students received a top score of 5 out of 6: Daniel Sivanich, Caleb Trough, and Zachary Wiome.



**ExCEL News: Seminar # 3**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Grade 2:</b> Learning How to Learn Skills           | Experimenting with Physics              |
| <b>Grade 3:</b> Written/Oral/Visual Communication      | Storytelling                            |
| <b>Grade 4:</b> Written/Visual Communication; Research | Authors In Jeopardy                     |
| <b>Grade 5:</b> Learning How to Learn Skills           | In One Day                              |
| <b>Grade 6:</b> Cognitive Development                  | Forensics:<br>Crime Scene Investigation |

The TAG department sends a big "thank you" to Patti Guenther for donating 20 mirrors for our Crime Scene Investigation unit!

**For more information about District 279 TAG Program Services, please access our web site:  
<http://www.district279.org/services/TalentedGifted>**



**6th Grade Recognition Breakfast  
June 5th, 9:15-10:15  
All 6th Grade Parents Welcome**



If you have not already done so, please send in a baby picture of your 6th grade student by the end of the week. Please be sure to label the picture with your child's name and teacher (these will be returned on June 5th). Please plan to attend this special last day event for your 6th grader. Breakfast, awards, and slideshow.

**Be Four School Program**

Osseo School District is now accepting applications for the **Be Four** school readiness program 2008-2009 school year. **Be Four** is a preschool program designed to help your child get ready for kindergarten. Parents are required to take part in activities such as open house, conferences, evening events and take-home projects.

Children who are four years old as of September 2, 2008 will be given priority for acceptance into the program. A \$200 deposit is required when applying to hold a spot for the bus. Tuition fees will be based on family income and size. For further information check out the website at [www.district279.org/ecfe](http://www.district279.org/ecfe) or call (763)391-8764.





# COUNSELOR'S CORNER MAY 2008

On Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mediators and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Patrols will once again be going to Valley Fair because of their dedication and hard work all year. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our PTO for providing the funding for this appreciation activity. PTO also provided the funding for the past 2 after-school Activity nights to recognize all students who volunteer at Birch Grove in Mediation and Patrol. Thank you, as well, to Mrs. Gangestad for being the Patrol advisor and to Mrs. Johnson for assisting each month with the Mediation calendars. We couldn't do without their support.

Our six 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student Ambassadors are continuing to provide great tours for parents and their children as they consider our Magnet school of Excellence for their educational choice. In addition to giving tours, they have just completed 2 series of special announcements on the BG TV in conjunction with the MCA tests. (Thinker Math Contest and Tentare') They did an awesome job and are now looking forward to being the Master of Ceremonies at the Spring Troupe Review on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Best wishes and Congratulations to our graduating 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mediators, Patrols and Student Ambassadors! We know you will continue to be of service to your schools in the future and we will miss you. We are very proud of you. Remember to be Peacemakers in your families and with your friends - you know how to do that so well.

I have decided to return to counseling full-time next year so that means I will be here part-time. I will be going to several other elementary schools as their part-time counselor, as well. I am very grateful for the opportunity I have had to work with students, staff and parents in a full-time position here in many different capacities over the past 6 years.

I hope you have a great, safe summer and I look forward to seeing many of you back again next fall.

Mrs. "D"  
Counselor

### MOVING THIS SPRING OR SUMMER?



Planning for fall has begun. Please let the office know if you will be moving either within or out of the district. Thank you!

### Students are expected to dress appropriately for school at all times.



- \* Shirts need to cover the entire midsection area at all times
- \* Shirts need to have a strap at least 1.5" wide
- \* Pants/shorts need to be worn so that underwear/boxers cannot be seen.
- \* Shorts/skirts need to be long enough to reach the end of the fingertips when standing.

Students who are not meeting the expectations will call home and make adjustments to their clothes prior to returning to their classroom. If a student needs to be asked by more than one staff member or the same staff member twice in one day, the student may receive a behavior slip for insubordination.



### PHRASES OF PRAISES FOR STUDENTS:



How Extraordinary!

Way to Go!

How Thoughtful of You!

You Make Me Smile!

Nice Going! Magnificent!

Thumbs up! You're Amazing!



Use them often



### Lunch menu information:

Brunch for Lunch Menu on the 19 is French Toast Sticks, Hash Brown Stick, and Turkey Sausage. For the School Planned Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> the Menu is BBQ Pulled Pork sandwiches with a hot vegetable, and veggies sticks. Brunch for Lunch on the 30<sup>th</sup> is Waffles, Hash Brown Stick, and Turkey Sausage. We are switching lunches on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> the 22<sup>nd</sup> will be California Burger and the 24<sup>th</sup> will be Sloppy Joe.



### LUNCH ACCOUNTS

The end of the school year is getting closer and now is a good time to remind everyone to keep up to date on their child's breakfast/lunch money. Please be sure your child has enough money in their account each day for the meals they will be eating. Any money left over at the end of the school year will carry over to the next year, as well any negative balance. Sixth graders going to junior high in the district will automatically have their balances transferred to their school.

When sending cash or checks to school, please remember to put the student's FULL name and key-pad number on the check or envelope. **ALL NEGATIVE BALANCES MUST BE PAID BY MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>.** Negative balance notes are sent home every Wednesday, so please check with your child to see if they have received any.

### PTO Ice Cream Social and Troupe Spring Review

On Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> the **BG Arts Troupes** in grades 3-6 will perform their "Spring Review" in combination with the PTO ice cream social. The students included in the performance are the dance, show choir, drama, visual arts, media arts and ambassador troupes. The evening's activities will be:

- 5:00-6:00- PTO Ice Cream Social
- 6:00-7:00- PTO meeting in the media center
- 7:00-8:00- Performances by grades 3-6 troupes



## MAY 2008 Calendar of Events

### May

15	Grade 4 Egg Drop	9:45 am
15	4th Grade music and Dance Program	7:00 pm
20	Ice Cream Social	5:00 pm
20	PTO Business Meeting	6:00 pm
20	Spring Troupes Performance	7:00 pm
21	Mediators and Patrols to Valley Fair	
22	Kindergarten Field Trip to Como Zoo	
26	NO SCHOOL ~ Memorial Day	
28	3rd Grade Bowl and Picnic with Pen Pals	9:15 am
29	5th Grade DRUM performance at Ordway and Picnic	10:30 am



### June

3	4th Grade to Central Park	9:40 am
4	BG C.A.R.E.S Assembly Grades K-3	9:10 am
	Grades 4-6	9:40 am
5	6th Grade Breakfast	9:15 am
5	<b>Last Day of School for students...12:55 dismissal</b>	



**HA VE A FANTASTIC SUMMER!**