

YNP El Portal School  
January 25, 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  
WED 1/27 PTG Meeting – 3:15 pm  
THU 1/28 SKI DAY #2  
MON 2/01 Project Pluton grades 4-5-6 to Crane Flat  
THU 2/11 SKI DAY #3  
FRI 2/12 NO SCHOOL  
MON 2/15 NO SCHOOL  
TUE 2/23 Project Pluton grades 4-5-6 in El Portal  
SAT 3/06 LUAU – PTG fundraiser in Yosemite

### AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA PROGRAM

#### Come support the Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort!

The El Portal after school drama program is having a benefit-performance on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 at 6:00 pm. The students will showcase what they've learned in Drama through their performance of three plays: "The King O' the Cats", "The Magic Sieve" and "The Talking Fish". Donations for the Haiti earthquake relief effort will be accepted. All are welcome! We hope to see you there!

### LU'AU MARCH 6 FUNDRAISER:

Once again it's time for this entertaining fundraiser on Saturday, March 6, that is shared between Yosemite Valley School, Yosemite Park High, and El Portal Elementary. This year it's Yosemite Park High School's turn to coordinate and organize this event that takes place at the Curry Village Pavilion. We need volunteers from all three schools. Please sign up for as many volunteer jobs as you can. **We typically raise \$1000** for each of these park schools at this event, important money that helps fund computers, art, music, and the instructional aides that help in every classroom. Wouldn't you like to be part of this effort? Here is a list of volunteer jobs available: decorating, ticket sales, food server, clean up. **Please return the form below to school as soon as possible.** THANK YOU!

cut here



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ YES, Sign me up to help with the Luau.

I would like to help in the following way:

\_\_\_\_\_ decorating

\_\_\_\_\_ food server

\_\_\_\_\_ ticket sales

\_\_\_\_\_ clean up

\_\_\_\_\_ Let me know where you need me

**SKI DAY THURSDAY** Please check the list on the reverse and let us know if you will not be there or will not ride the bus. Be sure to read the safety notes.

**MARIPOSA AREA MUSICIANS AND RESIDENTS** are hosting a fundraiser to support urgently needed medical and surgical care for earthquake victims in Haiti this Friday, January 29 at the Yosemite Bug in Midpines, from 6-11 p.m. The "Love and Haiti" event will benefit Partners in Health ([www.standwithhaiti.org](http://www.standwithhaiti.org)), an organization that has been providing medical care in Haiti for more than 20 years. Featured musicians include Adam Burns and friends, Denise Ludington and friends, Jeff Blalock and Jared Jespersion.

### CLASSROOM NEWS

**From Mr. Marcis:** Addition is in full swing with some students even progressing into subtraction. When practicing at home think about using blocks, cubes, or anything else they can touch to build the concept. The language I use when adding is "count up" to get bigger and when subtracting "take away" to get smaller. We have been writing short summaries about our science topics – Wood and Paper, and the Weather. We start with a topic sentence, add descriptions and explanations, then end with a sentence that reminds the reader about the topic. They are about 3-6 sentences long. Ask your child about 5 types of wood we have in class and how they sank a piece in water. See you on Thursday for ski day!

**From Mrs. Bown:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be investigating "houses" for Social Studies and Literature this week. We will be looking at the elements of our own homes as well as houses around the world. A note was sent last week about our **House Project THIS Friday**. Your child will need a **shoe box** (or small box of the same size) and a variety of small materials to create his/her own room. Empty spools, corks, small plastic lids and/or containers, wrapping paper and fabric scraps are great, but feel free to be creative. **Students can bring items for their own homes AND items to share with others.** Parent help is requested this Friday from 10:00 to Noon. Please RSVP if you can come so we can plan accordingly

**From Mrs. Sprague:** The second grade has written a lot of fiction this year and now we are starting to write some non-fiction. The kids are excited to share what they know about different topics. So far essay topics are about dogs, family and Mexico. In math we are starting to learn about subtracting two-digit numbers.

**From Mr. Moore:** The 4th grade took the chapter 12 math test. Everyone got an A! The next two chapters continue to teach about division. The 3rd grade just finished chapter 11 learning about solid figures like cubes, cones and triangular prisms. Each day the students work on honing their multiplication skills. The 3rd grade is still working on the "Seeds of Science" reading unit. We read a book that taught about what happens when something dissolves. It doesn't disappear! Last week we wrote a letter to our classmate Jorge who transferred to MES. We also received letters from schools in two states. In Science the 2nd and 3rd grades are starting a unit called "Secret Formulas". We will be mixing and measuring and discovering formulas for paste, cola, and even ice cream. If any parent would like to help with this unit I could especially use help setting up the labs on Wednesdays at 12:00-12:30.

**From Ms. Medema:** Last week we read a story called Happy Birthday, Dr. King. We learned about the civil rights movement, Montgomery Bus Boycott, and Rosa Parks. We had some good conversations about prejudices and racism. You have some very insightful and caring children. We have been increasing our vocabulary by learning prefixes and suffixes and searching for as many words we can find. Fourth graders are also thinking and writing about figurative language by beginning a project on proverbs. We will be discussing and writing about common sayings such as *The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence*.

**From Mr. Sakols:** In language arts we have begun the novel My Brother Sam is Dead. The novel is about a brother who joins the rebel army against his family's wishes and a younger brother who must choose which side he will support. Last week in science we looked at examples of the three rock types – sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous. This week in social studies we will learn about the Declaration of Independence. It is time to start thinking about preparing for our February 1 Project Pluton field trip. We will be going to Crane Flat where we will learn to cross country ski.