

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2024

Cottonwood School



Upcoming Events

World Drumming Classes on Mondays 1:00-2:00 with Chet Leach 4/1, 4/15, 4/22, and 4/29

STEM Classes 4/4, 4/8 with MSU students

4/5 - **Early Release** Visit to the Museum of the Rockies Drop off at the Museum at 9:00 and pick up there at 11:45 Pack a snack!

4/12 - **Anderson School Play 3rd - 5th grade** "Oliver!" at the Emerson Cultural Center. Drop off there at 9:00!

4/8-4/11- Optional **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

4/12 - **Bookmobile**

4/22-4/25 - **Testing** 1st-5th grade / No K classes

Save the date! **Spring Variety Show** will be held on Thursday, 5/16 at 5:00 at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center. It will last an hour or so.

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.

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.!

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Classroom News



Lower Elementary

In math we will discover all sorts of graphs by collecting data from our classmates and continue on recording multiplication with checker board and subtraction with stamp game and bead frame. 1st grade will start on the division bead board to discover division. 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 / same and different 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 like lakes and mountains. K will continue on puzzle maps, explore flags, and look at types of clouds. We will be discussing cultures and legal systems in fundamnetal needs. We will continue on the Aquarium unit with behavior of fish/snail, their lifecycles, and water pollution. 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.

Upper Elementary

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 categorizing shapes, classifying quadrilaterals, and determining the area and perimeter of shapes. 4th graders will be moving on to geometry focusing on points, lines, rays, and angles. 5th graders will be looking at line plots and data as well as 2D and 3D shapes.

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 will be working on an opinion writing piece. **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 animal and plant populations unit. In **social studies**, we will start looking at economic concepts.

