



# Cottonwood Newsletter

February 2023



## Valentine's Day Exchange

### Schedule of Events and Field Trips

**2/3–Spelling Bee 1:30**

Pick up at Courthouse at 2:45

**2/6 and 13–MOSS classes**

1:00–2:00

**2/9 – 100<sup>th</sup> day of school**

**Please bring** 100 pieces of a small dry items (Cheerios, raisins, etc.) counted out in a bag. We will combine it to create a tasty trail mix.

**2/13– Valentine's Day exchange at 2:45**

**2/14 Bridger Bowl Ski PE**

**9:10–3:15** Meet at Lone Mountain parking lot at 9:10 and pick up there 3:15 or meet at Saddle Peak Lodge at 9:45 **No School for K**

**2/16 – Montana Shakes!**

**9:00–1:45**

**2/20 – No School**

**2/27–Cross Country Ski PE**

at CrossCut, meet at **9:15**, pick up **3:00** at Lone Mnt. Gym parking lot **Pack a sack lunch, snack, and water bottle!** **No School for K**

We will exchange cards and have a treat on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:45. Please ensure that cards are addressed to all students in advance at home and ready to hand out. Let us know if you need a class list. Students will put their cards in the individual Valentine's bags, we made, in the morning.

We ask you to make cards that tell one thing your child appreciates or likes about the other students, example: I like when you're helpful... You are great at ... **No candy in cards please!** Everyone will choose 3 cards to read out loud during the exchange. Email us if you could provide treats.

## Spelling Bee (competitive for 4th/5th gr.)

"Bee" ready! The Spelling Bee will take place at the Gallatin County Courthouse (downtown), on the third floor, starting at 1:30. All parents are invited to come and watch the Bee. Please pick up your child at the Courthouse at 2:45. All students will be participating but only competitive for 4th and 5th grade. We are practicing at school and word lists varying by grade will be sent home to study. Please help your child memorize their words and remember it is supposed to be fun.

## Cross County Ski P.E. Trip for Grades 1-5

We will meet at 9:15 at the Lone Mountain Gym parking lot on Rouse Ave. or arrive at CrossCut by 9:45 if you are driving your own child. The morning lesson includes active and fun skill games on skis and a ski tour on the trail with the instructors. 1st and 2nd will eat around noon, and ski with chaperones in the afternoon. 3rd-4th will be in the Adventure in Winter Ecology Program. We will leave at 2:30. Please bring a *water bottle, a backpack with a separate snack, a sack lunch* and make sure your child is wearing layers and waterproof clothing we will be outside all day.

The Montana Shakespeare in the Parks team presents this year's MT Shakes! program, Hamlet Sandwich, and adaptation of Hamlet with audience participation. Students will be also participating in three 45 minutes workshops (performance, language, and science/drama) exploring the theme that "creativity is our superpower". The workshops will be taught by the actors after the play. We are so excited about this opportunity to have them at our school!

## Updates From Our Classrooms

In lower elementary in **language** we will be focusing on dictionary skills, alphabetical order, and writing constructed responses through the Journeys series in **reading groups**. We are working in parts of speech with verbs and interjection using the grammar boxes and the prepared grammar sentences. Kindergarten will get serious by exploring lot of new concepts like articles, singular and plural rule, capitalization, end punctuations, and long vowels. In Writing Workshops we will keep working on our personal narrative writing pieces, learning about sound effects and using interesting word to make our writing more detailed. In **math** there are all kinds of operation works going on from addition to division. We will finish algebra studies with equations and more number patterns and keep practicing multiplication tables. K will work on static addition with stamp game, start on number sense by comparing numbers and money concepts. 2nd is concentrating on more money concepts and start on static division with the materials. In **geometry** we will look at quadrilaterals, congruence, similarity and equivalence, area, and perimeter. K will continue with classifying triangles by angles and exploring curvilinear shapes. *Please do practice with your first grader addition and subtraction within 10 and multiplication facts 2s and 5s*, it makes such a difference when students have memorized them. *2nd should know all +/- facts and x2/5. K should know all addition and subtraction facts within 5*. In **science** we will continue on weather and sky observations. In botany and zoology, students will work on parts of the fruit, types of fruit, study of the reptiles, fish, and cnidarians. In **history and social studies** we will build the timeline of U.S. presidents, research our chosen presidents' biography and write reports. We will start on mapping skills and talk about the parts of the government. We are moving through the fundamental needs like communication and health. K will discover puzzle map of North America and 1st grade will continue with reports about animals, landmarks, and culture of South America. 2nd grade will be learning the states South region of the US.

There are a lot of events happening at Cottonwood in February and upper elementary students are excited to keep learning. In **math**, 3rd graders will be exploring equivalent fractions using the fractions circles as well as comparing fractions with different denominators. 4th graders will be learning fraction multiplication and then moving on to decimal place values. 5th graders will be looking at fraction division, using fraction multiplication to find area, and fraction word problems. In **ELA**, 3rd graders will be looking at the main idea and details of different texts as well as graphic and text features in non-fiction. They will be continuing verbs in grammar and focusing on helping verbs and subject-verb agreement. 4th graders will be learning story structure and drawing generalizations from a text. In grammar, they will be exploring quotation marks, different uses of commas, and other punctuation. 5th graders will focus on determining an author's purpose and distinguishing between fact and opinion. In grammar, they will be finishing their study of adverbs. Spelling tests will continue focusing on common prefixes, suffixes, and roots. In writing, everyone will be using the writing process to plan, draft, and edit an opinion/persuasive report about the best state to travel to. **February reading logs will be coming home and need to be returned by the end of the month**. In **science**, we will continue our human body study by learning about joints. In **social studies**, we will continue US history and look at the events that led to the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, and westward expansion.

**Thank you** to all the ski chaperones for their help with our ski P.E. We feel so lucky that we can go on ski trips as a school!