



Cottonwood Newsletter

April 2023



Schedule of Events and Field Trips

World Drumming Classes on Mondays 1:00-2:00 with **Chet Leach** 4/3, 4/10, 4/17 and 4/24

STEM Classes 4/6, 4/10, 4/17 with MSU students

4/7 - Early Release

Visit to the Computer Museum (9:30-11:00)

Drop off at the Museum of the Rockies playground at 9:00 and pick up there at 12:00. Pack a snack!

4/13 Anderson School Play

10:00-12:00 "Seussical" at the Emerson Cultural Center.

Drop off there at 9:00!

4/10-4/13 - Optional Parent/Teacher Conferences

4/21- Indian Ed. Class with Mrs. Quiegly 1:00-3:00

4/24-4/27 - **Testing** 1st-5th grade / **No K classes**

Save the date!

Spring Variety Show will be held on **Thursday, 5/18 at 5:00** at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center. It will last an hour or so.

Optional Parent/Teacher Conference

Optional parent/teacher conferences will be held after school hours. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Parent Board. 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 or library while waiting for their conference.

Testing Week

Grades 1st - 5th 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-5th 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 programs. "World Drumming" is an 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 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 continue on dynamic division with test tubes. Kindergarten will be exploring measurements, abstract subtraction on paper, 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, quatrains, cinquans, limericks, haiku, and acrostic. We will be introduced to homonyms from the word study materials in second grade and homophones with the puzzles in first grade. Kindergarten will study long e vowel sounds and learn about past tense and question mark. We will start writing our own Fractured 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. We will continue on Weather and Sky unit with seasons and shadows. In animal studies we will be learning about the nematode and annelid, parts of the reptile 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 prep for student-led parent-teacher conferences and state testing. In **math**, 3rd graders will be finishing liquid volume and moving on to categorizing shapes and classifying quadrilaterals. 4th graders will be moving on to geometry focusing on points, lines, rays, and angles. 5th graders will be continuing to convert measurements through word problems and then will be looking at line plots and data.

In **reading**, students will have more choice over material to read and complete activities through an online text. 3rd graders are looking at cause-and-effect relationships as well as a variety of story elements. 4th graders will be analyzing characters and their actions by making inferences and conclusions with textual evidence. 5th graders will be looking at informational text features and themes in fiction texts. All grades will be reviewing vocabulary words they have learned throughout the year. In **writing**, students are completing final copies of their creative pet stories. After that, we will be starting poetry. **April reading logs will be coming home and must be returned by the end of the month.**

In **science**, we will be wrapping up our human body unit through the study of muscles and the look at the systems in the human body as a whole. In **social studies**, we will continue our studies on the US government.