

YNP El Portal School

November 16, 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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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ALL FRIDAYS – 1:06 DISMISSAL

ALL WEEK – 11/16 – 11/20 Parent Teacher Conferences

Grades K-6 dismiss at 1:06 all week

MON 11/23 Oliver Twist – 8:30 a.m.

WED-FRI 11/25-11/27 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday

MON 12/7 PROJECT PLUTON – grades 4-5-6

MON 12/14 WINTER PROGRAM – 6:30 all grades

WED 12/16 WINTER FEAST – 12:00

12/21 – 1/9/10 WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL

THU 1/14 SKI DAY #1

Family Fun Night – Making Clay Ornaments

Sponsored by the PTG and Girl Scouts

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for grandparents? Then come to our family fun night on Wednesday, December 2 from 5:30 to 7 pm. We'll make ornaments out of clay and glaze them. You can then pick up your beautiful, shiny ornaments the following week.

The cost of each ornament will be \$1 to cover the cost of materials. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Henrietta DeGroot 379-9011.

MINIMUM DAYS ALL WEEK FOR CONFERENCES.

Please remember to keep your conference appointment and arrive 5 minutes ahead of time. You may want to jot down and bring with you some questions or concerns you have regarding your child's academic progress, behavior, homework, etc. Dismissal will occur at 1:06 each day this week.

CHRISTMAS FEAST

It is that time again to get ready for the annual CHRISTMAS FEAST on Wednesday, December 16, at noon in the multi-purpose room. This event has been a school tradition long before my daughter, Sara, started the El Portal School. Linda Sheetz (whose youngest graduated last year) and I have kept this tradition going with the help of the school staff and Ms Weber. Please let's try to keep this wonderful tradition alive as this will be my final year of organizing it. Thank you Girl Scout leaders Carol Blaney, Karen Amstutz and all our Girl Scouts for volunteering for the third year in a row to set up Candy Cane Lane. I also am asking for help from all parents who can donate desserts for the feast and or time to clean up after the feast. This year I am calling for the next parent(s) to take over this tradition because Sara is graduating in June. Please let Suzie know if you are interested. If you are willing to continue this tradition, I will need you to be there on Dec .15th to learn how Candy Cane Lane is set up and also on Dec 16th for the feast set up. I have enjoyed my years of volunteering at the El Portal School. Michele (Sara's Mom)

OLIVER TWIST, the play, will be performed by the Hampstead Stage Company in the multi-purpose room on Monday, November 23, at 8:30 a.m.

WINTER BREAK is different this year. We have no school for **three weeks, from Dec. 19 through Jan. 10**. Please help our school by planning your vacations around this break. If you are traveling far and need more time, teachers prefer that you request independent study for the week before our break rather than the week after. Please consider that it's very difficult for the class when students miss school and the teacher has to spend time re-teaching lessons.

SWIM-A-THON Our total is up to **\$6,850!** 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. We still have **4 students** who have not returned their pledge money.

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER: On Dec. 2, all are invited to attend the Family Fun Night, 5:30 – 7:00. On Dec. 7, grades 4-6 will go to Yosemite Valley for Project Pluton, on Dec. 14 our winter plays for grades 4-6 will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and on Dec. 16 at noon the Winter Feast and Candy Cane Lane will take place in the multi. Winter Break is 3 weeks this year, Dec. 19 – Jan. 10.

PLEASE LET THE TEACHERS KNOW NOW if you will be taking your child for winter break before Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. or if you will not be returning by Jan 11. We changed our calendar this year for those needing extra time for holiday travel, and we are hoping that these three weeks will be enough time for everyone.

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: Our Thanksgiving Celebration is this Thursday, November 19 from 10:00-1:06. Please plan to join us the whole time or just for our potluck lunch outside in the kinder play area (depending on weather). It's also a library day to return books – we won't be going to check out new ones. I look forward to speaking with all of you during our conference week. Please try to be on time and come with any and all questions. Have a great week and see you at school!

From Mrs. Bown: 1st grade read a fun story, Mr. C's Dinner about a hungry fox. We practiced our comprehension skills, making predictions and remembering details of the story. For Project Respect, we learned how to give meaningful compliments and practiced skills to be a good friend. Thanks to Andrea Canapary for substituting for me at the last minute due to a family emergency on Thursday and Friday.

From Mrs. Sprague: The second grade is learning all about money! We have been working hard at counting coins and learning different ways to make the same amount. Let your child count some money with you. Say an amount and have your child make that amount three different ways. Thank you and I look forward to talking to all of you at conferences this week! Mrs. Sprague

From Mr. Moore: 4th graders continue to make good progress. This week we finished Chapter 8 which dealt with variables. 3rd grade took their chapter 7 test. Please go over math tests with your child. Remember students are encouraged to fix any mistakes on math tests and turn them in for a better grade. 3rd grade read a fun story called The Mysterious Giant of Barletta. Ask your child what Zia Concetta and the giant did to save their town. In writing we have been practicing our spelling of the 2nd 100 words, and working on writing simple paragraphs. Practice spelling each night! In science we have been observing our crayfish. Most of the children have been brave enough to pick one up! In social studies we read our Scholastic News magazine. These are written in both English and Spanish so you can practice both languages at home!

From Ms. Medema: I look forward to meeting with all the parents this week. We have a hard working class of students who are all willing to help each other. Fourth graders are amazing!!! We read Heat Wave, which is a story about a very clever farmer who comes up with creative solutions when a heat wave comes to town. Ask your child about iceberg lettuce and blizzards of popcorn. In writing, we have been working on revising essays. We looked at rubrics to understand how essays will be graded. After reading several 4th grade sample essays, we discussed what grade each essay earned. This helps students know what is expected of them.

From Mr. Sakols: Last week in social studies we learned why the American Colonies were founded. Some were founded for religious reasons while others were founded because of business interests. In science we used a globe and light bulb to illustrate the cause of the seasons. Using a multi-meter connected to a solar cell, we disproved that the seasons are a result of the Earth's distance from the sun. Instead, we proved that the tilt of the Earth is the major reason for the changes in the seasons. Our Project Pluton field trip to Wawona was cold and rainy, yet we learned about Yosemite's early care takers and business people. Also we learned that with the arrival of Galen Clark, people became divided on how best to manage Yosemite.