



Cottonwood Newsletter

May 2023

Schedule of Events and Trips

5/18- Spring Concert and Variety Show at Gallatin Gateway Community Center
5:00-6:00

5/22- Jump Time PE 2:00-3:00
Bring grip socks or \$3 to purchase one. **Pick up at 3:00.** (Homestake Dr. Four Corners)

5/29—Memorial Day/No School

5/30 - Business Day 1:00-2:30

5/31 -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.

6/1- Hike at South Cottonwood Canyon Trail 10:30-3:00 Pack a sack lunch!

6/2- Trip to Headwaters State Park 9:00-3:00 by a school bus. Bring a **Sack lunch, water, sunscreen, wear layered clothing and hiking shoes.** We will be outside all day. Bring games and books for the bus ride but no electronics.

6/5 Hike across the Road 1:15

6/6 – Arts on Fire / Early Release 9:00-11:45 Drop off at Arts on Fire at 9:00 and pick up at Kirk Park at 11:45

Spring Concert and Variety Show

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 1st to determine the final acts of the Show, please make sure your child has something prepared. See all of you and your family there!

Business Day

During Business Day 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 18 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.

Graduation/ End of the Year Celebration

We are celebrating the end of the year and saying good bye to our fifth graders with some fun at Arts on Fire (200 S 23rd Ave.) Please drop off there at 9:00. We will do art for an hour or so then walk over to Kirk Park. Lunch (Pizza around 11:00) will be provided at the park and a short graduation for the 5th graders. Please pick up your child at Kirk Park (137 N 20th Ave.) at 11:45.

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 and Project Archeology Unit by visiting Headwaters State Park 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 adverb 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 finally finish up "Weather and Sky" FOSS kit.

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 use everything they have learned this year to complete different projects and assignments in May. In **math**, third graders will be finishing up their material for the year by sorting quadrilaterals and finding the perimeter and area of different shapes. Fourth graders will be finishing the year by adding and subtracting angles as well as identifying 2D figures. Fifth graders, will be analyzing and interpreting expressions as well as looking at coordinate planes. All students will complete the I-Ready Diagnostic Assessment to see their math progress from the beginning of the year. In **reading**, all grades will be finishing their online Journeys text and vocabulary review. After that, everyone will use all their reading skills to complete a book study with a book of their choice. All grades will also be wrapping up grammar by identifying all parts of speech in sentences and analyzing sentences grammatically. In **writing**, students will be free to choose the type of writing piece they want to complete. In **science**, we will be wrapping up our Human Body unit by looking at coordination and the systems of the body working together as a whole. In **social studies**, students will be working through economic activities and vocabulary.

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!