

YNP El Portal School  
November 9, 2009  
379-2382 or 379-2414  
www.elportalelementary.com

Mariposa County Unified School District



Yosemite Park High School  
Phyllis Weber, Principal  
email: pweber@mariposa.k12.ca.us  
www.yosemiteparkhighschool.com

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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  
THU 1/14 SKI DAY #1

## NO SCHOOL WEDNESDAY!

### GOOD NEWS!! PARK SCHOOLS BILL EXTENDED!

The recently enacted Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations Bill, for which Senator Feinstein chairs the Senate appropriations subcommittee, includes a four-year extension of the law. The legislation enacted into law is H.R. 2996. With last year's funding, we have hired our full-time kindergarten teacher, Mr. Marcis, and our part-time 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers, Mrs. Medema and Mrs. Sprague.

### ➔ CONFERENCE WEEK 11/16-11/20

PLEASE RETURN THE GREEN CONFERENCE SLIP THAT WENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD LAST WEEK. IF YOU NEED TO RESCHEDULE PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**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 **\$6,700!**  
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 **5 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!



Students in grades 2-3 have run a combined total of 186 miles during morning aerobics!

### CLASSROOM NEWS

**From Mr. Marcis:** I sent home last week a bright orange paper of kindergarten sight words. These 32 words are the assessment I use to document on report cards. It can be a 180 day long process (or longer) to learn them, though – please practice and reinforce recognition when reading books at home. Conference papers were sent home last week, also on a green paper. Please review the date and time and return the bottom portion right away. If you need a different time please call Suzie. My conferences take from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Please come with any questions or concerns. Together we will set goals for your child and talk about their End of the Year Project.

**From Mrs. Bown:** In Social Studies, we began our Project Respect lessons. A letter about this program came home this week. We are learning about “empathy” for others and how to tell what people might be feeling from facial expressions and body language. We practiced ways to help others who might be feeling sad or mad and how to share in the happiness and excitement of others. We learned lots of new vocabulary words and used our new skills in classroom situations.

**From Mrs. Sprague:** We have completed our author study of Eric Carle. We read several books by Eric Carle together and students read other books independently. We learned how Eric Carle makes his beautiful illustrations and took an online tour of his studio! We then made our own “Hermit Crabs” based on the story A House for Hermit Crab. Then we wrote a creative story about our hermit crab inspired by Eric Carle. These creations will be on display in our room, come take a look. Thank you, Mrs. Sprague

**From Mr. Moore:** The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have worked on Chapter 8, learning about solving equations with variables! The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade continues to work on multiplication. We have learned all of our facts, now we just need to practice to get faster. Both grades should continue to practice each night! The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade read a funny story called Dogzilla. We looked at the author's jokes and use of alliteration. In writing we worked on showing what we have learned by writing an essay without any help. Students had to plan, write, and edit their writing all in one hour. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade worked on their California maps and for science we met our crayfish. Ask your child what they learned about these animals.

**From Ms. Medema:** Last week we read the story Cendrillon, a Cinderella story that takes place on the Island of Martinique which has both French and African cultures. We compared and contrasted this to other Cinderella stories from Chinese, Mexican, and Hmong traditions. We have been writing a lot as well. This week we are concentrating on a compare and contrast essay. Students were able to choose characters from a book or people that they know. We also worked on writing more complex sentences with more descriptions, similes, and good saucy verbs. It is my expectation to see improvements in their homework sentences.

**From Mr. Sakols:** Last week in language arts the students wrote persuasive essays on the benefits of exercise. With the help of information collected from the Mayo Clinic, the students came up with some compelling reasons of why we should exercise. In science we have been learning about density and buoyancy. During class we learned how steel boats can float? Each student was given a ball of clay that sunk when placed in water. However, after some engineering the students created boats from the clay that were able to float. On Thursday we have a Project Pluton field trip to Wawona where we will see where Galen Clark used to live. We will leave school at 8:15 AM and not return until 3:45. Please make sure your children come prepared with warm clothing, a day pack, lunch, and a water bottle.