



# Cottonwood Newsletter

November 2022

## Schedule of Events and Field Trips



**11/3, 11/17 STEM classes**  
1:00-3:00 with undergraduate MSU students

**11/4-** No School

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

**11/7-11/10 Parent Teacher Conferences**, sign up on the parent Board

**11/21 Ice Skating** at the Fairgrounds 1:00-2:00.  
**Visit to the Library** 2:15-3:00. **Pick up** in front of the Bozeman Public **Library** at **3:00**.

**11/22-** End of trimester/  
**Report cards** issued

**11/24-11/26 -** No School / Thanksgiving Break

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



## Parent / Teacher Conferences

November marks the end of the first trimester, report cards, and a time to meet with you! Conferences will be held November 7th - 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 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 11/28.

## Winter Weather Is Here...

Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather. Students go out to recess every day and it can be uncomfortable if they get cold or wet. It is a good idea to keep snow pants, hats, waterproof gloves and snow boots at school.

## Thank You...

We would like to thank all the families who helped with recycling, driving on our field trips and with reading group. Also who subbed for us and brought in hot lunch. We appreciated it a lot. And to all who sent treats for our Halloween Party. We could not do it without you!

## Updates From Our Classrooms

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 addition with materials. We are wrapping up our number concept studies by introducing number patterns, 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, the decimal system with the golden beads, 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 drawing book.

Kindergarten will be learning H brother sounds, blends, and final letter sounds x and 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 continuing on studying United States in 2nd grade and 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.

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 dividing bigger numbers by first using the long-division Montessori material and then doing long division on paper. 5th graders will keep working with decimals by learning how to 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 analyzing sentences by identifying the subject, predicate, direct object, and indirect object. 5th graders will be using text evidence to conclude the main idea of a short text. They will also be analyzing sentences and learning about adverbial extensions. In **writing**, everyone will be going through the writing process by revising and editing their animal reports and getting them ready to present. **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 Dinosaurs and Fossils unit by looking at how a dinosaur's stride relates to its height and the meaning behind dinosaurs' names. In **social studies**, 3rd and 5th graders are continuing geography by using pin maps and learning about the biomes. 4th graders are learning their US states' locations, capitals, and abbreviations.