

YNP El Portal School
October 12, 2009
379-2382 or 379-2414
www.elportalelementary.com

Mariposa County Unified School District



Yosemite Park High School
Phyllis Weber, Principal
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www.yosemiteparkhighschool.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WED 10/14 Internet Safety Night
WED 10/14 YPHS School Site Council – 3:30
FRI 10/16 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
FRI 10/23 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
MON 10/26 EPS School Site Council – 7 pm
FRI 10/30 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
FRI 11/06 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
WED 11/11 NO SCHOOL – Veteran's Day
ALL WEEK – 11/16 – 11/20 Parent Teacher Conferences
Grades K-6 dismiss at 1:06 all week
WED-FRI 11/25-11/27 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INTERNET SAFETY NIGHT – 10/14

El Portal School Multi-Purpose Room

Dinner – 5:30 Presentation – 6:30

Do you have a computer? Does your CHILD have a computer? Are you Cyber Safe? An Internet Safety presentation will be given by Special Agent Mardee from the FBI on Wednesday, October 14th. Join us and learn what you can do to protect yourself and your children. Subjects covered will include online privacy, identity theft, cyberbullying, my space, and facebook. El Portal School PTG will be serving a Lasagne dinner for \$5 per plate beginning at 5:30. The presentation will begin at 6:30. Child care will be provided for those that need it. This presentation is for ADULTS ONLY.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Suzie Whitfield at the school–379-2382 or by email: whitfield@mariposa.k12.ca.us to register.

SPANISH CLASS UPDATE: Students in the K-1-2 beginning class are using the new Sonrisas Spanish curriculum to learn songs, dances and vocabulary in Spanish. The 2nd year Spanish students are reading more complicated books in Spanish, learning to conjugate and use verbs and practicing conversation. The Advanced Spanish students are reading and discussing literature in Spanish and studying the uses of verbs. There is still room if your child would like to join one of these 7:30 a.m. classes.

SWIM-A-THON Our total is up to **\$5,000!**
Please help your children collect the money from the people who pledged for them. We will have a pizza party after all pledge money is returned to the school. Our goal is **\$6,500.00!**

PLEASE SAVE FOR SCHOOL:

We need clean empty egg cartons, small yogurt, pudding or fruit cups and Styrofoam trays for art projects. THANK YOU!

The School Site Councils are advisory groups that meet 4 or 5 times per year in order to plan for school improvement and to determine how to align our categorical budgets with our improvement plan. We welcome all parents to attend our meetings and help us make these important decisions. Our first meetings of the year are:

- Wednesday, Oct 14, at 3:30 p.m. for Yosemite Park HS
- Monday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. for El Portal School

THANK YOU Ami Knighten, Barb Armon, Ingelise Guy, Sally Owens and Vicky McMichael for making beautiful desserts for use in art last week.

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: Several more sight words have been added to our list. They are now: I, a, see, my, like, at, go, the, is, an, to, and. The words /an/ and /at/ are used as rimes to begin rhyming games and forming rhyming words. As I read the big books many students are identifying the sight words out loud by announcing to their amazement "Like is a sight word!" Our beginning writing activities and phonics lessons at this point, though, still emphasize the beginning sound of words. "What sound do you hear?" and "What letter is that?" are very common each day. In math we are doing patterns, patterns, patterns. The algebraic concept of patterns is to label them AB (e.g. green/red), AAB (e.g. cat/cat/dog), and ABC (e.g. pencil/marker/crayon). Ask your child what role they have in the Halloween play. Please contact me with any questions – Thank you!

From Mrs. Bown: In Literature, we read To Be a Kid. We learned how children all over the world live and for social studies, we looked at the world map and found the countries from our story. We also created our own map of California and drew in the mountains, valleys and deserts. Our new author study is Jan Brett. Check out her amazing website – www.janbrett.com for more activities for your child!

From Mrs. Sprague: The second grade is starting a new chapter in math about grouping ones, tens and hundreds. Have your child tell you a two or three digit number and then ask him/her how many 1's, 10's or 100's are in the number. Have your child write the number in standard and expanded form. An example for the number 236 is it has 2 hundreds, 3 tens and 6 ones. 236 in expanded form looks like this, 200 + 30 + 6. You can make this a fun game with your child using a number cube. Thank you, Mrs. Sprague

From Mr. Moore: The 4th graders finished their chapter 5 test. Next up, multiplication and division. Any practice at home will be beneficial. The 3rd graders are working on Chapter 4. Most of the children need to keep practicing their basic facts i.e. 6+4= 10-4= etc. Also keep practicing multiplication at home. A reminder: any child may retake a math test for a better grade. The 3rd grade read a nice story called The Talking Cloth. We found a wonderful image "The cloth runs like a white river across the floor". We read each story several times each week trying to look for different things or practice different skills. Last week we wrote an essay about our trip to Mono Lake, and we continued to work on our storytelling stories. In science we are sprouting seeds, and we will try to grow them without soil. In social studies we have looked at physical maps of California.

From Ms. Medema: Fourth graders were very busy with writing last week. We have been working on summarizing stories we read. Last week they wrote a summary on the story Having It All, a story about migrant farm workers. Ask your child why Isabel got sent back to Texas without her family. We are also completing our stories for the storytelling contest. Students definitely have good imaginations. Most of our writing assignments are kept in their writing portfolios in the classroom. Please stop by and read their work. In science we created an interesting facts bulletin board. Did you know that kangaroo rats have solid pee? We also created food webs for the Monterey Bay ecosystem.

From Mr. Sakols: In science we have been looking at time. Last week we started looking at tree rings to see events that happened in the past. During our Project Pluton field trip to Taft Point the students arranged human events that occurred from the Ice Age to the present. This week in Science we will examine the geologic time scale and compare that to our human history.