

YNP El Portal School  
December 7, 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  
**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 DRAMA CLASSES** Dec. 14 or 15 because we'll be setting up for the winter plays on Dec. 14 and for the feast on Dec. 16.

### **CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS ARE READY!**

If you made Christmas ornaments at our Family Fun Night last week you can pick them up in the school multi-purpose room. 217 ornaments were made. There will be many beautifully decorated trees in El Portal this year! Thank you Henrietta for all of your work with the kiln!

**SKI DAY PACKETS** went home last week. Please return your packet to school by next Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **SWIM-A-THON PARTY TIME!**

We will hold our Swimathon pizza and ice cream party this Friday! Thank you, parents, for helping collect all of the pledges!

### **THE YOSEMITE PARK HIGH SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL**

met on Thursday, December 4, to revise and approve the school site plan. YPHS Site Council members are Laurie Smith, President, Gail Dreifus, Vice-President, Phyllis Weber, Secretary, Zach Smith, student member, Roxanne Mulvey and Suzie Whitfield.

**YOSEMITE PARK HIGH** teachers and students served soup at last Friday's craft fair in Yosemite to help out the daycare center. YPHS students must complete 12 hours of community service as part of their Civics class, and ten of these hours must be outside of school hours.

Last Friday, members of the **AFTER-SCHOOL DRAMA CLASS** presented their entertaining improvisations to the school. This class will meet this week, Dec. 7 & 8, but not on Dec. 14 or 15. They will start back up again after the winter break on Monday, Jan. 11.

**SPANISH CLASS STUDENTS** from all 3 classes (beginning, intermediate and advanced) are invited to a piñata party on **Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 a.m.** Don't be late! Parents are welcome to attend and help out.

### **WINTER FEAST**

Just a reminder that our Annual Winter Feast will be Wednesday, December 16, at noon in the Multi Purpose Room. I would like to thank all the families that are donating desserts and or their time to set up /clean up the Feast. But we can always use more HELP!! (i.e. cleanup) And I am still looking for the next parent(s) to take over this wonderful tradition because Sara is graduating in June. Please let Suzie know if you are interested. If you are willing to continue this tradition, I will need you to be there on Dec. 15 at 3:00 p.m. to see how Candy Cane Lane is set up and on Dec. 16 at 8:00 a.m. for the day to set up the Feast. Thank you again, Michele (Sara's Mom)

### **CLASSROOM NEWS**

**From Mr. Marcis:** Two songs and one poem are being rehearsed for our Winter Program – please practice at home. The letter /Pp/ (Pippa Pig) will be highlighted along with blending sounds, and identifying the last letter sound in words. We will write number words and continue sentence writing using the sight words. We have been graphing a bunch and naming coins. Addition is to follow with subtraction close behind. Student of the week will be Carter to end our entire class one time through.

**From Mrs. Bown:** We are practicing our penguin poems & songs in class in preparation for the winter program. **Please help your child learn the poem that went home last week, "In Praise of Penguins"**. We are learning to use "l" & "r" blends in our reading and writing. ("**cl**ap" "**gr**ip"). Help your child recognize these when you read at home. In Literature, our stories this week are all about families. Consider sharing some of your family stories. Kids love to hear what about YOUR childhood (also known as "the olden days" ☺)

**From Mrs. Sprague:** Good Afternoon! This month we will be working on letter writing! We will be learning the format used when writing a letter and will work on the types of things we say when we write a letter. In math we are learning to add two digit numbers with regrouping and in reading we are working hard each day on our reading skills and learning about things we do when we read to help us better understand the text. Thank you, Mrs. Sprague

**From Mr. Moore:** The 4<sup>th</sup> grade did very well on their Chapter 9 test on algebra! They are now working on a multiplication chapter; multiplying one digit times two and three digit numbers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is in the middle of a chapter on geometry. We are learning about the different kinds of triangles and quadrilaterals. Ask you child how many they can name, and see if the can point out these shapes when the see them in the world. We read a fun mysterious story called The Garden of Abdul Gasazi. Chris Van Allsburg writes wonderful stories, check some out from the library! In writing we have been practicing our topic sentences. Play practice goes well. Some children have numerous lines to memorize, practice these at home!

**From Ms. Medema:** Fourth graders have started another round of book clubs. There are two groups and your child is reading either James and the Giant Peach or Because of Winn Dixie. For spelling we are using vocabulary words from the 2 novels that the students were unfamiliar with. My expectation is that they know the spelling and the meaning. In writing we have certainly been busy. We spent a great deal of time revising our "Best Day" essays and wrote the final copy. Fourth graders also wrote a group story, where we passed the story around their book club group and each person added to the story. We also continued research on CA missions. In science, we began our next unit of study: magnets and electricity. We will be completing many investigations through the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

**From Mr. Sakols:** Last week we continued reading - Freedom Train, The Story of Harriet Tubman. In class we have discussed the hardships of slavery and the courage of Harriet Tubman for freeing her people via the underground railway. In science the class observed the heating and cooling of water and sand. We learned that water has a higher specific heat than sand. Thus, it takes more energy to heat and cool water than sand. We then took this information to see what drives wind and weather patterns. Last week both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders had a math test on chapter 14.