



# Cottonwood Newsletter

April 2022



## Schedule of Events and Field Trips

**4/4 - Swim PE at the Ridge**

**Pick up there at 3:15**

**4/8 - Early Release at 12:15**

Anderson School Play "Matilda" at the Crawford Theatre stage at the Emerson Cultural Center.

**Drop off there at 9:00 pick up at 12:15**

**World Drumming on Mondays 1:00-2:00 with Chet Leach** 4/11, 4/18, and 4/25

**4/11-4/14 - Optional Parent/Teacher Conferences**  
Please sign up

**4/26-4/28 - Testing** 1st-4th grade / **No K classes**

**Save the date!**  
**Spring Variety Show** will be held **on 5/18 at 5:30** here at school outdoors if the weather allows otherwise inside. Potluck will follow.

## Optional Parent/Teacher Conference

Optional parent/teacher conferences will be held April 11th-14th in the afternoons. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Parent Board right inside front door. Please arrive promptly so we can remain on schedule! Upper El. will be a student-led conference with students showing you some of their favorite work. So please choose a time that works for your child to be at school with you. The kids can stay on the playground while waiting for their conference.

## Testing Week

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> will be testing in the mornings only. First and second grade will be tested in math and language arts by the pencil-and-paper Iowa Test of Basic Skills. 3rd-4th grade will be tested in math and English language arts by the Smarter Balanced Assessment System on an online platform. Please arrive on time at school, make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Talk to your children about test taking strategies, a positive mindset and ways of coping with test anxiety. Attendance during this week is a must. No school for Kindergarten Mon.-Wed.!

## World Drumming Classes

Chet Leach is an award winning children's educator who runs Rhythm Drums at the Emerson. "World Drumming" is a one-hour drumming FUNANZA each week. Children learn how to play drums from West Africa, Cuba and or Egypt through games like "Djembe Drum Talk", "Rhythm Tug of War", and "Rhythmic Simon Says". It also includes stories from the respective culture they are learning about. This program will have the students energized and joyful from drumming.

## Out of District Registration for next year

If you are planning to return next year please download application from our website [cottonwoodelementarymt.com](http://cottonwoodelementarymt.com) and hand it to the teachers by the beginning of May.

## Updates From Our Classrooms

In lower elementary in math we will discover all sorts of graphs by collecting data from our classmates and start on dynamic multiplication with the materials an abstract. Kindergarten will be exploring measurements, abstract subtraction, and skip counting with the materials. We will study the circle, construction triangle boxes, and coordinates with the geoboards.

In language we will learn to write all kinds of poems like couplets triplets, quatrains, and cinquians. We will be introduced to homonyms and homophones from the word study materials in second grade and with the puzzles in first grade. Kindergarten will practice ending blends and learning about past tense and question mark. We will continue on Fairy Tales in writing workshop.

In Social Sciences we will be studying water forms and land forms in detail. K will continue on puzzle maps, explore flags, and look at types of clouds. In animal studies we will be learning about the nematode and annelid, parts of the bird and fish, food chains and lifecycles. In civic studies we are discussing needs and wants, and natural resources.

April will be another busy month for upper elementary as we prepare for both student-led parent-teacher conferences and state testing. In math, third graders are continuing to explore fractions. They will be looking at finding equivalent fractions as well as comparing them using symbols. Fourth graders are also learning about fractions by adding and subtracting mixed numbers and multiplying fractions.

In reading, students will have more choice over material to read and activities to complete through an online text. Third graders are looking at cause and effect relationships as well as a variety of story elements. Fourth graders will be analyzing characters and their actions by making inferences and conclusions with textual evidence. Both grades will be reviewing vocabulary words they have learned throughout the year. In writing, students are putting together their country research to create an informational brochure.

In science, we will be completing our Foss kit water experiments. Students will be doing a writing piece about everything they learned in this unit as well as conducting their own experiments. In social studies, we are looking at advancements in technology and then starting our history and culture unit.