



Cottonwood Newsletter

March 2023



Schedule of Events and Field Trips

3/2, 3/3 Indian Ed. Classes with Mrs. Quigley 1:00–3:00

3/3– End of Trimester / Report Cards issued

3/6, 3/20, and 3/27 – 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!

3/8 – Ski PE at Bridger Bowl meet at Lone Mountain Gym at 9:10 and **pick up** will there at **3:15**. Bring BB card and pack gear in one bag please. **No school for K!**

3/13–3/17 –Spring Break

3/30 –Experts’ Night 5:00–6:00

Save the date! SBCA tests and ITBS 4/24–27 **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 we will be going. **Pick up there at 3:15!**

Experts’ Night

Cottonwood School will be hosting Experts’ Night on Thursday, March 30th from 5:00pm–6:00pm. This is a great time for our students to share the lessons they have been working on or just love, with all of you. Make sure to put it on your calendar, your attendance will be greatly appreciated by our students. This event is for Cottonwood School students only so please leave the little ones at home and give your undivided attention to our students.

When you arrive you will receive a “passport” list with all the lessons that are taught by our students, choose which one you want to learn about, we encourage to try to experience as many lessons as you can. Lessons range in all subjects. Always a fun night of being a “student”!

Testing dates for April

We will be testing from 4/24–4/27 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.

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 Weather and Sky unit. We will be studying the parts and types of seeds, mammal, amphibian, 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 social acceptance.

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 like South America and Australia.

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. Please have your child read their president's report to you. (In Friday Folders) We will start with fairy tales in writing workshop and learning the structure of it. We continue to work on parts of speech by Montessori worksheets and introducing the preposition with the grammar boxes. We will be 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 on "long vowel e" with the moveable alphabet, tap it boards, 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.

For March, Upper Elementary students will be starting new lessons and learning opportunities. In **math**, 3rd graders will measure length, time, liquid volume, and mass. 4th graders will be comparing decimals to fractions and then looking at measurements. 5th graders will be dividing fractions and then moving on to converting units. In **ELA**, 3rd graders will be using details to determine the author's purpose and the reasoning for the sequence of events in texts. They will be continuing verbs with helping verbs. 4th graders will be looking at text and graphic features in informational texts. They will focus on punctuation marks in grammar. 5th graders will be looking at themes and determining the main ideas from informational texts. They will look at preposition phrases in grammar. In writing, everyone will be writing a creative story from the point of view of a lost pet. **March reading logs will be coming home and must be returned by the end of the month.** In **science**, we will continue our human body study by learning about muscles. In **social studies**, we will be wrapping up US history by learning about statehood. We will then be moving on to the US government.