



Volume 24, Issue 1

August 2019

COTTON TALES

Experience will show you, a Master can only point the way. ~ Egyptian Proverbs

From the Director...

Salām 'alaykum!

Welcome to, and back to, the Cottonwood School! We're heading out on a **dig to excavate Egypt** this year as we **search for ancient treasure from the cradle of civilization!** This year's geography and social studies curriculum will take us through Africa in the first semester and Australia and the Pacific Rim in the second semester. Egypt has one of the longest histories of any country, tracing its heritage back to the 6th-4th millennia BCE. Dr. Montessori emphasized the importance of origin stories in education and Ancient Egypt saw some of the earliest developments of writing, agriculture, urbanization, organized religion and central government. They were the first to strike a peace accord! Iconic monuments

reflect this legacy and remain a significant focus of scientific and popular interest in modern times.



Our expedition gathers on August 18th at 2:00PM for a peek at our base camp before we join up with our classroom tribes and caravan into the 2019-2020 school year. A tribe or clan can be thought of as a kind of circle, the kind we mean when we speak of a "circle of friends." Your child's

classroom will become his tribe; and his classmates and teachers, his clansmen and elders. Each classroom will link us to the broader Cottonwood community creating the strong village we need to support children and families in modern times. Research shows that the stronger the relationship, the deeper the learning, so not only is this theme an engaging way to explore the world and include you parents in the journey, it is a valid form of educational theory that allows our students to delve in and fully immerse themselves in their personal and cultural discoveries. We can't wait to see you all and get started on this year's expedition to excavate the treasures of Egypt together!

Ma'is salāma,
Ms. Trish Nickerson

Meet the Teacher Orientation Aug. 18th at 2:00PM

You won't want to miss this year's Parent/Child Orientation on Sunday, August 18th at 2:00PM! Be sure to mark your calendar for this special "Meet and Greet" so that you and your children can get acquainted

with their teachers and see their new classrooms. Classroom meetings for parents will begin at 2:15PM. Come out and greet one another, meet new staff and families, and visit with our CSPA representatives.

We're in for a wondrous year of treasure hunting together as we EXCAVATE EGYPT so join us for an adventure through Africa as we uncover the secrets of an ancient civilization.

Upcoming Events:

- Parent/Child Orientation Aug 19 at 2:00 PM
- First Day of School! Monday, August 19
- Senior Elementary Campout August 22-23
- School closed for Labor Day on September 2. No childcare available.
- First Burrito Day and Sing Along-Sept 6 @ 8:30AM! It's STRIPES & DOTS DAY SO WEAR EITHER OR BOTH TO SCHOOL!
- PARENT PIZZA POTLUCK on Sept. 11 at 6PM
- Empty Bowls Project
- Jr. Ele Campout on Sept 13-14 at Cottonwood
- Grandfriends Day and Fall Picnic Sept 20 @8:30-1:30
- PICTURE DAY! Sept 23

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Family Communication @ www.cottonwoodschool.org, Facebook & email

The Cottonwood School website, can be found at :

www.cottonwoodschool.org

We use this site to offer information on the school to the general public. You can find our school calendar there under Parent information, along with current events, CSPA information and updates on school activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCottonwoodSchoolInCorralesNm/>

You can find the school's Facebook page at the link above or by searching for the Cottonwood School in Corrales, NM. There is also a "group" site called The Cottonwood School which we are trying to phase out. We post the same information on both sites, but you won't need an invitation to join the first one. All other names are ghost sites created by people posting or tagging Cottonwood Montessori. You can LIKE us at Cottonwood School in Corrales, NM to get up to date information and photos of staff and students at work.

trish@cottonwoodschool.org

Our Director, Ms. Trish Nickerson, will send out email updates every Monday to inform you of school events and activities, to clarify questions and to send attachments thus cutting down on our paperwork. If you are not receiving the weekly updates, please call the office to verify your email address, then check your junk folder to make sure we have permission to send you information. You can do that by putting school email addresses in your contacts.

Your teacher will also send out a weekly update of classroom updates!

You can also follow us on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/cottonwood_school/

Our twitter handle is:

<https://twitter.com/CottonwoodSch> or mstrish@cottonwoodsch



Stay up to date on school news and events with the convenient click of a mouse.

What's New at School This Year?

Each year we strive for excellence and continuous improvement in the programming and services we offer our students and their families. Here is what to expect this year:

- A new roof on the brickhouse where the Senior Class and Aftercool reside
- New air conditioners for the brickhouse
- A new fairy garden on the bark yard to the west of the main building
- A new music teacher, Nancy Leffler, will be joining us this year in place of Christine Smith who retired in May
- Three, count em, THREE, Cottonwood kids on staff! See if you can uncover their identities!

Meet Our 2019-2020 Archaeologists!

We have assembled a dynamic group of educators to head up our programs this year. Here is the 2019 lineup...

Senior Elementary 4th-5th

Julia Hayes,/Sheila McNair

Junior Ele 1st-3rd grade

Joy Reese/Christy Larson

Taylor Black/Deanna Ybarra

Early Childhood 3-6 years

Elizabeth McKinley/Jenifer McQuarie

Estela Cross-Guillen/Audrey Scott

Transition Class 2.5-4.5

Amy Appel/Kelly Watson

Toddlers 1.5-2.5 years

Pam Gonzales/Angilece Ratliff

Aftercare

Elementary-Kellie Nickerson

Early Childhood-Cyndi Roy

Specialists

Art-Tricia Larese

Drama-Kir Kipness &

Lisa Fenstermacher

Environmental Ed-Becky Pierce and Stacia Spragg-Braude

Music-Nancy Leffler

PE-Kellie Nickerson

At Cottonwood, we strive to foster a strong and supportive parent-student-teacher community. We have several opportunities for parents to play active roles that greatly benefit the classroom and the school. You will be asked at the parent orientation to sign up for one of the volunteer positions listed below. Please preview the list of jobs to determine which tickles your fancy. We thank you in advance for your help and support!

- **Room Parent**-The Room Parent will work closely with the classroom teachers in organizing field trips, class parties, fundraisers, special events, and volunteers. The Room Parent will be responsible for contacting families in the class through notes, letters, and phone calls whenever necessary and to enlist help. Room Parents will also liaise and coordinate with other Room Parents within a section and with the Parent Association section representative as needed for shared events and activities.
- **Phone Tree**-The Phone Tree parent will, as requested by the Director, school secretary, classroom teacher, or Committee Chairs, activate the phone-tree to contact all families in the class for communication of important and timely information.
- **Librarian**-The Librarian parent works with the classroom teachers in acquiring appropriate reading and research material from local libraries for the classroom. The teachers will provide either a book list or a topic of study on which the volunteer can base their selections. The school will be responsible for any lost or damaged books. The Library parent is responsible for returning books on time or getting an extension if needed.
- **Scrapbook**-The Scrapbook parent will document school-year events at the school and in the classroom through photographs and written material and will assemble the classroom scrapbook for the year-end annual auction. The Scrapbook parent will also provide digital copies of photos taken throughout the year to the class Yearbook parent.
- **Yearbook**-The Yearbook parent will collect digital copies of photos from other classroom parents throughout the year and upload to the classroom software site. Yearbook parents will be a member of the
- **Hospitality**-The Hospitality parent will help to organize potluck suppers and/or carpools for families who are sick, experiencing significant hardship, or have recently given birth. Also works with the Director and the Hospitality Committee to help with teacher appreciation luncheon and gifts.
- **Laundry**-The Laundry parent will assist the classroom teachers in organizing the laundering of napkins, tablecloths, and nap sheets each week; and rugs, picnic blankets, pillows, and dress-ups as needed.
- **Pet Partner**-The Pet Partner will be responsible for taking care of the classroom pets, including: purchasing pet food, monitoring pet upkeep, cleaning cages once a week as needed, and making sure they are farmed out to good homes over the holidays, school breaks, and summer vacation. School will reimburse any expenses related to pet care, including veterinary.
- **Green Thumb**-The Green Thumb parent will make sure the classroom plants are kept healthy and that they are fed, watered, pruned, dusted and fertilized as needed.
- **Jack (or Jill)-of-all-Trades**-The Jack (or Jill)-of-all-Trades will assist with the general repair and upkeep of the classroom, furniture, materials and playground equipment as needed. Also helps with small-scale campus projects as a member of the Spruce-Up Committee.
- **Chef**-The Chef helps students in the class to prepare dishes for feast days and other celebrations, as requested by the teachers.
- **Safety Rep**-The Safety parent is a morning and afternoon GREETER who helps to monitor the parking lot before or after school to ensure the safe arrival and departure of students, parents, teachers and visitors to our school.
- **Materials Maker**-The Materials parent helps to create or refresh classroom materials, as requested by the teachers. Also helps coordinate and participates in Parent Work Nights to enlist other volunteers to fulfill teacher work orders for classroom materials.



Cottonwood School Parents' Association



10 Reasons To Get

Involved

1

Your child benefits.

More than 300 independent research studies show that when parents get connected to the school, children do better.

2

We make a difference.

Our mission is to create the kind of school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work – and so can our children. We provide resources they need and help to build the kind of supportive, caring atmosphere that makes school fun.

3

We pledge to honor your time constraints.

People are often reluctant to participate because they're afraid they'll get pulled into a black hole of never-ending time commitment. Here, an hour or two a semester really makes a difference. And we won't push you to commit more than you want to or are able to.

4

We have fun.

Volunteer work shouldn't be drudgery. We accomplish a lot, and not everything we do is easy. But we know we're not balancing the national debt, either. We don't take ourselves too seriously, and we try to enjoy ourselves along the way.

5

Meet nice people who share your concerns.

We all have a common bond. We care about creating the best possible educational experience for our children. We are neighbors and peers who share many of the same experiences. And many friendships have developed as a result of those connections.

6

There's a lot to be done.

These days, schools are asked to do more with less. Our help is needed more than ever to fill the gaps.

7

We can match jobs to your interests and abilities.

The work we do covers a broad spectrum: administrative, planning and executing events, writing and editing, managing a budget and cash flow, and lots more. We encourage creative ideas, and we're thrilled to have people take on tasks that meet their skills and interests.

8

We're welcoming.

To us, there are no "outsiders." We are people who have come together to work toward common goals. We couldn't be happier to have you join us in working toward these goals.

9

We're about parent involvement, not fundraising.

In these times of tight budgets, parent groups everywhere are having to fill in the gaps, and so are we. But our number one goal is to get more parents connected to the school and to help foster a strong community.

10

This work is very rewarding.

It's seeing the smile that shows we're making school a little more fun. It's seeing children learn and knowing we played a role. There are lots of rewards, both big and small, for those who get involved. Won't you join us?

The MISSION of the CSPA is to enhance students' learning environment through increased parental involvement by:

- planning, carrying out, or assisting with a variety of school and CSPA functions and fundraisers that benefit the entire community;
- fostering a strong all-inclusive community among the parents, students, faculty and staff;
- advocating for the school's mission statement; and
- providing an opportunity for the parents of Cottonwood students to exchange opinions and information concerning matters of interest common to all parents.

red for parents

Cottonwood School Calendar for the 2019-2020 School Year

August 5-16	Teacher Prep and Planning-childcare available
August 18	Student/Parent Orientation in classrooms at 2:00PM
August 19	First Day of School! Welcome Back!
August 22-23	4 th thru 6 th Grade Parent/Student Retreat
Sept 2	School Closed for Labor Day Holiday-no childcare
Sept 13-14	FOLKLORE & SNORE-Jr. Ele CSPA Campout at Cottonwood
Sept 11	First Parent Meeting-Pizza Potluck 6-8 PM in MPR
Sept 20	Annual Grandparents and Grandfriends Family Picnic 8:30-1:30
Sept 23	Picture Day
Oct 10-11	FALL BREAK-No School/Staff In-service/Childcare
October 14	Classroom observations begin-see teacher for dates and times
October 18	Harvest Festival-5:30-9:30 PM
October 25	OPEN HOUSE 9-2
October 31	CLASS HALLOWEEN PARTIES TBA
Nov 10	FIREBOLT FAMILY FUN RUN 9AM-12
Nov 14	Night of the Notables 6:30 pm in MPR
Nov 26	Classroom Feast Day 1130-1230
Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Break-No School/ Childcare Wed/Fri only
Dec 5	PEACE CONCERT 6:00 p.m. at African American Theater
Dec 6	Holly Jolly Holiday Dress Up Day
Dec 9-13	CSPA BOOK FAIR IN MPR
Dec 18	Pajamas and Books Day
Dec 19-20	Parent Conferences/School Closed-Limited childcare avail.
Dec 19-Jan 6	School Closed for Winter Break/Limited Childcare avail.
January 7	SCHOOL RESUMES! Welcome back!
January 13	ENROLLMENT BEGINS for 2019 SCHOOL YEAR
January 17-20	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, observed/No School/No Childcare
January 31	100 th Day of School Celebration!
February 7	OPEN HOUSE 10am-2PM
February 13	Senior Elementary Valentine Tea & Class Parties TBA
Feb 14-17	Presidents' Day Weekend/No School/Childcare on Friday only
February 27	Science Expo at the school 6PM at Rec Center
March 6	Dr. Seuss Day
March 20	COTTONWOOD FOLLIES TALENT SHOW! 630-830PM in MPR
Mar 23-Apr 3	SPRING BREAK-childcare available
April 24	Sr.El Earth Day Project 9:30-3PM
May 1	Crazy Hat Day!
May 14-15	Parent/Teacher Conferences-No School/Limited childcare avail.
May 19	Elementary Field Day 9-3
May 20	Early Childhood Field Day 9-12
May 21	5th/6th Grade Graduates' Tea 4:30-6:30pm -parents/grads only
May 22	LAST DAY Closing Ceremonies 830-12; CSPA school picnic 12-3
May 26	Summer Camps Begin!
	August 17th is the FIRST DAY OF THE 2020 TERM!
	August 20-21, 2020 SENIOR ELEMENTARY RETREAT

Important Contact Information for the School Year:

Director-Trish Nickerson 239-1765 trish@cottonwoodschool.org

Office Manager-Valerie Armenta 897-8375 val@cottonwoodschool.org

Aftercool Director-Kellie Nickerson 897-3544 kellienickerson@hotmail.com

Aftercare Director-Cyndi Roy 440-0928 cyndieroy11@gmail.com

- **Facility Supervisor**-Shanual Brown 975-3259 chillywillie17@yahoo.com
- **Gardening Director**-Becky Pierce 898-4668 becky.pierce@cottonwoodschool.org
- **Library Coordinator**-Amy Appel 575-779-2459 amy.appel@cottonwoodschool.org
- **Family Coaching**-Danielle Cossett 615-0806 dcbalance@comcast.net
- **CSPA President**-Jeff Pontes jwpontes1@yahoo.com
- **Hospitality**-Tammy Jones golfrocks@comcast.net

Pizza and Salad Potluck Mingler-September 11th at 6:00 p.m.

You're invited to a Pizza Potluck on Wednesday evening, September 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Cottonwood School. We hope you'll take time out from your busy schedule to come out and play with the Cottonwood faculty. We'll be greeting new families, introducing our wonderful staff, and setting up some new projects for the coming school year.

All you have to do is drop the kiddos off in the main building for free

babysitting with our accomplished staff (you may want to leave a pizza behind for them too) and then head on over to the multi-purpose room for some shenanigans.

No slides or power points, we promise! Just some great team building and fascinating people who will be sharing their projects,



Bring your favorite pizza to the mingler & we'll REVIEW THE YEAR together!

programs and vision for the year ahead! What do you want to see in our school? Come out and tell us what more we can do to improve our services and engage our community members more fully. We'll provide the drinks, salads and paper goods so that we have plenty of food and drinks for everyone!

Cottonwood School Parents Association (CSPA)

We'd Love to Help You Get Connected!

It's our #1 goal -- *we'd like to make sure that every parent who'd like to get involved can do so.*

If you'd like to find a spot to get connected that **fits your interests and availability**, simply fill out the below information and we'll get in touch to help you find a great event, committee or effort to help with.

Name(s):

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Student(s)/Grade(s)/Teacher(s):

Special talent or area of interest:

Committee and Volunteer Interests: *Please also indicate if you have an interest in chairing a particular committee.*

q Friends of the Library

Organizes and maintains the CS library as an enjoyable and valuable resource for the community. Also helps to coordinate the annual Scholastic Book Fair.

q Hospitality

Coordinates back-to-school get-togethers, welcomes new families, coordinates support for families with specific needs, manages

q Community Service

Identifies and coordinates community service projects that engage the students, faculty, staff and parents of Cottonwood School (Run 4 The Zoo, PB&J Wheels, Roadrunner Food Bank, etc.).

q Publications

Responsible for creation and sale/distribution of school publications (yearbook, directory, calendar, website).

q Puppet Project

q Security and Safety

Works with the community to provide a safe environment for Students, Faculty, and Parents, including Safe Routes to School and Disaster Preparedness.

q Spruce up our Cottonwood

Coordinates small-scale campus spruce-up projects (cleaning, painting, gardening, etc.), assists with creation of Labyrinth and Memorial

q Fundraising

Supports general fund fund-raising activities throughout the year (Annual Auction, Burrito Brigade, etc.), helps to develop fundraising materials, and solicit donations from alumni and community groups.

q Events

Plans or assists with school-wide events, e.g.: Teacher Appreciation Week (first full week in May), Harvest Festival, Peace Concert Potluck, Family Movie Nights, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Event, ...

Our family would love to share its talents! Please call us for the following:

General:

q Cooking, Baking

q Materials Prep-Copies, Printing

q Musical talents

q Desktop Publishing

Carpentry:

Professional Services:

Equipment We Can Loan to the School:

q Truck, trailer

q Tent, canopy

q Power tools

q Landscaping machinery/equipment

q Gardening

Other: