

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2025

## Cottonwood School

### Upcoming Events

**2/6 – Raptor Center** visits at 1:00 / **100th Day of School**

**2/7 and 2/21 Bookmobile**

**2/10 – Tour of the Alpaca Farm** on Cottonwood Rd. 1:00–2:30

**2/13- Valentine’s Day Exchange** at 2:45

**2/17– Presidents’ Day / No School**

**2/21 – 4th grade Bozeman Symphony** concert: “Adventures through Melody” 11:30–12:30 at the Wilson Auditorium

**2/3 and 2/24 Cross Country Ski PE** with the school’s skis, behind the school. Bring your own gear if you would like. 2:00–3:00.

### 100th Day of School

Please bring 100 pieces of a small dry items from your pantry (Cheerios, raisins, dry fruit, nuts, chocolate chip, m&ms, fruit snacks, goldfish etc.) counted out in a ziplock bag.

We will combine all the students’ items to create a tasty trail mix to share at the end of the day.

### Valentine’s Day Exchange

We will exchange cards and have a treat on Feb. 13th 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, throughout 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 ... (Parents can help k students to write) **No candy in cards please!**

Everyone will choose 3 cards to read out loud during the exchange. We will have some treats after the exchange.

Let us know in an email if you would like to provide treats.

## Classroom News



### 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 preposition 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, and punctuations. In Writing Workshops we are diving into personal narrative writing with organizers and mentor texts and learning to use interesting words 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 abstract static addition on paper, and start on number sense by comparing numbers and money concepts. 2nd is concentrating on more fraction concepts and start on division with the materials. In geometry we will look at 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 to 18 and x2/5. K needs to practice all addition and subtraction facts within 5. In science we will be sorting and screening rocks, doing research on rocks from our rock collection. 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 then research our chosen presidents' biography. We will start on mapping skills and talk about the parts of the government. We are moving through fundamental needs like communication and health. K will discover puzzle map of North America and 1st grade will finish study of South America. 2nd grade will be learning the South region of the US states.

### Upper Elementary

Upper elementary students are excited to keep moving forward in their learning this month. In **math**, 3rd graders will be exploring equivalent fractions and using symbols to compare fractions. 4th graders will be learning about line plots and fraction multiplication. 5th graders will be looking at line plots and conversion 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 also be learning about adverbs and conjunctions. 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. They will also be learning about adverbs and dictionaries. **Spelling** tests will continue focusing on common prefixes, suffixes, and roots. **February reading logs will be coming home and need to be returned by the end of the month.** In **science**, we will be doing botany and earth movements. In **social studies**, we will be looking at the US government.