

YNP El Portal School
October 26, 2009
379-2382 or 379-2414
www.elportalelementary.com

Mariposa County Unified School District



Yosemite Park High School
Phyllis Weber, Principal
email: pweber@mariposa.k12.ca.us
www.yosemiteparkhighschool.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MON 10/26 EP 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
THU 11/12 Project Pluton – grades 4-5-6
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

SWIM-A-THON Our total is up to **\$6,100!**
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!** We still have **13 students** who have not returned their pledge money.

PLEASE SAVE FOR SCHOOL

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

RED RIBBON WEEK for drug use prevention takes place next week, with an assembly on Tuesday at 8:20 a.m. and classroom activities. Parents, please talk to your children about drug use prevention.

EPS SITE COUNCIL MEETING

All parents are welcome to attend tonight's meeting at 7 p.m. We will discuss the school improvement areas for this year. Your children can stay quietly in the computer lab as we meet there.

WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEER WANTED

We are in need of an art volunteer on this Wednesday. Please call the school if you can help with groups of 9 or 10 students.

TREASURER WANTED: Our PTG needs a treasurer for next school year, someone who is willing to learn the system from our current treasurer, Andrea Canapary. Thank you, Andrea, for your many years of service and for making our money grow!

DRAMA CLASS

Don't forget to send in your child's **RESERVATION SLIP** if your he or she is interested in the after-school drama program.

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: Can you believe we're at our last week of October? In class we will study the letter /b/ (Benny Bear) and review the others previously learned: s, m, r, t. The sight word list is growing: I, a, see, my, like, at, go, the, is, an, to, and, you, for, it, of, can, in. Our rhyming practice consists of blending and segmenting (i.e. putting together and pulling apart). For example the word CAT is stated as two sounds: /C/ and /AT/ and is rehearsed with rhyming /AT/ words (hat, bat, etc.), and the same for /AN/, /IN/, /IT/ words. In Math we are focusing on numbers by identifying breaks in a sequence (e.g. 3,_,5,6), counting to 30, more grouping, and sorting. Science is Trees; Social Science is national and state symbols. Remember to join us this Thursday at 12:30 for our class Halloween celebration and Friday morning for the school Halloween parade.

From Mrs. Bown: In Language Arts, we read the story Hot Fox Soup. Students worked on predicting what would happen in the story. I read the classic, Stone Soup, and we compared and contrasted these two stories using a Venn diagram. Students also read Jasper's Beanstalk and predicted what would happen to Jasper. Studies show good readers make predictions about what will happen in a story. The next time you read a new book to your child, be sure to ask, "What will happen next?" You can make a prediction, too!

From Mrs. Sprague: We have been reading! We have been working hard on learning what to do if we get stuck on a word and what to do if we don't understand what we are reading. Ask your child what to do if they get stuck when reading. Possible answers: go back and reread, look at the beginning, middle or end of the word for help, or skip the word, move on and then go back to the beginning of the sentence. Happy Reading! Thank you!

From Mr. Moore: Last week we were excited to have Mr. Sun back for math. The 4th grade is working on problems that include all 4 operations (+ - x /). The 3rd grade has been practicing multiplication. We have learned 2s,3s 4s 5s and 9s. Please practice these at home! Last week we read trickster stories. Ask about the trickster named Aunt Fox. We have been reviewing spelling. Each child brought home a long list to be studied at home. We started writing Halloween stories. In Social Studies we have been studying some different California Indian tribes.

From Ms. Medema: Last week we began our book clubs which will continue all school year. We are starting out with short books so that I can introduce how literature circles work. An important part of literature circles is choice. Students will choose the book they will read and read in small groups. I give guidelines and mini lessons, but the groups are responsible for creating jobs and roles, deciding how much to read and whether it should be for homework or only in class, and if they will read silently or aloud. We also read An Important Day, a story about emigrants coming to the U.S. from all over the world. We will be researching some of the countries from the story. Ask your child what country he will be learning about.

From Mr. Sakols: Last week in science we looked at tree rings and how they can be used to look back into the past. On Thursday we began a unit on heat. In class we saw how conduction works by melting tacks off a bar that partially touched a hot plate. In social studies we talked about how Native Americans cooperated with early European colonist, but later they had many conflicts over land and culture. In Math the 5th graders had a test on subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. This week the 6th graders will have a test on proportions and scale models.

PRO DAY: At Pro Day two weeks ago, Mr. Marcis, who is a district *Project Respect* coordinator, presented a training on the use of the *Project Respect* curriculum, an anti-bullying program that all teachers will use this year. At Pro Day last Friday, Ms. Medema presented some best instructional practices ideas that she recently learned at a class. We also brought student writing samples to analyze and compare with grade level standards.