



THE COTTONWOOD CONNECTION

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY

MAY 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE BY KAREN MARBERGER

End of year State Testing: The end-of-year state curriculum testing (CRTs) will be conducted in our second through sixth grade classrooms from April 27th – May 15th. (The testing window has been extended due to online computer testing.) Grades 2-6 will be tested in two curriculum areas which are language arts and math and grades 4-6 will also be tested in science. During the testing window, it is very helpful for the students to get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast and **attend school every day on time**. As required by the mandates of the Elementary Secondary Education Act, *No Child Left Behind*, **we must test at least 95% of our students** during this testing window. Please help us by having your children in attendance at school each day unless your child has a serious illness and encourage them to do their best.

School Staffing: For the most part, we have very few changes in our staffing for the next school year. Based on our kindergarten enrollment for next year, we will continue to have one teacher, Mrs. McCracken, teaching both a morning and afternoon session of kindergarten unless our enrollment greatly increases over the summer.

As many of you know, due to the downturn in the economy and legislative cuts in the education funding, the district has made extensive budget cuts and did increase class size by .25. This does affect our school as the number of teachers is determined by the total student enrollment numbers divided by the class size now of 27.25. Based on our projected enrollment, our school is allotted 17.5 teachers for next year. We currently have 18 teachers in grades K-6. Our grade level enrollment for next year has already been reduced to only two classes in fifth grade and three classes in sixth so we will not need to have a combined class there. In order to reduce the number of teachers further, we are currently exploring our most viable options to meet the increase in class size. I will send out additional staffing information in the parent email updates in May as we finalize our staffing changes.

In 6th grade, our foreign language introductory program to encourage future participation in foreign language instruction in junior high will be taught during the literacy block. Future Problem Solving will continue to be offered to 5th & 6th grade students as well as Math Olympiads and we hope to add Creative Pursuits to the curriculum

next year. Both grade levels will continue to rotate science classes and 6th grade will continue to utilize math grouping as it has been done to allow teachers to specifically teach the concepts to students that may need more of a foundation or accelerate their math instruction to higher levels if students have mastered concepts based on pre and post assessments.

Before School Foreign Language Program: For the 2009-2010 school year we are exploring the possibility of adding a before school foreign language program. These classes would be offered to students in grades 1-6 for a nominal fee that would cover the cost of an instructor. We are looking for interested parents who would like to be a part of a "foreign language committee". These parents would help with the start up of this program. We are also interested in any contacts you might have for a foreign language instructor, perhaps even a parent from our school. If you would like to help with this exciting new opportunity for our students or if you have any suggestions for such a program, please contact Lara Maxfield at 801-277-3169 or larafrrazier@yahoo.com.

School Registration Reminder: We are taking new student registrations now and through the summer so if you know of any new students in our boundaries not currently registered including kindergarten or new move-ins to the area, please let them know about registering early for next year. Also, our school registration for fall on August 12th is for all students, current and new, to complete the registration process for the school year, update information on the registration card to ensure that the school has current information about each student and complete all necessary school forms for the school year. It is very important that a family member complete this registration process on that day, if possible, so that we have time to update student information on the computer before the start of school.

Health Alerts and Updates: We are receiving important information from the Salt Lake Valley Health Department and the district on a regular basis regarding the swine flu outbreak. This information is posted on our school web page for your reference and the most important measure is to keep your children at home if they are exhibiting flu-like symptoms. We will inform parents if there are any reported cases in the future in Utah and our area.

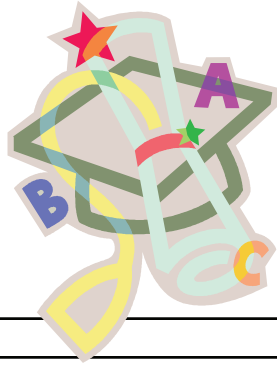


- 5/1 Short Day 1:05p
- 5/8 Recycling
Short Day 1:05p
School Fun Run 1:15pm
Warm-up 1:30pm Start
- 5/12-15 Post Office Week
- 5/21 9:15a Instrumental Music
Spring Concert
Short Day 1:05p
- 5/22 NO SCHOOL
Teacher Work Day
- 5/25 NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day
- 5/27 Kindergarten Medieval Day
- 5/28 6th Grade Lagoon Day
- 5/29 11:30a Grandparents Lunch
Short Day 1:05p



- JUNE**
- 6/3 1:30p 6th Grade Promotion
 - 6/4 PTA Carnival
 - 6/5 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!
Short Day 1:05p

~Karen Marberger - Principal



6th Grade Promotion!

Wednesday, June 3

1:30pm

Parents, please join us in the auditorium for a short program and a party following for the 6th grade students.

Lunch Money News

At the end of the year, any lunch money left in student accounts will automatically carry over to next year. If sixth graders are transferring to a Junior High in Granite District, extra lunch money will transfer with them. Extra lunch money can also be transferred to a sibling. If you need money refunded, please inform Mrs. Anderson before the last week of school.



April

Paper Recycling \$27.00
Box Tops \$523.50

The Gifted and Talented Program Would Like to Recognize.....

Kathy Vanek has been nominated to represent our school for the "We Honor Our Own" Awards hosted by the Granite Association for Gifted Children. This award is given as an opportunity to recognize individuals who have made a difference in the lives of students at our school.

Three years ago when Kathy volunteered to teach Great Art in her son's class, she was disappointed by the lessons and the disarray of supplies. Instead of complaining, she offered to revamp the program for the entire school. This meant a different six-lesson course for each grade, Kindergarten through 6th grade. After much research, she found a new program and enhanced it with many lessons she wrote herself, tailoring them to meet the requests of teachers. She then spent countless summer hours purchasing, organizing and even creating required supplies for every child in the school. Finally she organized and coordinated parent volunteers who would be teaching the art lessons.

Kathy continues to organize the Great Art program at our school and keeps everything in working order. Thanks Kathy for all your hard work and dedication to the students at our school!!

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY OF CARING STUDENTS

May 2009

Kindergarten:

Abby H - McCracken AM
Jack L - McCracken PM

1st Grade:

Cate B - Amott
Isabel B - Mahas
Kate T - Van Frank

2nd Grade:

Matt C - Homer
Ana M - Larson
Sage P - Phillips

3rd Grade:

Kuilina L - Heiss
Becca B - Jordan
Ben D - Pixton

4th Grade:

Cole C - Fraser
Mason D - Gilchrist
Audrey M - Munson

5th Grade:

Victoria G - Nistler
Alyssa M - Ross
Ryan O - Wagstaff /
5th/6th Grade

6th Grade:

Josh H - Burgess
Danielle H - 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 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!!

Please join us for the
**Cottonwood
Elementary Fun Run!**

Friday, May 8
Warm - Up 1:10pm
Race Starts 1:30pm

Wear your school t-shirt,
bring your parents &
Siblings!

Mayor Dennis Webb
and the Holladay City
Council would like to
invite our school to par-
ticipate in

**“Walk to School
Week”**
Monday May 11 -
Friday May 15



**Remember to stop by
and say thank you to
all of the wonderful
people that work at
Cottonwood!**

**We appreciate all you
do!**

**Mrs. Marberger
Mrs. Anderson
Mr. Pond
Mrs. Tegge
Mrs. Woods
Mrs. Bylund**

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. Silva
Resource Teacher

Mrs. Silva was born in East Carbon City in south eastern Utah. She graduated from the U of U with a degree in Psychology and Child/Family Development in 1987. She returned to school and earned her masters degree in Special Education in 1991. She has been teaching school for 16 years. Her favorite subject to teach is reading. For fun, Mrs. Silva likes to hike, mountain bike, watercolor paint, putter in her garden and visit rock art sites.

Mrs. Weeks
Reading Specialist

Mrs. Weeks is married to Rich, has 5 boys and 14 grandchildren! She was born in Greybull, Wyoming and has been teaching for 30 years. She loves swimming, decorating and reading. This past summer Mrs. Weeks took a trip to Yellowstone National Park and Jackson, Wyoming. Her favorite restaurant is Outback. After a busy day at school she enjoys relaxing and shopping.

**HAVE A FUN AND
SAFE SUMMER**

**Cottonwood Elementary
5205 S. Holladay Blvd.
Holladay, UT 84117**



**You've
Got
Mail!**

**Post Office Week
May 12-15, 2008**

The main goals for this project are to encourage good writing skills and to build a stronger community between our children, teachers, family and friends. Letter delivery will begin on Tuesday May 13th.

**PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO WRITE YOUR CHILD SOME LETTERS
EVERYONE LOVES TO GET A
LETTER!**

**Absolutely no packages or letters
with treats or candy will be delivered**