



Cottonwood Newsletter

March 2022



Schedule of Events and Field Trips

3/4 - End of Trimester / Report Cards issued

3/7, 3/21, and 4/4 - Swim P.E. Classes
2:00-3:15 at the Ridge
Pick up at the Ridge Athletic Club's front door (4181 Fallon St.) @ **3:15** Please be on time!

3/14-3/18 -Spring Break

4/8 - Early Release at 12:15 / Anderson School Play "Matilda" at the Crawford Theatre stage at the Emerson Cultural Center. Please **drop off** in front of the Emerson at **9:00** and **pick up at the Emerson** (111 S Grand Ave.) **by the side door at 12:15.** Pack a snack.

Save the date! SBCA tests and ITBS 4/25-28
No school for K

Swim PE at the Ridge

The structured swim programs for schools at the Ridge Athletic Club consist of swim lessons and recreational times. Students will be divided up into groups for a 30 minute lesson according to their age and ability level.

We will be changing into our swim suits here at school, but looking for a dad to come at 3:00 and help the boys change in the Ridge men's locker room. Let us know if you are available!

Please have your child bring a towel and a swim suit, (swim goggles are optional) for each of the three times 3/7, 3/21, and 4/4 we will be going. **Pick up there at 3:15!**

Testing dates for April

We will be testing from 4/25-4/28 for Smarter Balanced State tests for 3rd-4th grade, and ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) for 1st-2nd grade. Please make sure your child will be attending school on those dates. It would be hard to make up the tests during the regular school days when others are having work periods. No school for Kindergarten Monday-Thursday that week.

Here are educational and typing websites to help your child practice basic skills during the Break if you are going to be around.

www.ixl.com username: first name, first letter of last name, and 690, password: math, then push sign in, and go on the appropriate grade (math or language)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/>
For typing games, choose your level

Updates From Our Classrooms

The month of March will bring more outside of school P.E. classes with swimming and a well needed Spring Break.

In lower elementary, in math we are off to measurements starting with length, then weight and capacity, fractions for K, multiplication story problems for 1st, and multiplication / division facts depending on grade levels. Please do practice those math facts at home too! In geometry we will study triangles.

In science we will be continuing on our Sand and Silt unit. We will be studying the parts of the seed, mammal, amphibians, and platyhelminth according to grades.

In history, we will dive into some social studies with communities, laws and responsibilities of citizens and local government lessons. We will continue fundamental needs with looking into physical health.

In geography we will be exploring parts of the river and lake, first grade will finish up the study of South America, and second will move onto Midwest States. Kindergarten will work with more puzzle maps.

Language continues to be very much alive in our class as always. Through writing reports students are learning about sentence structure, as well as the foundations for a good paragraph. They also get a chance to use the spelling rules we have been working on. We will finish typing up personal narrative writings and share it with the class. We continue to work on parts of speech by introducing the preposition and interjection with the grammar boxes and learning about antonyms with word study boxes and homonyms with language puzzles. Kindergarten will explore adjectives with the small environment, learn about present tense and usage of period, and continue building blends with the moveable alphabet and the phonics boxes. Have your child read everyday for at least 20 min. during Spring Break to practice fluency and to decode letter sound combinations easily.

In Upper Elementary students will be using what they learned in all subjects to dive into more complicated but more fun material! In **math**, third graders will be looking at interpreting scaled and picture graphs. They will also be going deeper into equivalent fractions. Fourth graders will be learning how to add and subtract fractions. They will be using fraction circles and bars to help them. Both grades will be moving on to their second I-Ready student books, which means they have already completed well over half of their grade material for their year.

In **reading**, third graders will be focusing on informational text and how to interpret text and graphic features. Fourth graders will be looking at the difference between fact and opinion as well as formal and informal language. In **writing**, students will be revising and editing their opinion piece and turning it into a typed final draft.

In **science**, we are continuing our water experiments and looking at the water cycle and watersheds. In **social studies**, we are in our government unit. Students are learning about levels of government and how a bill becomes law in Montana.

Additionally, students will be starting a country research project.

During spring break in addition to ixl, it would be great if students could keep up their math practice using [I-Ready My Path](#). Students' usernames are the first letter of their first name and then their last name with no spaces. Everyone's password is **student** all in lowercase. Along with math, the more reading for fun done over break the better!