



CK SCHOOLS—COTTONWOOD COMET

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Volume 2



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Students in the News

Students listed last month for participating in the Elk's event, actually participated in a Soccer Shoot Out and not a Hoop Shoot.

OCTOBER COMETS OF THE MONTH

Kindergarten - **Alexandra Delaney, Janet Duong, Justin Hamilton, Ravneet Kaur, Keely Riggs, Paige Thomas, Alyssa Young**

1st Grade - **Tristan Hartman, Caroline Kendall, Quirina Lulu, Sonia Lopez, Jakyiah Willis**

2nd Grade - **Bhavneet Bhargava, Cooper Brann, Jyoji Hamilton, Kaya McGill, Shamus Riggs, Summer William-Rothrock**

3rd Grade - **Max Arneson, Alyssa Elmore, Mackenzie Jacobs, Reese LeBeau, Marie Malland, Bailey Ramsey, Jakarran Willis**

4th Grade - **Rebekah Arvila, Robert Gentile, Mason Quitevis, Elia Swann**

5th Grade - **Sera Laumark, Kaylee Oliveri, Matthew Walters**

6th Grade - **Emily Byron, Jaleel Elmore, Christian Herndon, Billy Leasure, Jayde Pablo, Ty Rhodes, Maria Sabangan**

COTTONWOOD CALENDAR

Nov. 2 - Federal Impact Aid cards go home

Nov. 10 - 5th Grade Veteran's Assembly 1:30 and 6:00 PM

Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day
NO SCHOOL

Nov. 20 & 22-25
Parent Conferences

November 26-27
Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 11 - All Day
Kindergarten/1st/2nd Holiday Program in the gym 6:00 PM

Dec. 15 - Choir, Band, Orchestra Concert
2:15/6:00 PM

December 18 - Last day of school for 2009

Dec. 21 - Jan 1 - WINTER BREAK

Jan 4 - 1st day back 2010

Please note - an error appeared in the September Newsletter.

Veteran's Day

NO SCHOOL

will be Wednesday,

November 11



LOCAL FOOD DRIVE

Olympic High School DECA program is again holding a food drive for the holidays to support local food banks

Cottonwood is participating by helping to collect canned and dry food items.

You can send items to school and the class that collects the most items will win an ice cream party.

The drive runs from now until November 17.

Thank you for helping our community.



Parent Conferences - Friday, Nov. 20 and Mon-Wed Nov. 23 - 25

It's not too late to sign up for conferences. The sign up sheets are on the window outside of the school office. If you can't make it in to sign up, you can call the office and we will pull the conference sheet and see what is available.



FEDERAL IMPACT AID

On November 2, 2009, students will be bringing home the survey form used for this count. **It is important that all appropriate sections on the form be filled out completely and accurately and the form is signed and dated for each student.** Please return to school **before November 5th.** Thank you very much for your help.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

On **Tuesday, November 10** Cottonwood Elementary will honor our veterans with a special assembly. Times are at **1:30 and 6:00 p.m.** Please join us to say thank you to our very special friends.



Notes from the Principal...

Dear Cottonwood Community:

With almost two months of school completed, here is an update of the changes that have been implemented. The K-3 literacy block is working well in the morning. Students who need to get “caught up” with their reading skills are now receiving extra academic assistance in small groups at the same time every day. We now have two lunch periods instead of three, which has created more academic time after lunch for the intermediate students. There have been some questions raised if students have enough time to eat and the answer is yes. Students are encouraged to finish their lunch before going to recess and no one is “rushed” out of the lunchroom.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be here soon. This is a vitally important time for you to receive information about your child(ren). Here are some tips to get ready: Write down your questions. You might want to ask: Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Does my child participate in class discussions and activities? Is my child working up to his/her abilities? How well does my child get along with others? Think of things your child’s teacher needs to know. Sharing some of what you know with the teacher will make it easier to meet your child’s needs. Please arrive on time to your scheduled appointment. Teachers have many conferences and being on time will allow you to take full advantage of the time the teacher has available. Ask the teacher what you can do at home to reinforce what’s happening at school.

I am always amazed (but not surprised anymore) that our lost and found has so many sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, etc. It is the same every year. Before you go out and buy a new clothes item to replace something that is missing, please check our lost and found located in the office. You may be surprised what is in there. Speaking of clothes, the weather has been pretty cold lately and I see students walking around the school in tee-shirts and shorts. Please make sure they dress appropriately for the weather.

How about that Harvest Festival the PTSA sponsored on October 23? The kids (including my own) had a great time with the games, food and of course the Haunted House. The PTSA and volunteers did a super job organizing the evening and deserve a big thank you.



LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to all staff, students, and families for their support of our Barnes & Noble Book Fair in October. It was wonderful to see so many families at the event!

Our next Book Fair will begin on December 1st here at school. It will be a Scholastic Book fair and it will run December 1st through December 11th.

This is a perfect opportunity for to purchase gifts! So, students: Start saving those pennies now!

Wet Weather & Library Books: Not a good combination! Wet library books cannot be “repaired” due to mildew issues. Most students do not have water-proof backpacks.

If students are walking home in the rain, it is possible that their backpacks may not provide enough protection for library books.

We are encouraging students to leave their library books at school on wet days, so that we can save our library books...and you can save your money for something else!



WALK THE TALK

There are many benefits to walking. Studies have shown that in addition to keeping you strong and fit, people who walk are happier and have more energy. Fall is the perfect time of year to begin walking. Here are some tips to help you make walking a part of your daily routine:

- Establish a time each day when you walk. If you can, walk to or from school, as long as you have a safe route and permission from your parents to walk alone or with a partner.
- Find a walking buddy to help encourage you to get moving each day. Having someone along to talk with can make the time more enjoyable.
- The changing season is a great time to explore the natural beauty of our local beaches and parks. Bring a notebook and draw or journal what beauty you observe.



FROM OUR NURSE

The flu is more serious than you might think.

You might think.....

“The flu is just a bad cold”

“My children are healthy. They don’t need to be vaccinated”.

“I heard the flu vaccine gives some people the flu”.

“It’s inconvenient to bring my children in just for a vaccination.”

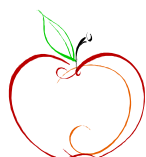
But actually.....

The flu can be much worse than a bad cold. Flu can lead to pneumonia, dehydration, sinus and ear infections, hospitalization, or even death.

Although rare, even healthy children can become seriously ill or die from the flu. In 2003 – 2004, nearly half of the 153 children who died from flu were healthy before getting the flu.

The flu vaccine does not cause the flu. Sometimes people confuse a cold or flu-like symptoms and mistakenly think that like symptoms and mistakenly think that.

Flu vaccine is important enough to schedule a separate visit. However, you may want to ask your healthcare provider about flu vaccine options that may be available during regular visits.



Apple Health For Kids

For Washington’s kids and teens

Just a reminder to please review your Washington State health insurance. If your monthly family income is close to the amounts on the chart, your kids, ages 19 and under may qualify and/or continue to qualify for free or low-cost health insurance! Changes occur, please keep up to date on your insurance needs!

Income levels are updated every April. This chart deals with health insurance for children under 19 only. Other programs with different eligibility requirements are available for families and pregnant women. Call toll free 1-877-543-7669 to find out more.

Washington Department of Social & Health Services

Number of People in Family (includes parents and children)	Approximate income per month (after deductions from Step 1)
1	Up to \$2,708
2	Up to \$3,643
3	Up to \$4,578
4	Up to \$5,513
5	Up to \$6,448
More	Add \$935 for each Additional family member

TITLE 1/LAP You have the right to request and receive information on the professional qualifications of your children’s classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. This includes:

- Whether the teacher has met state *qualifying and licensing* criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher is teaching;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under *emergency or other provisional status* through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate *degree major* of the teacher and any other graduate certification degree held by the teacher including the field of discipline of the certification degree; and
- Whether the child is provided services by *paraprofessionals* and, if so, their qualifications.



COTTONWOOD MUSIC

COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY

Leah Riggs- General Music

662-8353
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Being Part of a Musical Community

We have had a great start to our school year here in the music room! I am pleased to report the healthy progress and steady growth of our music program and—more importantly—of your children, who are involved with quality music making.

In our music program here at Cottonwood, we provide an opportunity for artistic expression that a student could not experience on his/her own. But the music program goes beyond the development of basic skills and artistic talent. I am also dedicated to developing the following values:

- Individual Responsibility
- Group and individual respect
- Personal trust
- Genuine caring
- Commitment to our musical family

The implementation, reinforcement, and integration of these principles serve as the foundation for our program. My mission is to develop a musical community. Before we can attain harmony,



balance, and blend within the music, we have to build and strengthen our personal relationships within the group. We must create a safe atmosphere that encourages risk, growth, persistence, and a focus on excellence. In our musical family, everyone counts.

I want to thank you for your support, and remind you that you are a key ingredient in our success recipe!

Invitation

You are invited to attend our 5th Grade Veteran's Day Program. 5th graders have been working hard to prepare for this event where we will honor the Veteran's in our community. Please come, and invite any Veteran's you know to attend with you. This is a very special event, and I look forward to seeing many of you in the audience.

Save the Date:

- **November 10th** -5th Grade Veteran's Day Program
Assembly: 1:30pm
Evening : 6:00pm
- **December 11th**- ADK, 1st, 2nd Grade Musical "The Littlest Reindeer"
Assembly: TBD
Evening -6:00pm
- **December 15th:** Choir, Band, Orchestra Winter Program
Assembly: 2:15pm
Evening: 6:00pm

Choir News

The Central Kitsap School District Music Department is having it's second annual District Choir Festival. It includes 6th grade, Jr. High, and High School students from across the district. In the coming month I will be picking ten, sixth graders to participate in this event. A letter and brochure will be sent home in early November for the students who have been chosen.

Grade Level Music Studies

Grades ADK, 1 and 2:

These primary classes have been working on a variety of songs, and chants that are focusing on teaching them to keep a steady beat, and sing in tune. We have also worked on playing instruments while maintaining a steady beat, and are beginning to learn/review rhythmic patterns.

Grade 3:

Third graders have begun a study

of music from around the world. So far we have visited West Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. During this unit of study third graders will sing songs, learn about the culture, and dances of each place we visit.

Grade 3/4, 4:

Students have been learning to play the recorder. They should be practicing 5-15 minutes three times a week. Please encourage them to keep practicing! If your child

needs a recorder to practice on at home, I have a few more for students to borrow, let me know.

Grade 5:

Students in fifth grade have been working hard to produce their Veteran's Day Program that will be presented to the public on November 10th. This is their grade level performance for the year. We can't wait to honor our Veterans!

Grade 6:

Students have been very busy. We have started working on a study of the "Popular Culture" (Music, Dance, History, Fashion) of the 20th Century. They have also been learning to play the Ukulele, my goal for this is to have some of them accompany the camp fire songs at Camp Coleman at the end of the year. Sixth graders have also participated in some drum circle activities.