



Cottonwood Newsletter

December 2018



Schedule of Events and Field Trips

12/14 - All **costumes** are due

12/17 - Return all **paperwork** for Bridger **ski trips** grades 1-5

12/17- **Dress rehearsal** at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center **Pick up at Center at 3:15.** Please **drop off K students at GGCC at 12:15** and **pick up there at 3:15**

12/18 - **Drop off for Dress rehearsal** at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center **8:30**

12/19 – **Winter Program** at 6:00 at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center
Sign up for an item to bring!

12/20 - **Baking Cookies**
1:00-3:00

12/24-1/4 - **Winter Break**
See you back at school on 1/7!

1/14 - **Ski day at Bridger** for 1st-5th / **No School for K**



Winter Program

The students are working diligently on preparing to perform the “The Polar Express” play and our music program. They are putting in a lot of time and dedication, and will be helping to produce the props and the sets. We are so proud of them and we assure you will be too. There are two **dress rehearsals** scheduled: **Monday, December 17th at 12:15** and **Tuesday, December 18th at 8:30**. These will be held at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center (145 Mill St. Gallatin Gateway). We ask **K students’** parents to drop them off at 12:15 at GGCC and pick them up at 3:15 on that **Monday**. Please **pick up at 3:15 on 12/17** and **drop off at center at 8:30 on 12/18**.

The Winter Program will be held on **December 19th at 6:00 at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center**.

Please arrive at 5:45 so children can get dressed! The program will begin right away with the play. Following will be an intermission and an opportunity to have some treats. We will continue with the music program.

We look forward to seeing you and all your family in the audience on Dec. 19th!

Please note that dinner will not be served, only snacks and treats. Please **sign up** on the Parent Board **for an item to bring**.

Costumes and props needed!

We are looking for costumes (see list that went home on Friday, 11/30). Please let other families know if you have a certain costume or parts of it. Please read the descriptions it does not have to look exactly like the pictures.

All costumes need to be here at school **on Friday, 12/14**.

We are also looking for a 4-5ft tall **faux Christmas tree**, **men’s pocket watch**, **circle tray**, and a **copper mug**, please bring the items in if you have them.

P.E. Ski Trips

We will be sending home paperwork in Friday Folders for the upcoming ski trips to Bridger for grades 1-5 on January 14th, and February 4th and 19th. Please return all forms by 12/17. We are looking for chaperones for the ski trips, let us know if you are available. For more info, see the January newsletter!

Updates From Our Classrooms

The month of December will be so busy. We will be working on perfecting the play and practicing the music program every day, as well as making props and scenes on some afternoons. This is a very exciting and exhausting time of year. Please help your child to be successful by making sure they get plenty of sleep.

In the lower elementary in Math we are continuing to work on dynamic multiplication with the checkerboard, and multiplication tables with the materials. First graders will be exploring dynamic subtraction and simple multiplication, second graders will be starting on word problems for all unknowns and elapsed time. Kindergarten will continue the measurements of time with quarter to and quarter past and will be exploring addition with the golden beads and subtraction with the materials. **Please practice addition and subtraction facts (1-10) and (1-18) at home too!**

In Language we will be talking about antonyms and more apostrophe, continuing on adjectives and conjunctions, and starting on blends in K. In writing we will be finishing our writing workshop projects by typing it and making it into a book. K will explore writing with pictures and words and continue on more sight words.

In Science K will be continuing on experimenting with the properties of five senses (smell and taste) and the rest of us will review land and water forms and finish our sound and light kit. In botany and zoology K will be learning about the part of the root and carnivores / herbivores. In geography we are putting together our United States Book and North America Book. In history we will continue on fundamental needs and will be learning about December's holiday celebrations around the world. We will move onto our third Great Lesson "The Coming of Humans" and follow it up the Clock of the Eras and the Black Strip lessons

Upper elementary students will be stepping into the world of mysteries this month--both reading and writing the stories of detectives looking for clues and cracking cases. We are currently listening to a Nancy Drew mystery together to learn about the elements of a mystery, and then the students will write one of their own. Solving, reading, and writing mysteries requires attention to detail and a focus on using evidence to back up your reasoning. Look for your child's mystery at the end of the month! We are studying fractions in math: comparing, adding, subtracting and dividing. Students have been doing a fabulous job learning their multiplication facts and doing their homework--let's keep up the good work! We have started a new PDR project: this time the kids are researching a machine of their choosing. They are to focus on 3 questions in their presentation: What materials does it use? How does it work? And what does the machine offer people? Their presentations will be in Pecha Kucha style, which is a slide show presentation typically made up of 20 image slides that each last 20 seconds. It will give them a good chance to practice public speaking skills. The PDR celebration will be sometime during the week of December 17th.

We wish you a restful winter break, filled with family time, love and laughter! And we will see you back at school on January 7th.

