



# THE COTTONWOOD CONNECTION

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY

DECEMBER 2008

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE BY KAREN MARBERGER

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** We had great attendance at our parent conferences with over 95% of parents attending. We greatly appreciate your support of your students in discussing their academic progress with their teachers and how to continue to support them in being successful students. As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, our school focus this year is building habits for school and life which includes being a self-starter, staying on task, moving silently with intent and talking quietly. These good habits apply in the classroom as well as other areas of the school such as the library, lunchroom, halls and during assemblies and we continue to work on them all year as a school. Hopefully, the teachers reviewed how your students are progressing in these good habits as well. Also, as a school we are participating in the "Road to Success" reading incentive program which is sponsored by the Ken Garff Automotive Group. This program is designed to encourage students to read at least 20 minutes each day. Currently, our students have read a total of 509, 591 minutes. Our goal this year is to read 2,000,000 minutes as a school so we are right on track to reach our goal by the end of the school year.

**Ways to help your child read:** During the holiday season is a great time to read with your child. There are many wonderful children's books that are fun to read together. Some suggestions for reading with your child from the book Einstein Never Used Flash Cards: How Our Children Really Learn and Why They Need to Play More and Memorize Less include:

Read, read read! This means reading to your child and letting your child see you read for various purposes: pleasure, information, recipe search, etc. It also means sitting down with a picture book and letting your child read or tell you a story – based on his own imagination – from the pictures in the book.

When you read to your child, let him or her interrupt, ask questions and comment on the story. The whole point is to connect meaning to the words and pictures.

Stop in the middle of the story and ask your child questions: What do you think will happen next? Why do you think the character is upset/happy/scared? This also reinforces reading for meaning.

Talk to your child and encourage her to talk to you and tell you about her day.

Above all, make reading fun, not work. No need for flashcards or vocabulary drills.

**School Calendar:** During December we will be enjoying many holiday activities. Our Student Council will be decorating the tree at Zion's Bank with ornaments made by many of our students. Zion's Bank welcomes our families to visit the bank lobby and see the tree anytime during the holidays. Also, we will enjoy a holiday concert from the Olympus High School choir on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. On Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m., our instrumental music program students will perform a holiday concert for the school and their parents. Due to space constraints, we only invite our 3-6 grade students to the concert but if parents would like younger siblings to attend, they may let their teacher know they will be attending the concert with their parents. We will again have a parent performance of our school sing around on Friday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> with grades K-3 performing at 9:00 a.m. and grades 4-6 performing at 9:45 a.m. All parents are invited to attend these performances and we look forward to an eventful holiday season.

~Karen Marberger  
Principal



## DECEMBER

- 12/5 School Pictures Make-up day  
8:45 - 9:45 a.m.  
Short Day 1:05
- 12/11 School Instrumental program  
Holiday Concert  
9:30 a.m.
- 12/12 Recycling  
Short Day 1:05
- 12/19 Holiday Sing Around  
9:00 a.m. K - 3 grades  
9:45 a.m. 4-6 grades  
Short Day 1:05
- 12/22-1/2 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL



## JANUARY

- 1/5 School Resumes
- 1/9 Recycling  
Short Day 1:05
- 1/15 Short Day 1:05
- 1/16 NO SCHOOL
- 1/19 NO SCHOOL  
Martin Luther King Day
- 1/23 Short Day 1:05
- 1/30 Short Day 1:05

## SCHOOL WEB PAGE



Visit:

[www.graniteschools.org/el/cottonwood/](http://www.graniteschools.org/el/cottonwood/) See teacher pages with emails, upcoming events, the school calendar, PTA information and a link to the online grading program and more. Let us know what you think.



**As the weather gets colder, remember to bring your hat, gloves or mittens, warm coat, and boots!**



November

Box Tops - \$525.00  
Cream o' Weber \$155.70  
Aluminum Cans - \$37.90



## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

### MRS. ROSS 5TH GRADE

Mrs. Ross was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a pre-schooler, she liked to teach her stuffed animals, but she never really considered becoming a teacher until she was in college. Mrs. Ross has always loved to read, especially mysteries and American history, but in school her best subjects were math, biology, and chemistry.

For fifteen years Mrs. Ross taught at the middle school level in North Carolina, mainly science. Now in Utah she is completing another 15 years, this time at the elementary level. Fourteen of those years have been at Cottonwood Elementary.

Mrs. Ross enjoys teaching all subjects, but her greatest passions are American history and moving to music. Also she likes to develop her students' observation and critical thinking skills.

In her free time Mrs. Ross enjoys Scottish Highland dancing, square dancing, pilates, kickboxing, gardening, walking, bird watching, and taking care of her cats. In the winter she screams a lot at the TV while she watches Duke basketball!

## COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY OF CARING STUDENTS

November 2008  
"RESPECT"

Kindergarten:

Benjamin P - McCracken AM  
Lia M - McCracken PM

1st Grade:

Ahmari C - Amott  
Janae M - Mahas  
Carson B - Van Frank

2nd Grade:

Matthew R - Homer  
Chris S - Larson  
Holly P - Phillips

3rd Grade:

Colby L - Heiss  
Natasja V - Jordan  
Bianca L - Pixton

4th Grade:

Laura R - Fraser  
Kate J - Gilchrist  
Duke S - Munson

5th Grade:

Ellie G - Nistler  
Jackson C - Ross  
Nicholas W - Wagstaff

6th Grade:

Andrew M - Burgess  
Kennedy S - Williams

## \*\*Albertson's and Smith's Helping Our School\*\*

If you shop at Albertson's or Smith's and Smith's Market Place why not sign up online to be a community partner for Cottonwood Elementary. Once you are registered, every time you shop with your Savings Card at Albertsons or Smiths, they will give back a small percentage to our school for your child's classroom to use on

supplies, fieldtrips & other class activities determined by their teacher.

It is free and easy to do. Just sign up online and shop as you normally do with your Store Savings Card.

### ALBERTSONS

[www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com) click: Preferred Savings Card, click: In the Community, click: Community Partners, click: Shop-

pers Login, have your preferred savings card ready to type ID number.

### SMITHS & SMITHS MARKET PLACE:

[www.smithsfoodanddrug.com](http://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com) click: Earn & Learn, enter school or organization #80732. Have your Fresh Values Card ready to type in ID number.

**IT ALL ADDS UP!!**



## Science Fair is Coming!

This year the Cottonwood Science Fair will be on February 17 - 20. Those wishing to participate will need to have their forms turned in by Friday, February 13 to their teacher. The Science Fair packet will be available this year on line on the school web site. This packet contains the participation form and district rules as well as information on how to do a science fair project and ideas for getting started. Please email Tina Seastrand at [dseastrand@q.com](mailto:dseastrand@q.com) or call 272-9270 with any questions.



## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ENGLISH: Merry Christmas

GERMAN: Froehliche  
Weihnachten

SPANISH: Feliz Navidad

FRENCH: Joyeux Noel

ITALIAN: Buon Natale

PORTUGUESE: Boas Festas

SWEDISH: Glaedelig Jul

DUTCH: Hartelijke Kerstgroeten

HUNGARIAN: Boldog Karacsonyi Unnepeket

SLOVAK: Vesele Vianoce

HAWAIIAN: Meli Kalikimaka

ESKIMO: Quvianaqtuaq Kraismagvik

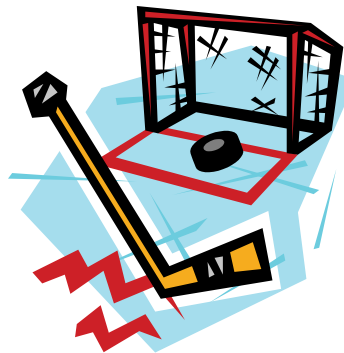
CHINESE: (Sheng Tan Kuai Loh)

RUSSIAN: (Srohzh dyest vom)

GREEK: (Kalla Christoughenna)

JAPANESE: (Me ri Ku ree su ma su)

KOREAN: (Son tan ul chukka hamnidah)



## P.E. News

The month of December finishes up our volleyball unit and gets us ready for Hockey in January. We have been competing against grade levels in our "RUN UTAH" challenge at lunch recess each Monday. Check the showcase bulletin board next to the front doors to track each grades progress.

Looking ahead, we will be participating in the SLMarathon 5K Walk/Run on April 18th. We want Cottonwood students, families, teachers and faculty to join us as we show our commitment to an active, healthy lifestyle. In P.E. we are doing several activities, such as the "RUN UTAH" challenge to prepare the students for this event.

Make it a family goal and go for a run together.

If you are interested in being on a paid P.E. substitute list please contact Allison Larsen @ 618-5209

