

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025

Cottonwood School



Upcoming Events

4/3- **Stem Class** with MSU students / **Experts' Night** 5:00

Drumming Classes on Mondays
1:00-2:00 4/7, 4/14, 4/21

4/4 - **Early Release** Visit to the **Gallatin History Museum** Drop off at the Museum at 9:00 and **pick up at the Emerson at 11:45** Pack a snack!

4/7-4/11- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

4/10 - **Montana Shakes** at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center **drop off there at 9:00 and pick up at 2:45.**

4/11 - **Anderson School Play** "Peter Pan" at the Emerson Cultural Center. **Drop off there at 9:00!**

4/11, 4/25 - **Bookmobile**

Save the date! **Spring Program** 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

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.

Montana Shakes

The program features a 45-minute original, interactive play, "Faithful Friends"(and adaptation of The Two Gentlemen of Verona), written by Matt Foss. Post-show there will be a talkback with the actors, followed by various theatrical workshops making for a fun-filled day of engagement for students. We will be spending and sharing the day with Springhill, Malmborg and Pass Creek schools' students. Please pack a sack lunch.

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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 division with our materials and addition with the bead frame. 1st grade will start on multiplication with the golden beads and stamp game. Kindergarten will be exploring measurements, practice abstract subtraction and addition on paper, and learn about 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, cinquians, 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 a vowel sounds with the moveable alphabet and learn about past tense and question mark. We will start writing our own Fractured Tall 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 our science unit with use of rocks, types of rocks, and start soil studies. 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 start new units. In **math**, 3rd graders will be comparing fractions and then learning about line plots. They will also be learning about polygons, circles, and triangles. 4th graders will solve problems about time and money and then will move 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. They will look at types of sentences in grammar. 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. 4th and 5th grade will be analyzing sentences in grammar. We will be starting Poetry Madness this month. Students will read a variety of poems and learn about poetic devices. Later in the month they will begin writing their own poetry.

April reading logs will be coming home and must be returned by the end of the month.

In **science**, we will continue our Earth Movements unit. In **social studies**, we will start a world history unit.

