



# Cottonwood Newsletter

January 2023

## Schedule of Events and Field Trips

**1/9 Ski Day @ Bridger**  
9:00-3:15 for grades 1-5  
Meet us at Lone Mountain Gym Parking on Rouse Ave. at 9 or at Saddle Peak Lodge at 9:40 Pick up at Lone Mtn. Gym at 3:15 **No School for K**

**1/12 and 1/23 MOSS**  
Montana Outdoor Science School classes about "Rocks and Fossils"  
1:00-2:00

**1/19 and 1/26 Indian Education for All class**  
with Mrs. Kim Quigley from Humanities Montana  
1:00-3:00

**1/27 - No School**

**1/30 - Ski day at Bridger**  
9:10-3:15 Meet at Lone Mtn. Gym parking lot at 9:10 or at Saddle Peak Lodge at 10:00, pick up at Lone Mtn. parking lot at 3:15. **No school for K**



## Bridger Ski P.E. Trips for Grades 1-5

Cottonwood School is providing the ski trips to students so it will be no cost to the families. All students will be participating in a lesson. If you are not driving your own child, please meet us at Lone Mountain Gym parking lot on Rouse Ave. (see permission slips for your child's driver) We will be in the cafeteria of the *Saddle Peak Lodge* at 9:40 a.m. for orientation *on the 1st day* then at 10:00 *on the other days*. At 10:15 a.m. students will gather outside at the colored flag that matches their ability description. Lessons will be taught by Bridger Bowl Snow Sports instructors and start at 10:30 a.m. and end at 12:00. Lunch is from 12:00-12:30. Please [pack a sack lunch](#) or [send money to purchase lunch](#). Students will be skiing with the chaperones from 12:45-2:30. We recommend that students dress in [layers](#), topped with [waterproof parka and pants](#). A [helmet](#), [goggles](#), [waterproof gloves](#) and [ski socks \(wool\)](#) are essential regardless of the weather. Please make sure your child's gear and lunch are packed in one bag including ski boots for easier transport. **Don't forget BB card!** There will be no school for kindergarten on ski days.

## MOSS Classes

### ROCKS AND FOSSILS

Unearth knowledge of how rocks are formed through rock cycle experiments. Experience the forces of weathering and erosion through hands-on investigations. Dig up facts on fossil creation and participate in a mini fossil dig!

- Rock Cycle Investigations
- Rocks vs. Minerals
- Erosion and Weathering
- Fossilization Simulation/Fossil Dig



## Updates From Our Classrooms

It is nice to get back to work after the long break. The students will be ready to start on new projects and lessons. We will be busy the next two months with ski trips and science classes. We will also be talking about the legacy of M.L.K. and other important figures of civil rights.

In Lower Elementary in math there are all different levels of individual work going on like multiplication with bead board, checker board, and flashcards, most of us will be exploring fractions with the materials, and 2nd grade will sharpen their skills on money concepts. Kindergarten will be using our golden beads to add and also diving into solving simple subtraction facts with the materials. We will be finishing up number sense and algebra work according to the state standards by more word problems work and number patterns.

In language, Kindergarten is getting introduced to the “farm” to learn parts of speech starting with the noun, *spelling tests (Fridays, please help your child study, words go home on Mondays)* and building words with silent-e sounds. We are continuing with works in grammar boxes and prepared grammar sentences. We will take a look at synonym puzzles in 1st, and synonym/quotation marks word study boxes in 2nd. We will be learning the direct object of a sentence. We will focus on writing a personal narrative.

In history we will continue on fundamental needs with defense and tools.

In geography and science we will take a look at the clouds, water cycle, our solar system, and start on a new science unit: Weather and Sky. 1st grade will study countries of South America and their flags and 2nd grade will be learning the Western states of the US.

In zoology and botany we are moving onto the parts of flowers, study of the bird, parts of the Porifera, and animal tracks.

*Please practice addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts at home too! It helps to solve problems with large numbers faster.*

In Upper Elementary students are excited to be back at school with their friends and start new learning opportunities. In **math**, 3rd graders will be learning strategies to solve multi-step word problems as well as reading graphs. 4th graders will be looking at fraction equivalency, comparing fractions, and adding/subtracting them. 5th graders will start multiplying decimals and dividing decimals. After that, they will be moving on to comparing decimals with fractions. In **ELA**, 3rd graders will be looking at character analysis across different genres of text. They will be focusing on verbs during grammar lessons. 4th graders will be looking at informational text features and main ideas. They will be learning about adjectives and then adverbs during grammar. 5th graders will be comparing and contrasting characters' actions in different texts. They will be finishing up pronouns and then moving on to adjectives in grammar. Spelling tests will continue with a focus on common prefixes, suffixes, and roots. We will be starting opinion writing by following the five-sentence paragraph structure. **January reading logs will be coming home (in Friday folders the first week back) for students to record books they read at home.** In **science**, we will be starting a new FOSS kit on the human body beginning with learning about bones and the skeletal system. In **social studies**, we will be starting US history. Students will learn about early European explorers in the Americas as well as the first immigrants and their experience with indigenous people.

*Thank you to all for helping with the Winter Program, and making it a great success!  
Could not do it with you!*