



Cottonwood Newsletter

September 2019

Schedule of Events and Field Trips



"Indian Education for All" classes on **Mondays**
2:00-3:00

9/9 - Hike at our neighbor's property across Cottonwood Rd. 1:15-3:00, bring sunscreen if needed.

9/16 - Hike at Hell Roaring Creek 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.

9/20 - School photos with Amy Burkenpas at 1:00pm. Please return packets with payments after you receive it by Wednesday, 9/18. 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 Nature.

Indians Education for All

Montana's constitutional laws require recognition of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and a commitment in our educational goals to preserve their cultural heritage. Every student is encouraged to learn about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians and their past. OPI Indian Education for All (IEFA) Unit works with tribes and other entities to ensure all schools have the knowledge, tools and resources necessary to honor the IEFA requirement and integrate it into their teaching materials and methods. We will also be using the lessons developed by the Montana Historical Society to teach the history of the Tribes.

We would like to welcome our **new Spanish Teacher** Señora Joy Sander. She has lived with her family in Central America for a couple of years and her children attend Amsterdam School where she also volunteers a lot. Great to have her be part of our team.

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 and dynamic addition with our wonderful materials. **In math** Grade 1 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, 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) 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 in 1st grade through Daily Language Review (D.L.R.). Lots of individual work will be happening in grammar boxes as well as singular and plural rules. K students are learning sounds with phonics concepts, rhyming and building with the moveable alphabet. We will have reading groups and **spelling tests in grade 1 on Friday mornings**. Look for **spelling words** list going home on Mondays and practice with your child everyday at home. Say the word then put it into a sentence and say the word again while they write it, then check and correct it.

Keep **reading** with your child every day for 15 minutes to improve reading skills and fluency! **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 rocks with the "Pebbles, Sand and Silt" unit. Kindergarten will 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 hike.

Please check **Friday Folders** every week to see your child's work and return paperwork by Monday when needed.

Upper elementary is starting off the year with water science! We will be learning about H₂O molecules, the water cycle, water tension, cohesion, and our Montana Rivers. A few experiments coming up include making a "cloud in a bottle" and watching how plant capillaries work by dyeing celery different colors. In math we will study numbers and operations with a big focus on multiplication facts x2, x3, and x4. If your child is new to upper elementary, it's important to know that there is math homework each week. They need to **practice their math facts 3 times per week before Friday on www.ixl.com**. Students log into their account (they have passwords, which will also be sent home), go to 3rd GRADE (even if they are not in 3rd grade) --> then go to the math fact of the week. If you or your child would prefer to have the homework in paper form instead of going online, please let me know. Spelling quizzes are Fridays, and if students need extra practice on spelling it may come home as homework. We are starting with informational writing. Students will be writing recipes and instructions for their favorite foods. They may be asking you for ideas! For reading we are using a program called Daily 5, where every day the goal is to: 1. Read to self, 2. Read to someone, 3. Listen to reading, 4. Work on Writing, and 5. Word Work.

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

We are looking forward to a great school year!

If you would like to learn more about the Montessori method and philosophy and how we integrate the Common Core Curriculum into it you can set up a meeting with us after school.

Ms. Abby and Mrs. Kate