



Cottonwood Newsletter

September 2022

Schedule of Events and Field Trips



Project Archeology classes Thursdays 2:00-3:00

9/5 Labor Day/ No School

9/9 Indian Education for All class with Kim Quigley from Humanities Montana 1:00-3:00

9/19 Hike at South Cottonwood Trail
11:00-3:00 Pack a **sack lunch** and **water bottles** in a comfortable backpack! Wear weather appropriate clothing, hiking shoes, and put on sunscreen in the morning if needed!

9/21 School photos with Amy Burkenpas at 1:00pm. Please return packets with payments after you receive it by Monday, 9/19. Check out her work at www.amyburkenpas.com and follow directions for proofing the photos later on.

Project Archeology Classes

Project Archaeology uses archaeological inquiry to foster understanding of past and present cultures; improve social studies and science education; and enhance citizenship education to help preserve our archaeological legacy. *Investigating Shelter* lessons guide students through the archaeological study of shelter and help them understand stewardship, people, and cultures. The follow up lessons of *Investigating a Crow Plains Tipi* incorporate authentic archaeological and historical research paired with oral histories to teach students about the use and importance of the Tipi in the past and present lives of Crow people.

Covid Updates

Based on current guidance from the CDC, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days from their symptom onset followed by an additional 5 days wearing a well-fitting mask. After 5 days if you are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved end isolation, if not continue to isolate until they improve.

After being exposed wear a high-quality mask any time you are around others inside your home or indoors in public for 10 days following exposure. Watch for symptoms. If you develop symptoms, get tested, and stay home until you know the result. Get tested at least 5 full days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. If you test Negative, continue wearing mask and watching for symptoms through day 10. If you test Positive, isolate immediately and follow isolation guidance. We do have tests available at school.

We would like to welcome to our team, Librarian Elizabeth Lilly and Music Teacher Michelle Trapa. We are excited to have them. They have so much experience in education and both are retired teachers. Mrs. Trapa taught for 28 years as a music educator in Montana and Oregon. She is also an accomplished pianist and singer. Mrs. Lilly moved to Bozeman in 2018, and she is an instructor at MSU in the Education Department. Her experience in teaching, researching, and publishing in the area of children literature makes her a great librarian.

Updates From Our Classrooms

The Lower Elementary classroom students will be settling in the class routines and focusing on how to manage their time to complete their work. **In math** students will be discovering simple and dynamic addition, and multiplication with our wonderful materials. Grade 1 and 2 will review and practice all learned math concepts daily with Problem of the Day (P.O.D.). We will be working on number sense concepts like number recognition, place value, and word problems. Kindergarten will be learning patterns, writing numbers, and exploring addition with the colored rods and the short bead stairs. **Please keep practicing all + / - facts (K within 5, 1st within 10, 2nd within 20) at home to help the memorization of them.**

In language we will be studying mechanics of our language starting with capitalization, and will practice our skills in 1st and 2nd grade through Daily Language Review (D.L.R.). 1st grade will learn about nouns and 2nd about pronouns with the grammar boxes and in word study: compound words and suffix are on the table. K students are learning sounds with phonics concepts, rhyming and building with the moveable alphabet. We will have reading groups on Thursdays and **spelling tests in grade 1 and 2 on Fridays**. Look for **spelling words** list going home on **Mondays** and practice with your child everyday at home. Say the word then put it into a sentence and say the word again while they write it, then check and correct it. Students should be "sounding out" the words. **Keep reading** with your child every day for 15 minutes to improve decoding skills and fluency! Kindergarten should practice writing letters and numbers correctly, and letter sounds. (see work sent home and practice those letters)

In history we will be looking into fundamental needs: shelter and calendar work. Geography studies will include the world map, continents, and oceans. We will start with Montessori Great Lesson Number One, about the universe.

In science 1st/2nd graders are starting on "States of Matter" unit with the FOSS (Full Option Science System, developed at Berkeley) kit. Kindergarten will be learning about magnetism. We will be having fun looking at parts of the plant and their functions. We will be discussing vertebrates and invertebrates and tying animal and plant studies in with our hike.

Please check Friday Folders every week to see your child's work and return paperwork by Monday when needed.

Everyone in upper elementary is excited and ready to jump into another year of school! We will spend time practicing our classroom routines and expectations during the first month. Students will be getting used to our morning work period and what it looks like to work independently. During the morning work period, we will do group math and ELA lessons. For math, we will be using the Montessori materials as well as the I-Ready math curriculum. In ELA, we will be using Montessori materials and the Journeys reading curriculum. When students are not in lessons they will be working through assignments on their "checklists".

In math, 3rd grade is starting with 3-digit number addition and subtraction while **4th grade** is starting with rounding, adding, and subtracting whole numbers. **5th grade** will be diving into volume as well as reviewing multiplication and division. All grades will be working on fact fluency.

In ELA, third graders will be looking at characters and event progression in fiction texts as well as sentence structure and nouns. **Fourth graders** will be doing story structure, plot, and cause and effect with abstract nouns. **Fifth graders** will look at theme and character development with adjectives.

Spelling tests will be on Fridays, students may need to practice their words at home throughout the week. Students will also be bringing home a reading log to record "at home" reading.

In science, we are doing the Dinosaurs and Fossils FOSS kit. Students will get a chance to look into the history and types of dinosaurs while looking at how fossils give us information about the past.

This month in **social studies** we will research the inside of the earth and its crust along with plate tectonics.

As we all get back into school please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns!
Ms. Maria and Mrs. Kate