

YNP El Portal School
November 23, 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

ALL FRIDAYS – 1:06 DISMISSAL
WED-FRI 11/25-11/27 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday
WED 12/2 FAMILY FUN NIGHT – 5:30
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

**NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY,
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY THIS WEEK DUE TO
THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. SCHOOL
RESUMES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH.**

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.

Dress Warmly for Mornings!

The average temperature during morning aerobics was 37 degrees last week! Please be sure your child wears a substantial coat (not just little sweaters). Many students complained of cold hands, so mittens may also be a good idea. Your child will receive the best benefits of this important fitness time if they are comfortable and warm.

SWIM-A-THON PARTY TIME!

All students have now turned in pledge money and it is time for our pizza and ice cream party! The date of the party will be announced as soon as we gather all of the goodies and decide where the pizza will come from!

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.

SNOWFLAKES & EGG NOG

You are invited to help decorate the El Portal Market with snowflakes on Sunday, November 29, from 4-6 pm. Snowflake making, store decorating, egg nog drinking and music listening. Materials will be supplied (except the scissors – please bring your own).

**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: Thank you parents for being present and helpful at our Thanksgiving Celebration – it was a huge success! I know your children appreciate you supporting their academic and social growth here at school. I very much appreciated seeing all of you during our conference – I always enjoy sharing the successes with you and getting to know you better. Much was discussed and if you need additional clarification please don't hesitate to contact me. Over the holiday break please find a time to talk to your child about the End of the Year Project, ideas they may have and how and when you will begin it together. Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday and see you on the 30th.

From Mrs. Bown: In math, we are working on subtraction strategies and fluency. Practice counting backwards from 20 with your child when you're driving! We are also learning how addition and subtraction are connected. In social studies, we are learning about the pilgrims and how they lived. We've compared their daily life to ours and found that there are a few things that are the same, but so many are different. Ask your child what some of these are.

From Mrs. Sprague: Thank you to for coming to conferences last week! I enjoyed meeting with each of you! In math we are continuing our work with money! Please continue counting coins with your child. Students need a lot of practice adding 5 or 10 to different numbers. We have also started talking about different ways to make \$1.00. In reading we have been talking about making predictions when we read. When you read with your child ask them what they think is going to happen next in the story. See if your prediction is right as you read on. Thank you, Mrs. Sprague

From Mr. Moore: This past week the 4th grade took their Chapter 8 math test. It was a tough one. Please go over this test with your child. Students are encouraged to correct any mistakes for a better test grade. Chapter 9 is called "Equations with Two Variables"!!! 3rd grade is working on measurement and geometry. Work your child on estimating how long or tall an object is, then have them measure it. Keep practicing those multiplication facts. The 3rd grade read a fun story called Raising Dragons. We discussed some of the difficulties people have raising pets. Ask your child how Hank helped at the farm. In honor of Thanksgiving the students wrote thank you letters to some of the people who are important to our school. In the afternoon we have started practicing our song for the winter play. It is called "Holiday Wishes".

From Ms. Medema: It was great to meet with each of you this week at conferences. In language arts we focused on literature circles which the students call book club. Students chose between Babe: A Gallant Pig or Who Stole the Wizard of Oz. Students read both in class and at home for homework. Each group led discussions about their reading. We wrote letters to Senator Feinstein, thanking her for helping pass the appropriation bill which helps our school financially. We also finished compare and contrast essays about two characters from our books. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! -

Cindy Medema

From Mr. Sakols: Last week in class we have been discussing slavery. In language arts we have begun reading The Story of Harriet Tubman, Freedom Train that tells the story of the underground railroad. Also, I am reading aloud - Amos Fortune Free Man that tells the story of an African who is the son of a king but is captured by slave traders and brought to New England. During writing we looked at early colonial art from the de Young Museum and made careful observations, questions and inferences. We learned that early paintings hold clues that tell us about life in the past. Next the students wrote a letter to the museum curator that included arguments for keeping the work in the collection.