

YNP El Portal School
September 14, 2009
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www.elportalelementary.com

Mariposa County Unified School District



Yosemite Park High School
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FRI 9/18 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
MON 9/21 Project Pluton Field Trip – grades 4-5-6
FRI 9/25 Yosemite Facelift Field Trip – all grades
FRI 9/25 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
WED 9/30 Mono Lake Field Trip – grades 1 – 6
FRI 10/1 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS: On **Friday, Sept. 25**, students will participate in the **Yosemite Facelift**, helping to clean up Yosemite Valley. We will ride a YTS bus, departing the school at 8:15 a.m. We'll have lunch there, departing at 12:30 for a return to school in time to catch the school bus home at 1:10 p.m.. On **Wednesday, September 30**, students in grades 1-6 will attend a field trip to **Mono Lake**, with activities at the Visitor's Center and a walk at South Tufa with a ranger. **We will need drivers** for both of these trips because the YPS busses only hold 49 people, and we have 67 students in our school. If you can drive, please let us know as soon as possible so that you can meet the district requirements for drivers in time for this trip. Many thanks go to Ingelise Guy for organizing the Mono Lake field trip!

We will host a preview of **THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA**, a Ken Burns film featuring Shelton Johnson and many others, on **Thursday, September 24, at 11 a.m.** The public is welcome to attend. The entire film will begin on your home TV on Sunday, September 27 on PBS, and will include six episodes. We encourage you to watch it with your family.

PTG CORNER

El Portal School Parent Teacher Group met today at lunchtime for 45 minutes. We voted to send home a survey about our early morning Spanish learning program. We gave teachers a \$350 stipend for materials and supplies and set up an account for needed furniture and supplies for the two new classrooms. We will fund the Step Up to Writing workshop and materials, the Orff music program, several assemblies and field trips, P.E. equipment and storage bins or net bags, and new technology needs. We welcome all parents to join us at our next meeting on Monday, October 12 at noon. Please come and bring your lunch.

SWIM-A-THON Please help your children collect the money from the people who pledged for them. All money is due by October 8th. We will have a pizza party after all pledge money is returned to the school. Our goal is **\$6500.00!**

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: Our first "Student of the Week" is Lupin Amstutz. She will be sharing things about herself with our class and will also point out yesterday, today, and tomorrow on our class calendar. Thank you to Mrs. Moore for donating a chair and supervising the painting project with our class for the Student of the Week to sit in. Swim-A-Thon was so exciting. All parents present were enthusiastically cheering and encouraging each and every child – what a supportive group. The children loved it and exceeded all goals! In class the students have settled into my Language Arts and Math Centers. In math we are focusing on colors, sorting, position, number recognition, and patterns. In Language Arts we are strengthening Letter I.D., letter sounds, and beginning sight words (e.g. "I", "see", "like").

From Mrs. Bown: You're child will be bringing our classroom version of Green Eggs & Ham home soon. This is their creative version of this story. Please take time to read this with them. You can read it through for the fun of the story and then let them try to read it to you. This will be easy for some, challenging for others and that's normal for the beginning of first grade. **Please return the book the next day so another child can take it home.** Also, ask your child what we did to our "lawns" this week!

From Mrs. Sprague: Our second graders did awesome in the Swim-a-thon last week! They swam hard and kept swimming even with chattering teeth and headaches! I saw REAL commitment in our class! We appreciate everyone's support who came and cheered and helped our class accomplish our goals. Remember to help your child collect and turn in his/her pledge money. Also, please remember to have your child read or read with your child for 30 minutes each night.

From Mr. Moore: Both the 3rd and 4th grades took a math test this week chapter 1 for 3rd and chapter 2 for 4th. Both grades are working on rounding numbers. Both grades should work on multiplication facts. Good job 4th graders, everyone turned in their math homework. The 3rd grade read about the story of Mulan and learned about similes. Ask your child what Mulan thought she heard in the sound of the river. In writing we worked on complete sentences, and we wrote a thank you letter to our pizza parlor for the generous donation. Thanks to all the lap counters who braved the heat. Our class swam 1407 laps!

From Ms. Medema: Great job swimming all those laps! Our new Reading Counts program is up and running and many students have already taken their first quiz. Each student has an individual goal of 20 points. This goal should be reached by the end of the first term (Nov 12th). I will send reminders as we get near the halfway mark. Since we have so many quizzes now, all of our language arts stories (the ones we read together) have quizzes. We will be taking them as a comprehension check, but these points will NOT count toward their goal of 20. We have talked in class about how many pages on average they can read in 30 minutes a day.

From Mr. Sakols: Every student swam for the entire hour during Thursday's Swim-a-thon – excellent job students! Last week in social studies we talked about customs and traditions. In class we made a game out of black walnuts that Miwok Indians have played for possibly thousands of years. Last week in writing we worked on multi-paragraph essays. The fifth graders wrote about the four types of volcanoes while the 6th graders wrote about how the setting in a story influenced the plot. Next Monday, September 21, will be our first Project Pluton field trip to Tuolumne Meadows. Permission slips will come home this week and must be signed before the trip.