



Cottonwood Newsletter

November 2018

Schedule of Events and Field Trips



Finishing "Tools of the Trade" trunk on Mondays 2:00-3:00

11/2 - Hot Lunch (pizza)
only pack a snack

11/6 - Bobcat Basketball School Day 11:00-12:30
Pack a sack lunch!

11/9 - No School

11/12 - Visit to the Museum of the Rockies Polar Exhibit and to the Planetarium for a show 1:20-3:00 **Pick up will be at the Museum at 3:00.**

11/13-15 - Parent Teacher Conferences, sign up on the Parent Board

11/20 - End of trimester/ Report cards issued

11/21-23 - No School / Thanksgiving Break

12/19 - 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 13th - November 15th.

There is a sheet posted on the Parent Board to sign up on. Come and talk to us if those time slots don't work for you and we will meet at a different time. Please help us stay on schedule by arriving on time. We do not offer supervision for students during conferences. We look forward to meeting with you!

Winter Program Help

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Winter Program. We need help designing, painting and constructing sets and props, and cleaning up on the date of the program. We will need drivers to and from rehearsals. Look for the sign-up sheet posted on the Parent Board closer to the time and sign up for what you can help with.

Also please **help** your child **memorize her/his lines** for our play **during the Thanksgiving holiday**. We will start practicing the play on 11/26.

Winter Is Coming...

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

Thank You...

We would like to thank so many of our parents for being an essential part of our school. Debbie Harned for hot lunch and recycling, Jason McHann for exchanging fire extinguishers, and Jennifer Heiss and Rhonda Rempfer for heading up Halloween games. We are ever thankful to Elsa Campbell for driving on our field trip, and to Melissa Joecks for doing laundry. We could not do it without you all!

Looking for Substitutes...

We are looking for parents/grandparents who would be willing to substitute teach in our classes when we are sick. The daily pay rate is \$95. If you are interested please see our Superintendent at the Courthouse, a background check with fingerprinting is necessary and a form to be filled out. You could also just volunteer without pay and paper work, please let us know if you are interested.

Updates From Our Classrooms

In lower elementary, students moving at their own pace in learning basic concepts and challenging themselves in all subjects.

In Math, students are working individually on simple addition facts, dynamic subtraction with materials, and dynamic multiplication with the checker board. We are wrapping up our number concept studies by introducing number patterns, properties and strategies of addition and subtraction, and will continue to have reviews of these in daily problem solving exercises. Kindergarten will explore the decimal system with the golden beads and study polygons, 2nd arrays, and 1st and 2nd discover angles.

In Language we'll be working on conjunctions, analyzing sentences, and learning about prefixes and adjectives, and singular/plural rules so we can start using all of these components in our writings. Students are working on spelling skills through their writing and weekly spelling tests. Kindergarten will be practicing the short vowel sounds through middle and ending sounds, introduced to the "H brothers", and working on sight words and more handwriting. 1st and 2nd grade will be studying more mechanics of our language by introducing the function of the apostrophe; and practicing the use of it everyday in their D.L.R. (Daily Language Review).

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 numbers to 100 and month of the year. Please give first and second grade students daily spelling tests with the weekly words.

In Social Sciences we will continue on fundamental needs, light experiments, parts of the plant, and explore volcanoes. We will tell the "Story of Humans", our third great lesson, and follow up with the clock of the eras. K will explore land and water forms and visual and audio sense. We will be continuing on studying North America in 1st grade, animals, plants, and landmarks of the US in 2nd grade, and the continents in K.

And there is so much more ... you are welcome to visit and see your child's workbooks, work in progress folder, and the materials they are working with, any day at drop off or pick up.

Cottonwood upper el. students will be learning about pulleys this month in science. They will discover how to set up a single fixed and single movable pulley to lift a load. They'll use a scale to quantify effort with those pulleys and also diagram multi-pulley systems. In math we are wrapping up Unit 1 by learning about rounding (3rd), solving multi-step problems (4th), and dividing decimals (5th). Then part way through the month we will jump into fractions! Students will explore comparing, adding and subtracting, as well as how fractions can be used in measuring and baking. In writing we are working on publishing our own class magazine featuring interviews with famous inventors. Students are in charge of writing, editing, and designing the magazine, which they have named NewsWood. In music, the upper el. ukulele skills are improving day by day and the students have had a blast learning new songs this year. We are also focusing on learning about the instruments that make up a symphony orchestra.