

# MAY NEWSLETTER 2025

## Cottonwood School



### Upcoming Events

5/9 and 23 - **Book Mobile**

5/6- **Farm Fair** for 4th grade  
8:30-3:00

5/15- **Spring Program** at 5:00 at  
the Gallatin Gateway Community  
Center

5/19 - **Hike** at Hyalite Grotto Falls  
Trail 10:30-3:15 Sack lunch, water  
in backpack, hiking shoes

5/22- **Agriculture in the  
Classroom Program** 1:00-3:00

5/26- Memorial Day/**No School**

5/27- **O.W.L.S. Trip** 8:45-2:45 by a  
school bus. Bring a Sack lunch,  
water, sunscreen, wear layered  
clothing and hiking shoes. We will  
be outside all the day. Bring  
games and books for the bus  
ride but no electronics.

5/28 - **Business Day** 8:30-10:00

5/29 - **Hike** across the Road 1:15  
wear hiking shoes

5/30- **Graduation/End of the  
year celebration** Jump Time/  
9:00-10:00 Kirk Park 10:00-11:30  
Bring grip socks or \$4. Drop off at  
9:00 at Jump Time. Pick up at  
Kirk Park (137 N 20th Ave) at 11:30.  
Lunch will be served

### Spring Program

We will be giving out parts of poems and songs for each student to learn. Please have your child practice the assigned parts at home too. We will also need help with some costume/props for the songs/poems/decorations.

### Business Day

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 17 students and some parents to sell to, and each student only have \$7 to spend, 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 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 Kirk Park with a short graduation for the 5th graders. Please pick up your child at Kirk Park 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 go on a hike to identify and classify plants and learn ancient ways of living at O.W.L.S. camp.

In **lower elementary** we are at the end of our data analyzing studies, and will concentrate on mastering our Montessori lessons in **math** and memorize all  $+/-$  facts according to grade standards. 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 continue to build long vowel sounds with the moveable alphabet.

In **social sciences** we will start on the study of Montana in all grades and K and 1st will write reports about the state symbols every week, second grade will dive into Montana History and report on it. We will look at the role of money, goods and services, and talk about consumers and producers, 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 conclude our rock and soil unit in science.

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! Next school year [calendar](#) is posted on our website!

## Upper Elementary

The school year is flying by! Upper Elementary will be busy with field trips in May, including the Farm Fair for 4th 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 doing geometry with finding the perimeter and area of different shapes and partitioning them into equal parts. Fourth graders will be finishing with angles, identifying 2D figures, and finding symmetry in shapes. Fifth graders, will be looking at coordinate planes and patterns. 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 in a group with historical fiction books. This book study will review all the reading and grammar skills we have learned this year. In **science** we will finish our Earth Movements FOSS kit. Students will also be learning about plant and animal cells. In **social studies** students will be researching an ancient civilization and learning how to write a report. Lastly, we will be looking at technology through simple coding and digital citizenship.

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