



# Cottonwood Newsletter

May 2019

## **Schedule of Events and Trips**

**5/6 and 5/13 - Rock Climbing P.E** at Spire 1:30-3:00 **Pick up at Spire at 3:00**

**5/7 - Farm Fair for 4th grade** students 8:30-3:00

**5/22- Spring Concert and Variety Show** at YAAC at 5:30  
Please sign up for a potluck item to bring.

**5/23 - Visit to Montana Science Center** for a STEM Lab "Looking into Light" activity 1:30-3:00. **Pick up** will be there (202 S. Willson Ave) **at 3:00.**

**5/27**—Memorial Day/**No School**

**5/28 - Trip to Virginia City** 8:30-3:00 by a school bus  
**Sack lunch, water bottle, sunscreen & weather appropriate clothing and footwear!** We will be outside almost the whole trip. Bring games and books but no electronics.

**5/29 – Botany Hike at Hyalite Trails** 10:30-3:20 **Sack lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, & weather appropriate clothing and hiking shoes!**

**5/30 –Business Day** 1:00-2:30

**6/4 – Graduation / End of the year celebration/ Early release** 9:00-11:-45 at MSU SUB Bowling Center

## **Spring Concert and Variety Show**

The Spring Concert and Variety Show will be held on Wednesday, May 22 at Yellowstone Alliance Adventure Camp, 13707 Cottonwood Canyon Rd. at their Chapel. Take the right hand road to get to the parking lot and follow the signs. The concert and show will start at 5:30 followed by a potluck dinner. Please arrive at 5:20. Please **sign up for an item to bring** to the potluck dinner on the Parent Board. See all of you and your family here!  
Please help your child to come up with an act (song, joke, story, dance, skit, magic tricks...) for the Show, all students need to participate. Auditions will be held on May 1st to determine the final acts of the Show.

## **Business Day**

Business Days at Cottonwood will be held on May 30th from 1:00 to 2:30, students will set up their own booth and sell their homemade items with a limit of \$10 for materials and \$7 to spend the day of. Please bring some of the money to spend, in change. You can help your child by discussing projects that would make a profit and sell. Students are required to make their own items with the littlest parent assistance as possible. If your child chooses a food item they have to be able to produce it themselves. Note that we will only have 9 students to sell to, so don't make too many products. It will be on a non-kindergarten day so they won't be participating.

## **Virginia City Trip**

We will tour Virginia City Streets on a walking tour then ride a Shortline Train to the "River of Gold" for a gold panning experience and a mining exhibit, and end with a visit to the Nevada City Museum featuring historic period dresses, demonstrating historic skills, and sharing old world techniques including blacksmith work and more!

## **Graduation / End of the year celebration**

We are celebrating the end of the year and saying good bye to our fifth graders with bowling at MSU SUB building (751 W. Grant St.). Please **drop off there at 9:00.** Lunch (Pizza) will be provided there at 11:00 with a short graduation for the 5th graders. Please **pick up your child in front of SUB building at 11:45.**

## Snapshots of the month

The end of the year is rapidly approaching so we will be getting outside and complementing our studies with real experiences. We will end our Montana studies for lower el. by visiting Virginia City, and learning more about the engineering process by designing with light at the Science Center. We will also be going on a hike in the Hyalites to identify and classify plants. May/June will be so much fun!

In lower elementary we are at the end of our data analyzing studies, and will concentrate on mastering our Montessori lessons in math. Some of us will still have some algebra, probability, and money problems to work with.

In language we will focus on grammar boxes, analogy, and sentence types for older students, and younger students will work on verbs, tenses, predicate and subject, and more long vowel sounds. We will have a Book Report Party to share our written summary of our chosen books.

In social sciences we will start on the study of Montana in all grades. We will look at the role of money, goods and services, and talk about consumers and producers. We will play natural resources bingo and watch videos about Montana Indian Tribes. In Botany we will read "Shanleya's Quest" to discover classification of plants and play the card game with it. Olders will finish zoology studies of invertebrate animal classes.

We will see what we can accomplish during this last month of school, lots of learning to do, but most of all we will have fun.

In May, upper elementary students will be exploring the amazing world of geometry! We will study angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals, learning to classify them by their properties. We will be doing lots of challenging shape puzzles to stimulate our visual thinking skills. In addition, we will be reading the novel Wonder together, which is a funny and heart-warming story about a 5th grade boy named Auggie. After being home-schooled for four years, Auggie, who suffers from a severely deformed face and Treachers-Collins Syndrome, enters fifth grade at Beecher Prep School and does his best to be just an ordinary kid with an extraordinary face. The book has many themes including family relationships, friendship, overcoming challenges, bullying, betrayal, and most of all kindness. We will do many reading, writing, and art activities based on these themes.

This will be the last newsletter of the school year, so for the summer please make sure your child is reading every day, writing a journal on your trips and practicing all operations with flashcards!

Have a great summer!