

YNP El Portal School
August 31, 2009
379-2382 or 379-2414
www.elportalelementary.com

Mariposa County Unified School District



Yosemite Park High School
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WED 9/02 Back To School Night – see times below
FRI 9/04 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06pm
MON 9/07 NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
THU 9/10 SWIM-A-THON
FRI 9/11 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06pm
FRI 9/18 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06pm
MON 9/21 Project Pluton Field Trip – grades 4-5-6

WELCOME to our two new staff members, **Hollie Sprague and Matthew Marcis**. Hollie comes to us from Mariposa Elementary, and she is currently teaching second grade language arts and math half time in the mornings. Her students then go to Mr. Moore for the afternoon lessons. Matthew was a kindergarten teacher at Woodland Elementary and he is teaching our kindergarten class all day. Both Hollie and Matthew have experience working with second language learners. Both of these positions (as well as Ms. Medema's fourth grade half time position) are funded by our Park Schools Grant.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – WED. SEPT 2ND

Kindergarten: 5:30 in Room 1 with Mr. Marcis
First Grade: 6:00 in Room 1A with Mrs. Bown
Second Grade: 6:00 in Room 6 with Mrs. Sprague
Third Grade: 6:30 in Room 3 with Mr. Moore
Fourth Grade: 7:00 in Room 2 with Ms. Medema
Fifth and Sixth Grades: 7:00 in Room 4 with Mr. Sakols
YPHS: 5:00 at YPHS

MONO LAKE FIELD TRIP: This is the year that we take all students to Mono Lake for an exciting learning experience in September. We are looking for a parent volunteer to help with the planning, which involves scheduling for the South Tufa Ranger Walk and the Mono Lake Visitor's Center, reserving the YTS bus, and recruiting parent drivers with proper insurance to supplement the YTS bus. If you would like to volunteer for this, please call the school at 379-2382 or send a note. THANKS!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT classes are taught this year by Xavier Sandoval, who now works all day teaching English to our second language learners and helping Mr. Sakols with language arts. Xavi will also be conducting **SPANISH CLASSES as a before-school program**. Native Spanish speakers in grades 3-6 will have the opportunity to read and discuss Spanish literature on Monday and Tuesday mornings in an **Advanced Spanish** class from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Those who were participating in our morning classes last year are invited to continue into **Second Year Beginning Spanish** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 7:30-8:00 a.m. This is part of our Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program and we encourage all students in these grade levels to take advantage of it, although early morning bussing will NOT be available.

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mrs. Bown

We're off to a great start! Last week we studied about apples. Students tasted 8 different kinds of apples (Fuji and Golden Delicious were our two favorites!). We're learning about the life cycle of an apple tree. Keep singing and reading the two apple songs sent home last week!

From Mrs. Sprague

The second grade is already working hard and they are ready for a great year! They have been showing what great writers they are and are already working on their second story of the year. They are excited to make their writing into books! This coming week look for your child's spelling and reading homework each night. They will be bringing their work home in an orange folder.

From Mr. Moore

We have hit the ground running. Last week 3-4 graders worked solving cooperative math problems, some even designed for 5th graders! The 3rd grade has written several pieces: first we wrote our "letter to the future" and second we wrote an essay on our important class rules. We have had several reading assessments. In the afternoon 2-3 grades have been improving our swimming skills and listening to Junie B Jones and a Little Monkey Business.

From Ms. Medema

The fourth grade class had a terrific first week of school. We completed many ice breaker activities, getting warmed up and ready to start the year. These included making a collage about yourself, writing a bio-poem with a photo art project, a ball juggling game, and word games such as quiddler and bananagrams. We also read our first story in our literature book called Akiak. It's a story about The Iditarod dogsled race in Alaska. Ask your child if Akiak won the race and what problems she faced. In science we began our unit on environments by planting terrariums. We'll be observing our plants and will soon add insects as well. Everyone has enjoyed swimming with Mr. Sakols' class at 2:00 each day. We will begin official homework this week. A homework sheet goes home every Monday.

From Mr. Sakols

This week the students have received homework contracts that should be signed by parents on Friday morning.

In Social Studies we are learning about the first Americans and thinking about how they lived and survived. In science we will talk about observations and hypothesis. Today the students will conduct an experiment to test a hypothesis.

PLEASE SAVE FOR SCHOOL:

- **BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION**
- **PIONEER MARKET RECEIPTS**
- **INKJET CARTRIDGES**
- **DISCARDED CELL PHONES**

Swim-a-thon Thursday 9/10/09

KEEP COLLECTING YOUR PLEDGES