



THE COTTONWOOD CONNECTION

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY

SEPTEMBER 2008

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE BY KAREN MARBERGER

Welcome Back! We are so excited to begin another school year. We will continue to focus on ensuring all students are reading on grade level, are learning necessary math skills in preparation for more difficult courses in junior and senior high schools, gaining greater understanding of science and social studies while supporting the great arts programs currently in place in the school. The PTA is supporting the teachers this year by providing PE and music specialists who will teach each class 30 minutes per week. Students will receive consistent focused instruction on the curriculum during that time and teachers will have some preparation and planning time weekly. 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 will be working on them all year as a school. Also, we will continue to participate 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. Students will earn incentives such as pencils, bookmarks, rulers, erasers and pencil sharpeners and will be entered into a drawing that will be held at the end of the year for 4 bicycles - one for a boy & girl in the lower grades and one for a boy and girl in the upper grades. Last year, we read 1,700,000 minutes which was terrific. So, our school reading goal for this year is 2,000,000 minutes.

School Web Page: Our school web page is updated and available as another tool for school communication. The address is www.graniteschools.org/el/cottonwood/. There are links to teacher pages and email, upcoming events, the school calendar, PTA information and a link to the online grading program among other things. Our goal this year is to become a paperless school

which means most class and school information will be posted on the school web page instead of being sent home with students so start the habit of checking it often.

Monthly Teacher Collaboration: For the past three years, we have been able to collaborate as grade levels at Cottonwood either with the support of our parent volunteers or on early dismissal days last year. This year, there will not be any early dismissal days for collaboration. We will be able to utilize our music specialist to teach each grade level for 45 minutes once a month so that teachers may continue with collaboration this year. Teachers will continue to meet together to analyze student data, improve teaching strategies and focus on student learning. We look forward to this monthly collaboration time to enhance our efforts on behalf of our students.

School Community Council: A very important organization within our school/community is the School Community Council. The council consist of four parent members who are elected by the community and two employee members who are elected by the school staff and the principal. The current parent members are: Tina Seastrand, Liz Knight, Holly Wright and Mary Templeman. The employees members along with the principal are: Barbara Homer and Wendy Williams. The role of the council includes the development of our School/Student Achievement Plan for the current year, the creation and oversight of the School Land Trust Plan and evaluating and updating our school's Child Access Routing Plan. Our meeting times will be announced following our first meeting in September. If you have items you would like the council to address focusing on student achievement, feel free to contact any of the above members to add items to the agenda and/or attend any of the meetings which will be posted on the school webpage.

✦ Karen Marberger

Principal



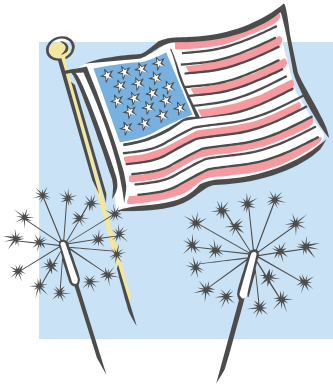
SEPTEMBER

9/1	Labor Day - No School
9/2	Kindergarten Begins Walk-a-thon Assembly
9/3-5	Mill Hollow 4th Grade
9/9	PTA Mtg. 10am on stage
9/9-12	Spirit Week
9/10	Dads-n-Doughnuts
9/12	Box Top & Recycle Pick-up
9/12	Short Day 1:05
9/15	Walk-a-thon
9/19	Short Day 1:05
9/25	Short Day 1:05
9/26	NO SCHOOL
9/29	Walk-a-thon award assembly & Reflections Kick-off

OCTOBER

10/3	Short Day 1:05
10/7	Eye Screening PTA General Membership Mtg 6:00pm
10/10	Box Top & Recycle Pick-up
10/13	Columbus Day
10/13-15	Red Ribbon Week
10/15	Short Day 1:05
10/16	NO SCHOOL - Fall Recess
10/17	NO SCHOOL - Fall Recess
10/24	School Pictures Short Day 1:05
10/31	Halloween Parade 9am Short Day 1:05

**“STARS AND STRIPES”
SPIRIT WEEK**



Cottonwood T-Shirts and Sweatshirts are available for purchase. Fill out an order form located outside of the office and leave it w/payment at the office. If shirts are in stock we will get them to you right away. If not, we will be placing our one and only order on September 19. Shirts will also be available for purchase (or to order) at the Walk-A-Thon on September 15. If you already ordered a t-shirt or sweatshirt at Cottonwood Registration and did not pick it up, please contact Gena Marcum 274-8514 ASAP.



**Cottonwood Elementary
would like to welcome:**

Allison Larsen - PE Specialist
&
Kathryn Monson - Music Specialist

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: OLYMPIC SPORTS

Wear the uniform of an Olympic Sport!
Obstacle course at lunch!!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:

7:45am Dads-n-Doughnuts

Wear School Colors or a Cottonwood t-shirt!

Utah author, K.L. Fogg will be joining us for Dads n Doughnuts this year! Bring your favorite book AND your Dad, Uncle, Grandpa, Friend (or even your Mom!) and come to school early at 7:45. Doughnuts and milk will be available for everyone!

At 8:00, meet K.L. Fogg in the auditorium when she will tell us about herself, her book and answer questions. After she’s finished, find a cozy spot to read with your Dad or favorite person until 8:35.

K.L. Fogg is the author of three books -- Serpent Tide, Widow’s Revenge and Diamondback Cave. The hero of the books is 11 year old Wesley Vandergrift who wonders why he isn’t like other boys in his South Carolina town. His life consists of big secrets in a big mansion and only one friend. Overprotected and insulated from the rest of the world, Wesley yearns for exciting outdoor adventures.

Wesley’s boring and sheltered life soon turns to nail biting excitement as a series of unexpected events expose dark secrets, a dangerous kidnapping and encounter with none other than his hero, Jack Mackey himself!

Don’t miss this opportunity to bring your Dad or favorite person to school to meet author K.L. Fogg!



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:

Crazy Hair Day

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:

Red, White and Blue Day

Wear our country’s colors!

Albertson’s & 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!!**

RECYCLE FOR OUR SCHOOL

Following are items you can bring to the school for recycling:

Box Tops:

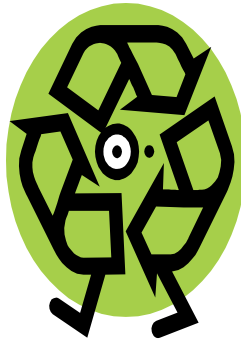
Collect the box tops from general mills products.

Milk Lids:

Cream O Weber

Pull Tops:

From Aluminum Cans



We appreciate your support!

Paper:

Deposit newspaper, magazines, paper, phone books in the blue dumpster in front of the school.

All monies go directly to bene-

Thank you to everyone that signed up to be a Room Parent or a Volunteer at school or in the classroom. You are all terrific!



**Follow the Yellow Brick Road to
Cottonwood Elementary's
Walk - A - Thon
Monday, Sept. 15
5:00 - 7:30 pm**

THIS YEAR YOU CAN READ, WALK OR ROLL.

- ◆ Silent Auction "There is no place like"... the auction for over a hundred fabulous gifts and wants.
- ◆ Classroom Baskets Back by popular demand. (Toto not included) Raffle tickets will be available for \$1.
- ◆ Food "Have a heart" and buy dinner for the family.
Whole Pizza—15 tickets: 1 Slice - 2 tickets; Drinks - 1 ticket; Treats - 2 tickets. (Tickets will be sold that night for \$1.00 each)
- ◆ Prizes Every participant will receive a prize that night.

"Have courage and come dressed up as your favorite Wizard of Oz character!"



COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY NEW PTA BOARD 2008-2009

President Allyson Chard
Principal Karen Marberger
President-Elect
Michelle Clawson
Dana Johnson
Upper Hall Teacher
Lisa Burgess
Lower Hall Teacher
Dianne Phillips
Treasurer Kris Cannon
Exec. VP/Grants Suzy Rasch
Secretary Cinda Taylor

Community Involvement

Holly Wright
Natalie Watts

Education & Family Life

Debbie Littlefield
Carlie Lowe

Health, Safety & Welfare

Anne Marie Hopkins
Holly Jones

Walk-a-thon/Fundraising

Tammy Neslen
Kristol Affleck

Service Projects Sarah Bradley

Teacher Specialists

Alyse Christensen
Allyson Shaw
Darci O'Brien

Individual Development – Art

Sabrina Beck
Suzanne Headden

Science Fair Chair Tina Seastrand

Reading Specialist Angela Shaeffer

Janae Skinner

Reflections Chair Paula Wright

Alison Pinnock

Newsletter Terri Pappas

Great Art Kathy Vanek

Great Lit Grades k-3 Emily Swan

Grades 4-6 Sarah Bradley

Great Music Chris Jensen

Yearbook Kristy Witt

Junior Achievement Karen Nelson

Recycling Tania Chipana

Chess Club Angela Shaeffer

School Directory Angela Shaeffer

and Steph Rigby

Membership Jeanean G. Long

Grant Writing Kathy Crump

Website Annette Malen

Marquee Joey Kennedy

T-shirts Gena Marcum