



Cottonwood Newsletter

September 2018

Schedule of Events and Field Trips



Montana Historical Society Trunk: "Tools of the Trade: Montana Industry and Technology" classes on **Mondays 2:00-3:00**

9/10 - Hike at Hyalite Trailhead,
10:45-3:20

Pack a sack lunch! Wear weather appropriate clothing and hiking shoes and put on sunscreen in the morning if needed!

Bring a backpack with a water bottle and a lunch.

Hearing Screenings TBA

9/21 - School photos with Amy Burkenpas at 1:00pm. Please return packets with payments after you receive it by Wednesday, 9/19.

Check out her work at

www.amyburkenpas.com

5 Back to School Tips: Montessori Style

Build Confidence Encourage independence in your children by allowing them to do for themselves. Look for learning opportunities in everyday tasks.

Allow the Freedom to Make Mistakes Allow time for your child to experiment and repeat tasks to thoroughly learn

Allow Time for Concentration and Cut-out Distractions Allowing time to focus on an activity without electronic distractions helps to develop a longer attention span, if you stop your child in mid-activity, leave the project out then allow the child to return to it later.

Provide a Sense of Order Children are more comfortable when they know what to expect. Try establishing consistent morning, evening and/or mealtime customs.

Learn from Nature Go outside with your children. Take walks, go to the park, sit and watch birds.

Montana Historical Society Trunk Classes

The Society's program offers thematic "traveling trunks" focused on a wide variety of topics, ranging from the fur-trading and mining industries, to Indian life during the reservation period and today. Each hands-on trunk is filled with reproductions of clothing, tools, everyday objects, maps, photographs, and documents. User Guides include historical narratives, "amazing Montanan" biographies in compliance with Montana Standards for Social Studies and the Essential Understandings regarding Montana Indians.

In the "Tools and Trade" trunk we will survey the evolution of tools and technology in Montana from late 1700s to the present. We will explore Making an Atlatl, and learn more about the physics behind this ancient technology and the tremendous skill it took to hunt large games in the pre-contact era.

As you noticed we have a new lock on the front door. It will be open from 8:15-8:45 and 3:15-3:35. Entry for any other times requires ringing the bell loudly so we can hear it in our classrooms.

Updates From Our Classrooms

The Lower Elementary classroom students will be settling in the class routines and figuring out what they are interested in. Students will be discovering simple addition, dynamic multiplication and addition with our wonderful materials. Grade 1 and 2 will practice problem solving skills daily with Problem of the Day (P.O.D.). We will be working on number sense concepts like number recognition, place value, comparing and ordering numbers, and word problems. Kindergarten will be learning patterns, writing numbers, and exploring the short bead stairs. Please keep practicing all + / - facts (K within 5, 1st within 10, 2nd within 20) at home to help the memorization of them. **In language** we will be studying mechanics of our language starting with capitalization, and will practice our skills through Daily Language Review (D.L.R.). Lots of individual work will be happening in grammar boxes, and word study (suffix) as well as singular and plural rules. Younger students are learning sounds with phonics concepts, rhyming and building with the moveable alphabet. We will have reading groups and spelling tests in grades 1 and 2 on Friday mornings. Look for spelling words list going home on Mondays.

Keep reading with your child every day to improve reading skills and practice spelling words!

In history we will be looking into fundamental needs and calendar work. Geography studies will include the world map, continents and oceans, and start with Montessori Great Lesson Number One, about the universe. **In science** we will be studying sound and light. Kindergarten will also be learning about magnetism. We will be having fun looking at parts of parts of the plant, and further studies of those parts. Montessori loves to internalize order of all information learned. We will be discussing vertebrates and invertebrates and tying animal and plant studies in with our field trip to Hyalite. Please check Friday Folders every week to see your child's work and return paperwork by Monday when needed.

In upper elementary we are beginning the year with a study of place value, number patterns, and base ten. We are exploring HUGE numbers in our world by asking "How many...?" Some questions the kids have come up with so far are "How many leaves are in an oak tree?" "How many elementary age kids are in Montana?" and "How expensive is a house in Bozeman?" (Those are all 6 or 7 - digit numbers!) 5th Graders are extending this learning by exploring decimal place value, and 3rd graders are starting a study of multiplication. Info. for new families/reminders for the returning families: **Your child has math facts homework on IXL every week.** They must practice the "facts of the week" three times at home before Friday. If they do so, they get to skip practicing them in class on Friday. If they don't do their homework, they must stay in from recess on Friday to practice their facts. This homework will take less than 10 minutes to complete, and will greatly help your child's math fluency! Here is the website: www.ixl.com. Student usernames are their first name followed by the first letter in their last name then the number 690. For example, if your name is John Smith, it would be johns690. The password is: math. After login, to go Math-->Grade 3-->Multiplication Skill Builders-->then find the fact of the week. I have taught the kids how to find the correct website, so they should know how to access it, but if you need any help, please let me know! I also give option for students to do their homework on paper rather than online. If you or your child would prefer it this way instead of using the computer, please let me know. In science we are studying Levers and Pulleys, learning about how simple machines can help solve problems. The central idea of this unit is that **technology can be any object or system that humans have created to solve a problem.** We will do several hands-on engineering lessons, experimenting with the design of technology. Some vocabulary words to ask your child about are: lever, advantage, fulcrum, resistance, load, and effort. **PDR** projects will begin soon! **Students should study or design a piece of technology that solves a problem.** More details on this to come! Language arts studies are focused on reading and writing informational text. This will tie into PDR projects, as students research and write reports using the "Accordion Essay" style of organization, as we did last year. Spelling is also a major focus right now--the students have new activities in their Spelling Bingo that are meant to utilize multiple modalities and lots of repetition to help students remember their words. In addition, we are doing spelling chants every day in class: ask your child to show you one at home!

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

We are looking forward to a great school year!

Mrs. Abby And Mrs. Kate