

MAY NEWSLETTER 2024

Cottonwood School



Upcoming Events

5/3 and 17 - **Book Mobile**

5/8- **Farm Fair** for 4th-5th 8:30-3:00

5/16- **Spring Concert** and Variety Show at 5:00 at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center

5/20 - **Hike** at Spanish Peaks 10:30-3:15 Sack lunch, water in backpack, hiking shoes

5/24- **Music Tour** performing at Senior Living Homes 9:00-11:15 Drop off at Bozeman Lodge (1547 N Hunters Way) at 9:00.

5/27- Memorial Day/**No School**

5/28- **Trip to Nevada City** 8:45-2:45 by a school bus. Bring a Sack lunch, water, sunscreen, wear layered clothing and hiking shoes. We will be outside most of the day. Bring games and books for the bus ride but no electronics.

5/30 - **Business Day** 8:30-10:00 **Hike** across the Road 1:15 wear hiking shoes

5/31 - **Graduation/End of the year celebration** Jump Time/ 9:00-10:00 Quail Park 10:00-11:30 Bring grip socks or \$4. Drop off at 9:00 at Jump Time. Pick up at Quail Park at 11:30. Lunch will be served

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 and practice, 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 April 29th 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

This year we are inviting parents to come and shop at 8:30 at the students' booths. Students sell their homemade items with a limit of \$10 for materials. Each student brings \$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 14 students and some parents to sell to, so don't make too many products.

Nevada City Trip

We will tour the "River of Gold" for a gold panning experience and a mining exhibit, visit the Nevada City Museum featuring historic period dresses, demonstrating historic skills, and sharing old world techniques including blacksmith work and more! End with a ride on The Shortline Train back to Virginia City.

Graduation/End of the Year Celebration

We are celebrating and saying good bye to our fifth graders with some fun at Jump Time (Homestake Dr. Four Corners) bring grip socks. Please drop off there at 9:00. We will jump for an hour then drive over to the park. Lunch (Pizza around 11:00) will be provided at Quail Run Park with some outdoor games and a short graduation for the 5th graders. Please pick up your child at Quail Run Park (Quail Run Rd. off of Jackrabbit Ln.) at 11:30.

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Classroom News



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 Nevada City. We will also be going on a hike to identify and classify plants. May 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 word problems to work with. We will discover using Roman numerals in the two upper grades. In **language** we will focus on adverbs, homophones, homographs, analogy, and sentence types for older students, and younger students will work on verbs, tenses, predicate and subject, and start long vowel sounds.

In **social sciences** we will start on the study of Montana in all grades and write reports about the state symbols every week, second grade will dive into a bit of Montana history and report on it. We will look at the role of money, goods and services, and talk about consumers and producers. We will watch videos about Montana Indian Tribes and also 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, and K will finish 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 have fun.

For the **summer** please make sure your child is reading every day, practicing typing, writing a journal on your trips and practicing operations (+/-/x) with flashcards! Have a great Summer!

Upper Elementary

The school year is flying by! Upper Elementary will be busy with field trips in May, including the Farm Fair for 4th and 5th graders. In the classroom, they will be using everything they have learned this year to complete different projects and assignments. In **math**, third graders will be finishing up their material for the year by finding the perimeter and area of different shapes and partitioning them into equal parts. Fourth graders will be finishing by identifying 2D figures and finding symmetry in shapes. 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 complete a book study with a book of their choice. This book study will review all the reading and literary terms students learned this year. They will also have a chance to create their own characters in a free-choice writing piece. All students will learn some cursive writing focusing on the letters in their names.

This summer keep your kids reading, writing, and practicing math! Happy summer :)

