



Cottonwood Newsletter

April 2019



Schedule of Events and Field Trips

World Drumming classes on **Mondays 1:00-2:00** with **Chet Leach**

4/1 - Swim P.E. at the Ridge **pick up there at 3:15.**

4/12 – Visit to the Museum of the Rockies 9:00-11:45 for a tour of the “Childhood Classic” exhibit, self touring exhibits, and a planetarium show. **Drop off at the MOR at 9:00.** Please pack an **easy snack** that can fit **in pockets of coat.** **Early Release @ 11:45, pick up at the Museum at 11:45.**

4/16-4/18 - Optional Parent/Teacher Conferences

4/22-4/25 - Testing 1st-5th grade / **No K classes M-Th**

4/30 - STEM Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) **Tour at 8:30** Please join us for a morning of exploring and touring all the final student projects and demonstrations.

5/21 – Spring Concert and Variety Show - Starting at 5:30 **Save the date!**

Optional Parent/Teacher Conference

Optional parent/teacher conferences will be held April 16th through the 18th in the afternoons. A sign up sheet is posted on the parent board. Please find a time convenient for your schedule if you choose to meet with us. Please arrive promptly so we can remain on schedule! We look forward to visiting with you then.

Testing Week

Grades 1st - 5th will be testing in the mornings only. First and second grade will be tested in math, language and social sciences by the ITBS. 3rd-5th grade will be tested in math and English language arts by the Smarter Balanced State Test. Look for the letter containing more testing information in your email box closer to the date. Please arrive on time at school, make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Attendance during this week is a must. No school for K students M-Thurs.!

World Drumming Classes

Chet Leach is an award winning children's educator who runs Rhythm Drums at the Emerson. “World Drumming” is a one-hour drumming FUNANZA each week. Children learn how to play drums from West Africa, Cuba and or Egypt through games like “Djembe Drum Talk”, “Rhythm Tug of War”, and “Rhythmic Simon Says”. It also includes stories from the respective culture they are learning about. This program will have the students energized and joyful from drumming.

STEM Fair Projects

Students will demonstrate a solution they have developed for a “real world” problem. The students will start with defining a problem or asking a question, then they will do background research, then create and test their ideas. There needs to be a model, display poster and a reflection on the design process. Students should think of problems that relate to their life that they can ideally solve using materials available at home. Experimenting with the design should be done at home, while research, writing, and the display will be done at school.

Updates From Our Classrooms

In lower elementary in math we will study probability and discover all sorts of graphs by collecting data from our classmates and continue on dynamic multiplication and division in math. Kindergarten will be exploring measurements, abstract subtraction, and skip counting with the materials. We will study the circle, construction triangle boxes, and coordinates with the geoboards.

In language we will learn to write all kinds of poems like couplets, limericks, haiku, shape, and acrostic. We will be introduced to homonyms and homophones from the word study materials in second grade and first grade. Kindergarten will keep practicing letter sounds according to their abilities and learning about past tense and question mark.

In Social Sciences we will be starting on our Stem Fair projects and studying water forms and land forms in detail. K will continue on puzzle maps, explore flags, and look at types of clouds. In animal studies we will be learning about the nematode and annelid, parts of the bird and fish, and lifecycles. In civic studies we are discussing needs and wants, and natural resources.

As you can see April will bring not just showers but lots of new subjects and studies here at Cottonwood.

In the month of April, upper elementary will be exploring the wonderful world of geometry in math. We will be discussing properties of shapes, finding area, perimeter and volume of composite shapes and figures and exploring angles. Many people use geometry in their jobs, such as artists, architects, and engineers, and we will be connecting our learning to these real world situations. In science we will continue to take care of our crayfish, as well as work on STEM fair projects. We will talk about the benefits of using certain materials versus others, discuss how engineers test their designs, and get some hands-on experience solving problems! Should be lots of fun.

A major focus in April will be preparing for the SBA test. The students will have numerous chances to practice the types of questions they will see. We will learn about and practice good test taking strategies and ways to prepare for the test mentally and physically. We will review the three types of writing we have learned--narrative, informational, and opinion, and practice the important step of brainstorming ideas before writing. We will also learn some tricks for calming test anxiety

We have received some reading material on agriculture and a wool spinning kit from the Gallatin Valley Farm Fair, and will be enjoying those activities in April in preparation for the Farm Fair that 4th graders get to attend in the beginning of May.

Out of District Registration for next year

If you are planning to return next year please download application from our website cottonwoodelementary.com and give it to the teachers by the end of April.