



THE COTTONWOOD CONNECTION

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY

MARCH 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE BY KAREN MARBERGER

SEP conferences March 11th & 12th: Once again, parents are able to use the web page, www.ptconference.org to schedule SEP conference times. For this conference, students are invited to attend with their parents. The Kindergarten teacher will not be conferencing this time as parents will meet with the teacher in May for the kindergarten assessment. 6th grade teachers will again be holding open conferencing so their schedules are not posted online. All the teachers will be available both nights between 3:30-7:30 p.m. The purpose of this is so that parents may meet with any teacher who has provided instruction in math or science as well as the home-room teacher. Our school goal is 100% attendance at SEP conferences so please plan to attend with your student.

The main purpose of parent conferences is the communication with parents, students and teachers about academic progress during the past term. This is a valuable opportunity for all involved in a student's education to share different viewpoints and gain perspectives on a student's progress. Another important aspect of the SEP conference is goal setting. "Goals help students focus on what's important and what's not. When children are goal-oriented, they are more likely to say "no" to irresponsible behaviors...because they are saying "yes" to their vision of the future." (The Parent Institute Newsletter, 2002) Help your child to set realistic, achievable goals for the next trimester and review weekly how to break the goals into small steps that can be more easily accomplished over time. As a school staff, we greatly appreciate our parents' support of their child's education. It makes all the difference.

Junior Achievement Program: We will soon have parent volunteers teaching excellent lessons about economics and finances to all of our classes with lesson plans prepared by the Junior Achievement Program. We appreciate the sponsors of this program for Cottonwood Elementary and the parent vol-

unteers who have been trained to provide these lessons to our students. We would like to recognize the parent volunteers who are contributing this service for our school:

Karen Nelson is the coordinator of the program and has provided the training for Natalie Holtby, Kim Longson, Lisa Giauque, Anita Spence, Holly Welch, Robert Pedersen, Rob Nydegger, David Koltz, Michelle Church, Claire Binder, Kellie Brewer, Holli Dunn, Stefano Bronzati, Emily Gygy, Richard Nelson and Jean McGavin. We want to thank these volunteers for their hard work in teaching our students these valuable life lessons. Also, as part of this program, our 5th grade students will be attending Junior Achievement City in May where they will experience real life application of these lessons in a simulation format at the Discovery Gateway.

Kindergarten Registration/Orientation:

One last reminder that we are now registering upcoming kindergarten students for the next school year. We have posted a registration form on our school web page, www.graniteschools.org/el/cottonwood. Our kindergarten orientation will be held on Tues. March 25, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. for parents and kindergarten students. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this as our kindergarten enrollment is critical to our school. Our kindergarten program provides an excellent reading foundation utilizing the Open Court basal reading program as well as developmentally appropriate curriculum in other academic areas as determined by the Utah State Office of Education. Our school enrollment does determine the number of teachers we are able to keep at the school. We hope that those parents who may be deciding which program to select, will support the Cottonwood Elementary kindergarten program which we feel provides an excellent academic experience for our students in a neighborhood school setting.

~Karen Marberger



MARCH

- 3/5 Short Day 1:05
- 3/6 NO SCHOOL
Teacher Work Day
- 3/10 PTA Board Meeting 10am
- 3/11-12 SEP Teacher Conferences
- 3/13 Recycling
Short Day 1:05
- 3/17 St Patrick's Day!
- 3/20 Short Day 1:05
Community Council Meeting
2:00pm
- 3/23-25 Teacher Appreciation
- 3/24 Maturation Program
6:30pm Girls - 7:00pm Boys
- 3/25 Kindergarten Orientation 9:30am
Fund Raiser Delivery
- 3/26 Kindergarten Program 9:30a
Spring Sing - Check times on
Page 2
- 3/27 NO SCHOOL
SEP Comp Day

APRIL

- 4/1 April Fool's Day
- 4/3 Spring Pictures
- 4/8 Short Day 1:05
- 4/9-13 NO SCHOOL
Spring Recess
- 4/14 PTA Board Meeting 10am
- 4/17 Shakespeare Workshop
All Students & Parents
1:30-3:30pm
- 4/21 Shakespeare Play
7pm at Olympus Jr.
- 4/24 Community Council Meeting
2:00pm
- 4/27 - 5/15 CRT'S

Cottonwood Elementary Spring Sing

Under the direction of:

Kathryn Monson - Music Specialist

Thursday, March 26

9:30-10:00am - Kindergarten

10:00 - 10:30am - Lower Hall

10:30 - 11:00am - Upper Hall



Great Literature Lessons begin this month and continue through May! You child will be learning about Great Authors and their books. An added bonus for grades K—3 is that these grade levels will also be taught a reading strategy that expert readers use. (Next year, the entire school, grades K—6 will be taught a specific reading strategy (per grade level) that will help them improve their comprehension!) Parents, please encourage your child to teach you the reading strategy and or authors they are studying. Keep these statistics in mind: when a child reads independently (outside of school) for even 14.2 minutes per day, an average child is exposed to 1, 146,000 words per year!! If a child reads 65 minutes a day, this child is exposed to 4, 358,000 words per year. But if your child is only reading .7 minutes per day or about 45 minutes per week, they are only exposed to 21,000 words per year. This adds up to an incredible amount of vocabulary and knowledge that cannot be gained in any other way! Reading Children's books is a great way to increase vocabulary exposure!! Children's books contain 30.9 rare words per 1000! So you are constantly increasing your child's vocabulary by reading children's books! If you want your kids to get SMARTER—reading is the answer! Take them to the library so they can check out books by these wonderful authors! Ask your child's teacher for the list of authors! When your child reads for fun, reward them with MORE BOOKS, or more time to read, or time to read with you. Please do not give your child any money, stickers, prizes, candy, etc. for reading. Rather, ask your child: "What did you *learn* today? What are you *interested* in learning more about? Can you *tell me* more about ____?" Most of all, have FUN! There is so much out there to learn!!

Emily Swan Ph.D.

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY OF CARING STUDENTS

March 2009
"Caring"

Kindergarten:

Cami C - McCracken AM

Josh A - McCracken PM

1st Grade:

Destiny E - Amott

Grace E - Mahas

Emma M - Van Frank

2nd Grade:

Kelani P - Homer

Ashlyn Y - Larson

Emme P - Phillips

3rd Grade:

Erin C - Heiss

Caroline H - Jordan

Jordan T - Pixton

4th Grade:

Steele H - Fraser

Tyler S - Gilchrist

Bryson D - Munson

5th Grade:

Bobby V - Nistler

Noah O - Ross

Amanda J - Wagstaff /

5th/6th Grade

6th Grade:

Erin J - Burgess

Erikka S - Williams

WANTED:

Cottonwood Elementary is looking for parents/grandparents/high school students who are interested in helping with math tutoring for upper grade children. The time you would be needed would be from 1 to 2:15pm. You could specify the day of the week (M-TH) that would work for you. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Marberger @ Ktmarberger@graniteschools.org



February

Albertsons \$318.14
Paper Recycling \$21.00
Aluminum \$33.88
Box Tops \$10.00

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 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 click: Earn & Learn, enter school or organization #80732. Have your Fresh Values Card ready to type in ID number.

IT ALL ADDS UP!!



**Kindergarten
Orientation
Wednesday
March 25
9:30am**

Come to the auditorium to register your incoming kindergartner for next year. You will hear from the principal, the PTA, and the kindergarten teacher. The current kindergarten will be singing songs. After the short program your child will be able to take a tour of the school and their future classroom while you register them. We look forward to seeing you!

**Teacher
Appreciation Week!
Monday, March 23**

Please send a dollar or two to go to a common gift for your teacher. Room moms will be collecting money in the morning. The teachers and staff will be having breakfast provided by the PTA.

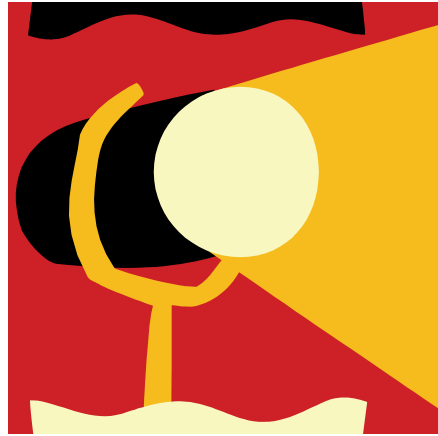
Tuesday, March 24

Students will have the opportunity to give their teachers a "Heart Attack" today.

Wednesday, March 25

Gift will be given by the students to their teachers

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



**MRS. PIXTON
3RD GRADE**

Mrs. Pixton has lived most of her life in Salt Lake City. She loves her job and all the wonderful things that come her way! She treasures being a mother, wife, and teacher. She has two amazing sons who are her pride and joy. Her favorite activities are tennis, water skiing, snow skiing, camping, kayaking, hiking, being with her family, and inventing new adventures. She has a motto: "Never Stop Exploring!" Explore new ideas, hobbies, books, friends, teaching methods, and experiences. She has taught at Cottonwood for many years - beyond counting! She's an Aggie from Utah State, endorsed as an Alternative Language teacher, the ALP leader for Cottonwood, and serves as the New Teacher Mentor.

She loves reading stories to her class the most out of all her teaching moments. When this happens we all connect together and enjoy each other with laughter and interesting conversations.

**MRS. PHILLIPS
2ND GRADE**

Mrs. Phillips is the only girl in an all boy family. She has four grown sons who love to take her to Moab in their customized jeeps! She was born in Toronto and raised in Michigan. During High school, she was an exchange student living in the Netherlands. She loves to visit other countries and experience their cultures. She has had the great opportunity to travel throughout the world. Needless to say, travel is her #1 favorite thing to do.

Mrs. Phillips came to Utah to attend BYU. She was a member of the BYU International Folk Dancing Team and had a great experience performing and touring with them. She and her family moved to Georgia for a few years then returned to Utah. She worked in her husband's advertising agency for six years before returning to teaching. She loves Cottonwood and all the wonderful students who have been in her class.



Science Fair News

Thank you to everyone that participated in this years Science Fair. We had many projects that were interesting and creative. We appreciate this years Science Fair Committee that helped make this program a success: Mary Templeman, Mava Day, Jean McGavin, Sarah Bradley, Paula Delis, Gena Marcum, Holly Welch, Kristi Taylor, Stephanie Bywater, AnneMarie Hopkins, Michele Rupert, David Koltz, Kelly Dahl, Patty Johnson, Joey Kennedy, Randy Casper, Allyson Chard and Mrs. Marberger. We wish the best of luck to those students that will be representing the school at the District Fair in March. Plan now to participate next year in our Science Fair. The summer is a great time to do interesting projects that cannot be done during the winter.

2009 Science Fair Awards

* advancing on to district competition

6th Grade

* Holly R-*Best of Show*

* Jake C-*Gold*

* Heather D-*Silver*

Maddy R-*Bronze*

Heather C-*Honorable Mention*

Abbey R-*Honorable Mention*

Max B-*Honorable Mention*

Amelia B-*Honorable Mention*

Scott K-*Honorable Mention*

Lucy G-*Honorable Mention*

Erin J-*Honorable Mention*

5th grade

* Aldo C-*Best of Show*

* Claire T-*Gold*

*Blake F-*Silver*

Will T-*Bronze*

Spencer P-*Honorable Mention*

Annabelle H-*Honorable Mention*

4th grade

Mason D-*Best of Show*

Emillie W-*Gold*

Caitlyn B-*Silver*

Colton B-*Silver*

Kyle C-*Bronze*

Audrey M-*Honorable Mention*

Brittany B-*Honorable Mention*

Jacob B-*Honorable Mention*

Hannah S-*Honorable Mention*

3rd grade

Chad W-*Best of Show*

Skye T-*Gold*

Ethan H-*Silver*

Zachary B-*Bronze*

Gabriel S-*Honorable Mention*

Elizabeth S-*Honorable Mention*

Congratulations to All Science Fair Participants

Kindergarten

Andrew B

Caden K

Ben P

Lizzie M

1st grade

Hayden C

Abigail F

Emma M

Lincoln M

2nd grade

Anna F

Zachary K

Jacob S

3rd grade

Zachary B

Ethan H

Eliza J

Gabriel S

Elizabeth S

Skye T

Chad W

4th grade

Brittany B

Caitlyn B

Colton B

Jacob B

Kyle C

Mason D

Bryson D

Elizabeth F

Olivia L

Audrey M

Maren M

Ayden M

Thomas M

Hannah S

Tyler S

Emillie W

5th grade

Beatrice

Aldo C

Blake F

Annabelle H

Austin M

Abigail N

Annika P

Hannah P

Spencer P

Clair T

Will T

Cameron V

Allie W

6th grade

Mary B

Bryce C

Myra B

Hoggan B

Max B

Shana B

Amelia B

Preston B

Heather C

Jacob C

Gabe C

Austin C

London D

Heather D

Andrew D

Allie D

Ben E

Robbie F

Jane F

Lucy G

Kayla G

Ella H

Jack H

Josh H

Erin J

Kyra J

Abigail J

Nick K

Austin K

Scott K

Sadie K

Mishaela L

Andre L

Andrew M

Walker M

Lexie N

Jason P

Tyler P

Colin P

Anne P

Sierra R

Maddy R

Holly R

Alexa S

Abby S

Kennedy S

Jayden S

Erika S

McKenzie S

Erikka S

Lea V

Marina V

Sophie W

Lily W

Abe Y

Emily T

Abbey R

Danielle H