

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

Cottonwood School



Upcoming Events

1/8 Ski Day @ Bridger

9:00–3:15 for grades 1–5 Meet us at Lone Mountain Gym Parking lot on Rouse Ave. at 9:00 or at Saddle Peak Lodge at 9:45 Pick up at Lone Mtn. Gym at 3:15. **No School for K**

1/15 – Cross Country Ski Day @ Crosscut

Meet at 9:15 and pick up at 3:00 at the parking lot of Lone Mountain Gym or meet at 9:45 @ CrossCut / Sack lunch. Pickup at 3:00 from Lone Mt. **No school for K**

1/22 MOSS Montana Outdoor Science School classes about “Mountains and Streams” 1:00–2:00

1/25 Spelling Bee 1:30 3rd floor of at the downtown Gallatin County Courthouse **pick up there at 2:45** All are welcome!

1/26 – No School/ PIR day

1/29 – Ski day at Bridger 9:00–3:15 Meet at Lone Mtn. Gym parking lot at 9:00 or at Saddle Peak Lodge at 9:45, pick up back at Lone Mtn. parking lot at 3:15. **No school for K**

. **Bridger PE Ski Trips (1st–5th)**

All students will be participating in a ski lesson. We will meet at upstairs of the Saddle Peak Lodge at 9:45 a.m. for orientation and rentals. 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.

Cross County Ski P.E. Trip (1st–5th)

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–5th will be in the Adventure in Winter Ecology Program. We will leave at 2:30. Please pick up your child at the Lone Mountain Gym parking lot at 3:00. 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. See more info going home in Friday Folders. No school for K.

“Spelling Bee (competitive for 4th–5th gr.)

“Bee” ready! All parents are invited to come and watch the Bee. All students will be participating but it will only be competitive for 4th–5th grade. We are practicing at school and word lists varying by grade are sent home to study. Please help your child memorize their words and remember it is supposed to be fun and exciting.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

Cottonwood School

Classroom News



Lower Elementary

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 this month with ski trips and practicing for the spelling bee.

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 golden beads, recording with 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 introduced to our decimal system with the golden beads and also diving into subtraction facts with the colored beads. 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, and blends. We are continuing with works in grammar boxes (verb 1st grade) and more prepared grammar sentences to symbolize. We will take a look at synonym puzzles in 1st, and synonym/quotation marks word study boxes in 2nd. We will all be learning the direct object of a sentence. In writing we are starting on a personal narrative story.

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: "Observing an aquarium". 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.

Upper Elementary

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 looking at different types of graphs and then diving into fractions. 4th graders will be looking at fraction equivalency, comparing fractions, and adding/subtracting them. 5th graders will be dividing decimals and fractions. In **ELA**, 3rd graders will be looking at character analysis across different genres of text. They will be focusing on verbs and appositives during grammar lessons. 4th graders will be looking at informational text features and main ideas. They will be learning about verbs and then expanded use of punctuation. 5th graders will be comparing and contrasting characters' actions in different texts. They will analyze compound and complex sentences in grammar. Spelling tests will continue with a focus on common prefixes, suffixes, and roots. We will be starting an informative **writing** project using sea turtles as our topic. **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 plant and animal populations. Students will get to observe both plants and animals grow and keep track of their populations. Students will also be doing ecology lessons including food chains and webs. In **social studies**, we will be starting a government.