

YNP El Portal School
November 2, 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

FRI 11/06 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
MON 11/09 PTG Meeting – 3:15
WED 11/11 NO SCHOOL – Veteran's Day
THU 11/12 Project Pluton – grades 4-5-6
FRI 11/13 Pro Day – all students dismiss at 1:06 pm
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
MON 12/14 WINTER PROGRAM – 6:30 all grades
12/21 – 1/9/10 WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS to Nico Meno, Sylvie Amstutz, Zach Fincher, and Kelly Ronay, who've been chosen as **GRAND AUTHORS** for the Mariposa County Storytelling Writing Contest! They will be telling their stories at the **WORLD WIDE TELLABRATION** in Mariposa at the Best Western Conference Room at 7 p.m. These authors should plan to arrive by 6:35 p.m. for a rehearsal. Everyone is invited to attend to hear our county's grand authors tell the stories they've written.

HALLOWEEN was great fun! After the parade on Friday, stations were set up for learning about bats with Mrs. Bown, drawing with Mrs. Sprague, drama with Mr. Marcis, paper helicopters with Mr. Moore, electricity and the Vandegraaff machine with Mr. Sakols and Mrs. Medema, and exploring the World of Goo through computer physics problems with Mr. Sun.

SWIM-A-THON Our total is up to **\$6,490!** 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 **9 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!**

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL met last Monday to discuss school improvements. Our academic focus area this year is language arts. We have added English Language Development lessons for all of our English Learners. We discussed ways in which Site Council members could be more effective in serving the school. Kirstie Kari and Karen Amstutz volunteered to organize an ongoing upper field repair of gopher holes. Our next meeting will be held on Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. At that meeting, we will decide how to judge the effectiveness of our categorical programs and our school improvement plans, and formulate parent-teacher-student questionnaires for this purpose. All parents are welcome to attend.

READ ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD: Now that the nights are longer and your child will have more indoor time, try increasing your read-aloud time with your child rather than increasing their TV & Video Game time. No time for reading? Start with just 10 minutes, and increase it each day. Your child will remember 10 minutes of reading together with you far longer than he'll remember two hours of TV watching together! Why read to your child? The art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually.

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: We had such a wonderful gathering on Thursday for our Halloween celebration. Thank you to all the parents that came to support your son or daughter and a special thank you to Leslee Whatley for much of the organization. We are already getting ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas/Chanukkah. Nyle Noodle, the letter /Nn/ will be introduced and practiced this week -- stretch out the sound like the /m/. That brings our list to s, m, r, t, b. If your child can already count to 30 then practice going to 100 -- then skip by 5s. See you at school.

From Mrs. Bown: In math, we have been working on our addition skills. We've created cool addition stories with our plastic animals and acted out other ways to add. We learned about number families and will begin to memorize ways to make 10. Next week, we will begin learning our "doubles" facts (2+2, 3+3...) so that we can begin to add more quickly. Look for homework on learning doubles facts next week and help your child practice them at home.

From Mrs. Sprague: Every 2 weeks we have a new friend of the week who gets to lead our calendar activities, be the line leader, and bring in something special to share. We also write and read friendly letters to our friend of the week. Zach, Owen, Chris and Ramiro have already been friend of the week, now it is Chuy's turn! We will rotate through the entire class then start at the top of the list again. This is a nice way for us to celebrate each child's special qualities and a way to give each child a chance to lead our class activities. Thank you, Mrs. Sprague

From Mr. Moore: Last week both the 3rd and 4th grade classes took a chapter test in math. 3rd grade finished chapter 6. More multiplication next! 4th graders took their chapter 7 test. Next comes algebra! Keep practicing the multiplication tables. I have asked students to finish any problems not completed in class for homework. Third grade worked on reading and writing Halloween stories. We worked on Halloween words for spelling and did summaries of the stories we read. In Social Studies we worked on our California map; labeling some of our state's National Parks.

From Ms. Medema: What great costumes we all had on Friday. Last week our writing focused on Halloween stories and poems. We studied compound words, adjectives, homophones, and synonyms. Ask your child to give you an example of a saucy word (peculiar was one we looked at last week). We also studied compound words in Spanish. The word puzzle is translated to head breaker in Spanish. Island of the Blue Dolphin is very suspenseful and we are learning many of the ways Karana survived on the Island by herself. Ask your child where and how she got a spear head.

From Mr. Sakols: Last week in social studies the students wrote their own Halloween stories. The sixth graders have been reading A Journey to the New World, a diary of a girl who traveled from Plymouth England to Plymouth, Massachusetts. In math the sixth graders just were given a test on proportions while the fifth graders have been learning how to divide fractions. In science we learned about the three types of heat exchange: radiation, conduction, and convection. Toward the end of the week we did some experiments to better understand the concept of density. We will have another Project Pluton on November 12 to Wawona.

**REMEMBER THE RULE;
NO HALLOWEEN CANDY AT SCHOOL!**