



Cottonwood Newsletter

October 2018

Schedule of Events and Field



Trips

“Tools of the Trade” Trunk classes continue on Mondays 2:00-3:00

10/5 - Upper EI. attends behind-the-scenes look at the **opera** production of The Pirates of Penzance. 10:00-11:00

10/8 - Tour of the Art Exhibit and a follow-up art activity **at the Emerson Cultural Center** 1:30-3:00 **Pick up is at the Emerson at 3:00.** Please bring \$1 for materials for the activity!

10/18 & 10/19 - PIR Days / NO SCHOOL

10/22 - Visit to the Computer Museum 1:30-3:00. **Pick up will be at the Museum (2023 Stadium Dr #1A), at 3:00.**

10/30 - Historical Halloween Party 2:15 pm-3:15 pm
Please sign up for an item to bring on parent board.
All are welcome, historical costumes are encouraged for parents too!

HISTORICAL HALLOWEEN

We will be hosting a Historical Halloween party on Tuesday, October 30th 2:15-3:15. All children are encouraged to choose a famous person who has impacted society in a positive way. They dress up as that person and give a short (30 second) presentation (who, when, where, what) starting at 2:15. Please help younger students to practice their presentation at home. Let us know if you have any questions. Students bring their costumes in the morning and get ready in the afternoon between 1:00-2:00. If your child needs assistance with their costume please come before 2:15 to help.

We will have some games and sit down for treats at 2:45. All are welcome and parents are encouraged to dress as a famous person, too. Please sign up for an item to bring to the party on the parent board.

We are continuing with our **“Tools of the Trade” trunk** by examining the tools and technology of miners, loggers, and farmers of the 1800s in Montana and seeing how it changed and evolved. We will be tying the Computer Museum visit into our studies by looking at the development of computers throughout history.

We would like to welcome our new **Spanish Teacher** Tom Walsh. He is an Associate Teaching Professor of Spanish at Montana State University. We are so excited to have him at our school!

Thank you to Jill Oettinger for driving on our field trip, to Debbie Harned for recycling, to Janet Heiss for helping with PDR, to Jason McHann for fixing our light and exchanging fire extinguishers. Couldn't do it without you!

Updates From Our Classrooms

The lower elementary is humming with lessons from static to dynamic addition, word study and grammar boxes and so on. The students have been enjoying science and history activities on which we will be continuing this month like fundamental needs of people, concept of time, sounds and pitches. K will start properties experiments using touch. We will dive into the study of Continents, North America, and the regions of the United States.

In math we will continue on adding with the colored beads, multiplication with the large bead frame, and dynamic addition with the bead frame. K will be introduced to the decimal system with the golden beads. Number sense will be again the focus in all grades for this month including teens, tens, 100 board and chain, rounding, estimating and mental math.

First and second grade students need to be practicing addition and subtraction facts at home too. Use flashcards or just oral games. (1st: within ten, 2nd: within 18) Math will be a lot easier and faster with memorizing all the facts!

In language we are on the move in grammar boxes with article and suffix in first grade and word study boxes with prefix and reflexive pronouns in second grade. Mechanics of our language will include discussing and reviewing end punctuation and their usage, also practicing singular and plural rules. K will be plunging into vowel sounds, rhyming, studying sentences, and building CVC words with the moveable alphabet. **Every student should be reading for 15-20 minutes at home. K should practice writing lower and upper case letters and numbers, and letter sounds.**

In botany and zoology, animal kingdom, root and leaf studies, and plant life cycles are on stage.

In Cosmic Education we are finishing up the follow-up lessons of the Story of the Universe and Earth. We will be moving onto the second Great Lesson, the Coming of Life, later in October. We will look at our interactive timeline, fossils, and study the ages of fish, reptiles and mammals.

In upper elementary we will be studying multiplication and division and the fascinating connection between the two. Students will solve real-world word problems involving multiplication and division, as well as write them for their classmates to solve. There will be an emphasis on using words to explain their thinking and finding language to describe their problem solving strategies to others.

Our **PDR projects** are in full swing! The presentation/celebration will be the week of October 22nd. Now that the initial designs have been drafted, testing and re-designing will be happening at home. **Please help your student** stay on track with their goals and problem-solve with them if they get frustrated. Trial and error is a major part of the engineering design process and I've already seen the students adapting changing their ideas accordingly!

In science we'll continue our study of simple machines by learning about Class 1 and 2 levers. We will be conducting numerous experiments to see how different factors affect how much effort is needed to lift a load. Students are learning to take accurate data and graph it on a two-coordinate plane so they can really visualize what happened during the experiment.

In writing, we will be working on taking organized notes, writing strong conclusions to informational pieces, and the importance of editing and revising.

So far this year, the students have been highly motivated to work hard. I'm especially proud of the homework completion I've been seeing--let's keep it up!