



Cottonwood Newsletter

May 2022

Schedule of Events and Trips

5/9 - Jump Time PE 2:00-3:00
Bring grip socks or \$3 to purchase one. **Pick up at 3:00.**
(Homestake Dr. Four Corners)

5/18- Spring Concert and Variety Show here at school at **5:30** Please sign up for an item!

5/20- Symphony for 3rd-4th
12:00-1:00 at the Wilson

5/23 - Trip to O.W.L.S. camp by a school bus 8:45-3:00. Bring a **Sack lunch, water, sunscreen, wear weather appropriate clothing and comfy footwear!** We will be outside the whole trip. Bring games and books for the bus ride but no electronics.

5/30—Memorial Day/No School

5/31- Trip to Madison Buffalo Jump 9:00-3:00 by a school bus. Bring a **Sack lunch, water, sunscreen, wear layered clothing and hiking shoes.** We will be outside Bring games and books for the bus ride but no electronics.

6/1—Business Day 1:00-2:30

6/2 Hike across the Road 1:15

6/3 – Bike Day / Early Release 9:00-12:00 bring a snack, water bottle, sunscreen, & weather appropriate clothing Drop off and pick up at Tuckerman Park off Goldenstein Ln.

Spring Concert and Variety Show

The Spring Concert and Variety Show will be held on Wednesday, 5/18 starting at 5:30 followed by a potluck dinner. We will try set up outside here at school, if the weather will not cooperate will be inside.

Please **sign up for an item to bring** to the potluck dinner on the Parent Board. See all of you and your family here! Please help your child to come up with an act (song, joke, story, dance, skit, magic tricks...) for the Show, all students need to participate. Students can form groups to perform but need to be able to practice outside of school too. Auditions will be held on May 2nd to determine the final acts of the Show.

Business Day

Business Days at Cottonwood will be held on May 30th from 1:00 to 2:30, students will set up their own booth and sell their homemade items with a limit of \$10 for materials and \$7 to spend the day of. Please bring some of the money to spend, in change. You can help your child by discussing projects that would make a profit and sell. Please help with the pricing of items too. Students are required to make their own items with the littlest parent assistance as possible. If your child chooses a food item they have to be able to produce it themselves. Note that we have 15 students to sell to, so don't make too many products.

O.W.L.S. Trip

At Outdoor Wilderness Living School (OWLS) it is our mission to awaken children and young adults to the beauty and value of the natural world, while giving them the skills, not only to survive, but to thrive in nature.

We feel that kids in the modern world are missing a crucial aspect in their lives—nature connection. At OWLS we connect kids and nature through indigenous survival skills, nurturing a love and appreciation for the natural world.

The day program is held at River Camp, near Whitehall, along the Jefferson River on twenty-one acres of rich riparian wildlife habitat.

Bike Day: Please make sure your child's bike works properly, have a helmet and a comfortable small backpack for water and snack. We will be riding all the way to Lindley Park, stopping at Bogert Park. It will be approx. 9 miles round trip.

Snapshots of the month

The end of the year is rapidly approaching so we will be getting outside and complementing our studies with real experiences. We will end our Montana studies for lower el. by visiting the Madison Buffalo Jump and learning about ancient skills with OWLS. May/June will be so much fun!

In lower elementary we are at the end of our data analyzing studies, and will concentrate on mastering our Montessori lessons in math. Some of us will still have some algebra, probability, and money problems to work with.

In language we will focus on grammar boxes, analogy, homographs, and sentence types for older students, and younger students will work on verbs, tenses, predicate and subject, and more long vowel sounds. We will have a Book Report Party to share our written summary of our chosen books.

In social sciences we will start on the study of Montana in all grades. We will look at the role of money, goods and services, talk about consumers and producers, and discuss rights and responsibilities. In Botany we will read "Shanleya's Quest" to discover classification of plants and play the card game with it. Olders will finish zoology studies of invertebrate animal classes. K will study parts of the bird and mammal.

We will see what we can accomplish during this last month of school, lots of learning to do, but most of all we will enjoy our studies!

The school year is flying by! Upper Elementary will be busy with field trips in May, including watching the Bozeman Symphony. In **math**, third graders will be finishing up their material for the year with time, liquid volume, and mass measurement as well as classifying quadrilaterals. Fourth graders will be finishing the year with geometry and measurement. They will be identifying figures as well as adding and subtracting angles. All students will complete the I-Ready Diagnostic Assessment to see their math progress from the beginning of the year.

In **reading**, both grades will be using all the reading skills from this year in a book study with a book of their choice. Students will continue working through homograph boxes as well as learning conjunctions. In **writing**, students will be given the freedom to choose the type of writing piece they want to complete. In **science**, we will be finishing our mini-unit on renewable energy sources and doing a mini-unit on trait variations in animals. In **social studies**, we are looking at different perspectives on historical events.

This will be the last newsletter of the school year, so for the summer please make sure your child is reading every day, writing a journal on your trips and practicing all operations with flashcards!

Have a great summer!