



# THE COTTONWOOD CONNECTION

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY

JANUARY 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE BY KAREN MARBERGER

**Air Quality and Cold Weather School Guidelines:** As a School Community Council and with the support of the PTA, we have compiled school guidelines regarding extreme weather and when students will need to stay indoors for recesses. If it is raining or snowing hard or if the temperature is 25° or below including wind chill factor, all students will remain indoors participating in appropriate indoor recess activities. This also applies to the mornings before school when students will be allowed to come in early. If it is lightly raining or snowing and the temperature is above 25° then most students will go outside for recess and stay outside until school starts. Please ensure students wear suitable clothing for the weather to play outside as students need the opportunity to get exercise, fresh air and a break from classroom activities. There is concern about the effects of poor air quality on children's health and their ability to breathe easily. Because of this, our school has adopted the following guidelines: We will be monitoring the Air Quality index by checking the Particulate Matter (PM2.5) levels. This information will guide our outdoor physical activities. When the PM2.5 level falls between 35.5 and 55.4, we will let "sensitive" students stay indoors. When the PM2.5 level falls between 55.5 and 90, we will let "sensitive" students and students experiencing respiratory symptoms, such as with a cold or allergies, stay indoors. When the PM2.5 level rises above 90, outdoor recess will be cancelled for all children and alternative play/exercise opportunities will be offered indoors. Parents, with the advice from your health care provider, need to let the teacher know if your child is "sensitive" to poor air quality which may include significant asthma or other respiratory problems or when your child needs to stay indoors for related health problems. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy school environment for your child.

**School Community Council:** Our School Community Council's main responsibilities include the development of the School Student Achievement Plan and oversight of the School LAND Trust Plan. It is now time for any interested community members to declare their candidacy for nomination to the School Community Council. A form will be posted on the school web page which must be returned to the school office by February 3, 2009 for consideration. Two members' terms are ending this year and those vacancies will need to be filled. An election will be held during the

Spring SEP conferences. Any interested patrons who will have students enrolled in the school next year and are willing to commit to a two-year term with monthly meetings, please complete the candidacy form and return to the office by the above date.

**School Calendar:** During January, our upper grade students will be participating in some additional school activities which include the National Geography Bee and, once again, a national Spelling Bee. Our school Geography Bee will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Geography Bee school winner must then take the written Qualifying Test. The top 100 scoring students in Utah will qualify to compete in the state-level competition which will be held on Friday, April 3. The first place winner from each state-level competition will advance to the national level of the National Geography Bee, scheduled on May 19-20 in Washington, D.C. and those expenses will be paid for the state Bee winner.

Our school Scripps Spelling Bee will be held at the end of January for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The school winner will participate in the regional competition. The Valley Journals will sponsor the Scripps National Spelling Bee regional competition for Salt Lake County which will take place on March 14 at the Salt Lake Community College Larry H. Miller campus. The winner of the regional competition will receive an all-expense paid trip for two to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. May 26-27. He or she will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship and other prizes.

~Karen Marberger  
Principal



WELCOME BACK FROM WINTER BREAK!



## JANUARY


- 1/5 School Resumes
- 1/9 Recycling  
Short Day 1:05
- 1/13 PTA Board Meeting 10am
- 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




## FEBRUARY

- 2/6 Short Day 1:05
- 2/10 PTA Board Meeting 10am
- 2/12 School Wide Service Project
- 2/13 Science Fair Registration  
Forms Due to Teachers  
Short Day 1:05
- 2/14 Happy Valentines Day!
- 2/16 NO SCHOOL  
President's Day
- 2/17 Science Fair Set-up and  
Registration
- 2/18-19 Science Fair Judging
- 2/20 Science Fair walk-through  
8:45am to 12:45pm  
Short Day 1:05
- 2/23 Science Fair Awards  
Assembly 2:30pm
- 2/27 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!**



**December**

Box Tops -  
 Cream o' Weber  
 Aluminum Cans - \$11.40

**ATTENTION  
 6TH GRADE PARENTS  
 OF FUTURE  
 OLY BULLDOGS!**



"I Am The Difference" is the theme for our Olympus Jr. High PTSA this year. Way back in the day, teachers would have to rely upon a family or a rotation of families to give them room and board when teaching in a community. Now we are asked to volunteer in various ways to support our teachers and schools. The tradition of letting our incoming 7th graders come for a half day and have the school to themselves and get practice on their lockers without 8th and 9th graders around started with the PTSA and is still carried out by the PTSA including providing them lunch. There are many things that may be considered an integral part of the Jr. High experience that could not happen if not for the PTSA. This is a heads up that we are putting together a nominating committee for our PTSA next year. We need a treasurer, a secretary, a newsletter editor, a president-elect, a vice president as well as other commissioners to head up individual projects. If you are interested in jumping in and having a say in what happens give Karin Wallace a call at 801-277-3110 and she will be happy :) to write your name down as a nominee for the Olympus Junior High PTSA board!

**COTTONWOOD  
 ELEMENTARY  
 COMMUNITY OF  
 CARING STUDENTS**

January 2009

Kindergarten:  
 Tate D- McCracken AM  
 Jenna K - McCracken PM

1st Grade:  
 Jacob G - Amott  
 Jackson H - Mahas  
 Mia Z - Van Frank

2nd Grade:  
 Grace B - Homer  
 Serenity E - Larson  
 Jacob S - Phillips

3rd Grade:  
 Skye T - Heiss  
 Kate C- Jordan  
 Simon C - Pixton

4th Grade:  
 Hannah S - Fraser  
 Gabe V - Gilchrist  
 Noah Z - Munson

5th Grade:  
 Clarissa L - Nistler  
 Natalie F- Ross  
 Zack H- Wagstaff

6th Grade:  
 Jason P - Burgess  
 Erika 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!

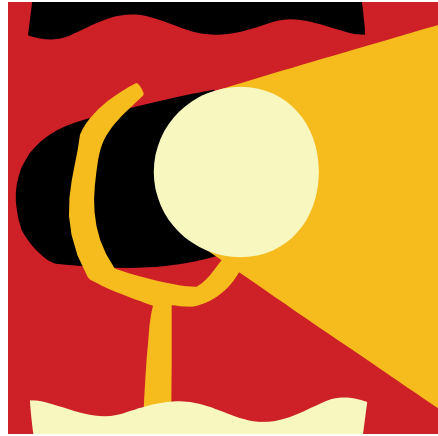
This year the Cottonwood Science Fair will be on February 17 - 20. Those wishing to participate will need to have their forms turned in by Friday, February 13 to their teacher. The Science Fair packet will be available this year on line on the school web site. This packet contains the participation form 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.

### Tips from the PTA Parent Dec 08:

There are many ways that you can help your child succeed! A few small activities each week will pay huge dividends over the course of the year. Here are a few that you can do this week:

- Know the names of your child's teacher(s), school principal, and school nurse.
- Read and know your school's handbook.

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



### MISS WILLIAMS 6TH GRADE

Wendy Williams teaches sixth grade at Cottonwood. Wendy is originally from right here in Holladay. She graduated from Olympus High School and went to Snow College to receive her Associate of Science degree. After a semester studying in Israel, Wendy went to Utah State University where she graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

After school Wendy teaches dance at Clayton Productions where she also dances and sings herself. Over the summer Wendy spent 2 weeks performing on a goodwill tour around France and England.

Wendy came to Cottonwood after teaching 4th grade at Oakridge Elementary. She is loving the curriculum and enjoying the students here!

### MR. HEISS 3RD GRADE

Mr. Heiss received quite a promotion. He advanced from 1st grade to third grade here at Cottonwood. Previously he taught primary grades at the United Nations International School in New York since 1988. He also taught in Granite School District before moving to New York.

Mr. Heiss has experience using technology and computers in his classroom. He speaks Spanish. His hobbies include tennis, backpacking, hiking, backcountry skiing, and especially long distance bicycle touring, having covered 1500 miles across Alaska in 2000, and the Danube River Trail from Germany to Hungary the previous year. This summer he bicycled through Germany.

Mr. Heiss comes well-prepared to provide stimulating curriculum to Cottonwood students. He is energetic, kind, and enthusiastic about working with children.

### 10 Truths About Parent Involvement

Research shows that regardless of income or background, when parents are involved, students are more likely to earn higher grades, enroll in higher-level programs, attend school regularly, have better social skills, graduate, and go on to postsecondary education. Here are some truths about parent involvement that you can use to gauge your involvement level and the relationship you have with your child's school. After reviewing these truths, check out PTA's resources for [parent involvement](#) for ways to get more involved:

1. All parents have hopes and goals for their children.
2. Parents differ in their abilities and/or resources to help their children reach those goals.
3. The parent is the central contributor to a child's education.
4. Parent involvement must be seen as a legitimate element of education and deserves equal emphasis with elements such as school improvement and evaluation.
5. Parent involvement is an ongoing process, not a series of events.
6. Parent involvement requires a shared vision, policy, and framework for planning programs and practices that are connected to student learning.
7. Many barriers to parent involvement are found within school practices, attitudes, and assumptions.
8. Successful parent involvement programs help families guide their children's learning from preschool through high school.
9. Families from diverse backgrounds have their own sets of norms and experiences that often influence their relationship with schools.
10. Parents are more likely to become involved when they understand that they should be involved, they feel capable of making a contribution, and they feel invited by the school and their children.

## WOW! - REFLECTIONS RESULTS



We had a wonderful turn out for the PTA Reflections contest this year - over 200 participants! Thanks to all of the students for their amazing "WOW!" entries. Here are the students who were recognized for their work:

**Literature:** Heather C., Kate R., Anna R., Jacob B., Maren M.

**Photography:** Ashley C., Jacob B., Maren M., Zack H., Andrew M.

**Visual Art:** Tessa D., Ashley C., Ruby T., Joylyn H., Sam H.

**3D:** Dan R., Elizabeth M., Duke S., Audrey M., Sophie W.

**Video:** Anna P.

**Dance:** Eliza J.

**Music:** Eliza G., Ellie G., Skye T.

**Theatre:** Jenny F.

Good luck to these students in the next round of competition!

A big THANK YOU to GREAT HARVEST for donating over 200 free cookie coupons to the participants!

