



Cottonwood Newsletter

March 2019

Experts' Night

Schedule of Events and Field Trips

3/1 - End of Trimester /
Report Cards issued

3/4 - MOSS 1:00-3:00

3/8 - Hot Lunch / Pizza

Swim P.E. classes on
Mondays and one Friday
1:45-3:00 at the Ridge,
3/11, 3/15 (Friday),
3/25, and 4/1 Pick up
will be at the Ridge front
door (4181 Fallon St.) @
3:15 on those dates.
Please be on time!

3/13-3/14 - CRT
Science tests for 4th
grade in the mornings.
Please be on time and
make sure your child has
a good night's rest.

3/15-3/19 -Spring Break

3/26 - Make up Ski PE
day at Bridger 9:15-3:15

3/28 - Experts' Night
from 5:30 to 6:30

Save the date! State tests
and ITBS 4/22-25
No school for K

Cottonwood School will be hosting the annual Experts' Night on Thursday, March 28th from 5:30 pm-6:30pm. This is a great time for our students to share the lessons they have been working on or just love, with all of you. Make sure to put it on your calendar, your attendance will be greatly appreciated by our students. This event is for Cottonwood School students only so please leave the little ones at home and give your undivided attention to our students.

When you arrive you will receive a "passport" list with all lessons the students are teaching and choose which one you want to learn about, we encourage to try to experience as many lessons as you can. Lessons range in all subjects. Always a fun night of being a "student"!

Swim P.E. Classes

The structured swim programs for schools at the Ridge Athletic Club consist of swim lessons and recreational times. Students will be divided up into groups for a 45 minute lesson from (2:00-2:45) according to their age and ability level.

We will be changing into our swim suits here at school, but looking for a dad to come at 3:00 and help the boys change in the Ridge men's locker room. Let us know if you are available!

Please have your child bring a towel and a swim suit, (swim goggles are optional) for each of the four times we will be going.

Testing dates for April

We will be testing from 4/22-4/25 for Smarter Balanced State tests for 3rd-5th grade, and ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) for 1st-2nd grade. Please make sure your child will be attending school on those dates. It would be hard to make up the tests during the regular school days when others are having work periods. No school for Kindergarten Monday-Thursday that week.

Updates From Our Classrooms

In lower elementary, in math we are off to measurements, more fractions, story problems, and division depending on grade levels. Please do practice those math facts at home too!

In science we will be finishing up our Observing an Aquarium unit. We will be studying the parts of the seed, mammal, amphibians, and platyhelminth according to grades.

In history, we will dive into some social studies with communities, laws and responsibilities of citizens and governments lessons. We will close the Five Great Lessons with practice writing numbers with different number systems.

In geography we will be exploring parts of the river, types of river courses, types and parts of a lake, and the states of the South region of the US. First grade will finish up the study of South America. Kindergarten will work with more puzzle maps.

Language continues to be very much alive in our class as always. Through writing reports students are learning about sentence structure, as well as the foundations for a good paragraph. They also get a chance to use the spelling rules we have been working on. We will learn to write personal narratives by creating short stories from our lives. We continue to work at our own pace in exploring parts of speech and word study materials. They use these materials to practice dictionary skills, mechanics of our language, and antonyms and homonyms. Kindergarten will explore adjectives with the small environment, move onto blends and building and writing words with long vowel sounds with the moveable alphabet and the phonics boxes. Have your child read everyday for at least 20 min. during Spring Break to practice fluency and decoding letter sound combinations.

Upper Elementary students are submitting a poem to the Library of National Poetry Annual Competition after writing several poems on topics from nature, to family, to favorite activities. I was pleased with the creativity and artistry I saw and am hoping the committee will enjoy the poems as well! In March we will begin our study of persuasive writing. How can you state your opinion clearly and support it with facts? How can you help someone else see your perspective on an issue? Much of our writing will be related to our study of crayfish. The students will first write an informative piece answering a question they have about crayfish to review the structure of a well-organized paragraph. Then we will jump into topics such as "would you like to be a crayfish?" and "should crayfish be kept as pets?" With our crayfish habitat now up and running, the students will be busy monitoring the crayfish's behavior, eating habits, and territorial preferences over the next month. They are in charge of feeding and caring for the critters. The crayfish have been a wonderful addition to our classroom and a great motivator for learning. The kids are busy reading and researching the topics they're curious about with regard to our little red friends. In math we'll continue our study of measurement and data, with topics ranging from unit conversions to pictographs and bar graphs. We will also study problem solving strategies in preparation for the SBA testing coming up in April.

Here are some computer and typing games to help your child practice basic skills. The links below will take you to online games, check out the games first to make sure it matches your child's interests and abilities. Help your child get started with each game.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/z3c6tfr>

www.ixl.com username: first name, first letter of last name, and 690
password:math

Have a fun Spring Break!