

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

Cottonwood School



Upcoming Events

Rocks and Minerals Classes on Thursdays 2:00-3:00

11/3- No School

11/6 & 10 STEM Classes

1:00-3:00 with undergraduate MSU students

11/7 - MSU Women's Basketball School Day Game 11:00-1:00 Pack sack lunch!

11/6-11/-10 Parent Teacher Conferences, sign up on the parent Board

11/10 Book Mobile

11/20 Visit to MOR Exhibits

1:30-3:00. Pick up at the Museum at 3:00.

11/21- End of trimester/ Report cards issued

11/22-11/24 - No School / Thanksgiving Break

12/14 - Winter Program @ 6:00 at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center. Save the date!

Parent Teacher Conference

November marks the end of the first trimester, report cards, and a time to meet with you! Conferences will be held November 6th-November 10th in the afternoons. There is a sheet posted on the Parent Board to sign up. Please pay attention to lower and upper el sign up sheets. Please help us stay on schedule by arriving promptly and we will also attend to the time to do the same. Students can stay in the library or outside during the conferences. We look forward to meeting with you!

Winter Program

We will need parents to help with sketching simple scenes at home that we will paint here at school. We will need help painting the scenes and making props two afternoons. We will also need qualified drivers to drive to and from rehearsals. We will have a sign up sheet up on the parent Board in December with a list of tasks.

Also please **help your child memorize** her/his **lines** for our play *during the Thanksgiving holiday*. We will start practicing the play on 11/27.

Thank You...

We would like to thank all the families who helped in the classroom and with computer work, did recycling, drove on our field trips, and improved our playground and our walkway. Also who subbed for us and brought in hot lunch. We appreciated it a lot. And to all who signed up for treats for our Halloween Party. We could not do it without you!

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

Cottonwood School

Classroom News



Lower Elementary

In lower elementary, students moving at their own pace in learning basic concepts and challenging themselves with all sorts of new ideas.

In Math, students are working individually on simple addition facts, multiplication with the checker board, and dynamic subtraction with materials. We are wrapping up our number concept studies by introducing number patterns, odd/even, fact families, properties and more strategies of addition and subtraction. 2nd grade will start on arrays and skip counting and learn how to subtract across zeros. Kindergarten will explore the ten boards, the 100 board and chain, telling time, and study polygons while 1st and 2nd grade will discover angles.

In Language we'll be working on adjectives, contractions, analyzing more sentences, and learning more singular/plural rules so we can start using all of these components in our writings. We will be continuing on writing how to., and making a class recipe book. Kindergarten will be learning H brother sounds, blends, and final letter sounds w,y,z,x,q. They are also working on heart words and more handwriting. 1st and 2nd grade will be studying more mechanics of our language by being introduced to the function of the apostrophe. Please do **read** with you child **everyday** to improve fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and decoding of multi-syllable words. Also **practice math facts**. Students need practice at home too. **K** should practice **teens, the new letter sounds, days of the week and month of the year**. Please give first and second grade students daily **spelling practice** with the weekly words.

In Social Sciences we will continue on fundamental needs, parts of the stem, and explore volcanoes. K will explore land and water forms, food chain, and will work on sensorial lessons for hearing and seeing. We will be starting on a United States Unit in 2nd grade and continue on North America in 1st grade with reports on chosen plants, landmarks, and cultures, and more on continents in K.

We move onto the "Story of writing" and "Story of numbers" our 4th and 5th Great Lesson, and follow up with learning about different alphabets and number systems.

Upper Elementary

In Upper Elementary students are continuing to work independently and like having the freedom to complete projects on topics they are interested in. This month in **math** 3rd graders will be starting to look at area and use their multiplication skills to find the area of rectangles and squares. 4th graders will be multiplying bigger numbers using materials and then moving onto dividing bigger numbers. 5th graders will keep working with decimals through learning how to round, add, and subtract them. In **ELA** 3rd graders are going to work on cause-and-effect relationships as well as determining the main idea of a page or paragraph in a text. They will also be working with singular and plural pronouns. 4th graders will be using text evidence to draw conclusions and infer the author's purpose. They will also be looking at pronouns, hyphenation, and apostrophes. 5th graders will be using text evidence to conclude the main idea of a short text. They will also be diving into verbs and the etymology of words. In **writing**, we will be using the writing process to write a creative problem/solution short story. **November reading logs will be coming home for students to record books they read at home, these need to be signed and brought back to school at the end of the month**. In **science**, we will be wrapping up our solar system FOSS kit through looking at stars and constellations. In **social studies** we will continue geography through use of the pin and biome maps as well as country research.