

YNP El Portal School
February 16, 2010
379-2382 or 379-2414
www.elportalelementary.com

Mariposa County Unified School District



Yosemite Park High School
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ALL FRIDAYS – 1:06 DISMISSAL

TUE 2/23 Project Pluton grades 4-5-6
WED 2/24 PTG Meeting – 3:15 pm
THU 2/25 SKI DAY #4
SAT 3/06 LUAU – PTG fundraiser in Yosemite
THU 3/11 SKI DAY #5
WED 3/31 RED BUD POETRY FESTIVAL

WILD ABOUT READING! Students must read, write the book titles, and return the bookmark to school by March 19 in order to receive two free baseball game ticket vouchers per child, which can be redeemed at the Chukchansi Park ticket office on Kern & H St. in downtown Fresno. **Parents, please help by setting aside quiet, no-TV time each day for reading.**

LU'AU FUNDRAISER MARCH 6: This event takes place at the Curry Village Pavilion in Yosemite Valley. Dinner is served from 5:30 – 6:30. The show starts at 7:00. Tickets - Adult – dinner & show \$15. Child – dinner & show \$7.50. Show only - \$7.50. This is usually a sell out event so get your tickets early!



THANK YOU to Ron Stapp of El Portal Dining, Inc. for monthly donations from the sale of pizzas at Parkside Pizza. Since July, these donations have totaled \$2493. We have used them for the *Step Up to Writing* training for our teachers and for the upcoming Challenger Space Center field trip for grades 4-6.

THANK YOU to Dawn and Maya's Aunt Jeanne Canapary for her generous donation of \$500 through the Gap Foundation Gift Match Program. The **Gap Foundation** contributed another \$500 to our school for a total of \$1000.

Also **THANK YOU** to the family foundation of Calliope's parents, **Eliza and Nate Kerr**, for the generous donation of \$2000. Donations such as these help support our music, art and drama enrichment programs, keep our classroom bookshelves and library supplies with the latest exciting and award-winning books, purchase software and licenses to enhance the teaching of math and reading, and keep our technology updated, and take our students on exciting field trips.

PTG NEWS The El Portal Parent/Teacher Group (PTG) met recently to discuss issues involving our school & your children. At our previous meeting we agreed to fund the purchase of additional equipment such as tables & chairs for classroom use, document cameras, & kiln-related art equipment & supplies.

Subjects discussed at the most recent meeting included funding for equipment requested by teachers; logistics associated with upcoming fundraisers such as the **Raffle** (Feb 25th at Sal's), **Luau** (March 6th at Curry Village) & **Fun Run** (tentatively scheduled for April 24th); & future field trips now in the planning stages. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Are you able to contribute your ideas to the PTG? We welcome your participation. Next PTG meeting is Wednesday Feb 24th @ 3:15.

A reminder to all students to keep on selling those raffle tickets! Completed ticket stubs, money, and all unsold tickets should be turned in to the office by Wed. February 24th. For every 10 tickets sold, the student will receive one ticket to enter into the student raffle. Prizes for the student raffle include a \$50 cash prize and movie baskets. The raffle will be held at Sal's on Feb. 25th. If any parents will be attending Sal's that night and are available to help sell last minute tickets and/or conduct the raffle, please contact Leslee Whatley (372-4833) or Bethany Gediman (379-2960).

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: Thank you to all the parents that attended our Valentine's Celebration – your support is very much appreciated. Last week Spencer enlightened us with a middle-of-the-year project – a well devised science project complete with a graph, photographs, and journal entries with data collection. Congratulations – we all loved it. The students are becoming much more proficient in single digit addition with many completing addition puzzles. Proficiency in subtraction will be our next goal. In science we are experimenting with wood and paper, social science is maps, and our respect lessons continue with practice on reflection and calming down.

From Mrs. Bown: In literature, we read the story Eek! A Mouse is in the House and discussed writing using different sound words. Each child now has an individualized spelling program that is a combination of frequently used words he/she needs to know, words to review and phonetic pattern words. Please continue to review both reading and spelling of these important words.

From Mrs. Sprague: The second grade is working hard on subtracting two-digit numbers. We're getting the hang of it but still need some practice with regrouping from the tens place. Any help you can provide will be appreciated! Since it is black history month, we have been reading about famous African-Americans and the struggles they faced. We are also still collecting change for Haitian earthquake victims! Our total is slowly growing, thank you for supporting our efforts!

From Mr. Moore: In math last week the 4th grade worked on measurement. We spent time converting from different units: inches to feet, cups to pints etc. Practice cooking at home so your child can be comfortable with cup, pints, quarts etc. The 3rd grade is working on basic division facts. Practice multiplication at home that will help with division. The third grade finished their seeds of science reading unit, and is now reading in our regular reading book. This means we are back to the routine of spelling tests each week. Last week we learned about children in Iceland who rescue baby puffins who land in their town. We are writing newspaper articles; look for the newspaper to come home this week. In science the 2nd and 3rd grades worked on creating their own cola recipes. In social studies we studied the food, and shelter of Native American tribes in the different regions of California.

From Ms. Medema: I hope you enjoyed your long weekend! Last week in language arts we finished our class novel, The Magician's Elephant. Ask your child if the elephant helped Peter find his sister Adele. We are now beginning to read By the Great Horn Spoon, a novel about the California Gold Rush. As we progress through this novel, students will be choosing from several projects to complete as homework. Look for more information soon. We will be beginning our new spelling program this week called Sitton Spelling and Word Skills. Let me know if you have any questions as you begin to see different spelling homework. Our mission buildings have been fired in the kiln and we will be putting our finishing touches on this project after school. I'll let you know which days so we can arrange transportation home. Come by and see it!

From Mr. Sakols: This week in reading we are finishing My Brother Sam is Dead. Soon we will begin to write a response to literature on the novel. Also this week we will begin oral reports on our biographies. Students are not to read their reports but instead use their two column notes. Next Tuesday we have a Project Pluton field trip to Yosemite Valley. We will depart school at 8:30 AM and return by 3:00 PM. It will probably be raining. However, we will go through a number of indoor or covered stations.