

YNP El Portal School
February 22, 2010
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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
FRI 3/12 Spring Picture Day
FRI 3/19 READING BOOK MARKS DUE
WED 3/31 RED BUD POETRY FESTIVAL

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!



KEEP READING! *Sierra Telephone* is now part of our reading incentive award program! Besides earning 2 Fresno Grizzlies Baseball Game Tickets by reading and writing down the names of 10 books by March 19 (or for older students an amount designated by the teacher), students **will also earn books** donated by Sierra Telephone, including a special award for the top reader or most improved reader in each class.

RAFFLE MONEY AND TICKETS DUE WEDNESDAY! The raffle will be held this Thursday at Sal's. Please return completed ticket stubs, money and unsold tickets to Suzie at school.

Parent Teacher Group (PTG) Meeting Wednesday, February 24th at 3:15.

We would love to see some new faces around the table to plan for our children's educational needs. Come support your children's teachers and their school.

SPRING PICTURE DAY

Lifetouch photographers will be here on Friday, March 12, to photograph students. These are the photos that you see and then decide if you want to purchase them. A reminder will go home next week with a pose selection form that will need to be returned to school with your child on picture day.

SITE COUNCIL NEWS: At the Feb. 8 Site Council meeting, we discussed the school improvement surveys and we updated surveys for parents, students and teachers. A concern was brought up that parents don't know that much about what happens during the day at school. Hopefully the teachers' news each week printed in this paper helps with that, and we've printed, for parent information, each classroom's schedule on the back of today's newsletter. Surveys will be coming home next week, and we hope to have 100% parent participation in filling these out.

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: We are preparing for the Redbud Festival at the end of March. Each student will be asked to rehearse and memorize 1 poem and a stanza from the song, "The Wheels On The Bus". Please talk to your child about their part. Ski days have been very fun and we see a lot of growth. Remember, our biggest priority is safety and control which comes with a solid command of turning and stopping. In Language Arts we continue to write descriptive, one subject stories and in math we are adding and subtracting to master memorization of basic facts. Also, we have begun time to the hour.

From Mrs. Bown: Flat Stanley is visiting 1st grade! Flat Stanley is a series of stories about a boy who is flat. A cousin of Natalie & Ryan sent a Flat Stanley in the mail to the Armon family and they are sharing him with us this week. We created a series of adventures for Flat Stanley in Yosemite and will be writing a collective story to send on with him when he is mailed to his next location. Several students checked out library books from this series. Remember to ask your child questions while reading to them (or after they read on their own). "Why do you think....?" and "How did...?" questions are especially important for 1st graders to respond to. This is a great activity to do while driving!

From Mrs. Sprague: In math, the second grade is still working hard on two digit subtraction! We are getting good at it! In reading, we have started talking about families. The next few stories we are reading are about different types of families. Ask your child how your family is similar or different from the ones we have read about at school. In writing we are still making books and are now working on writing personal narratives. We are also still collecting change for families who were victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

From Mr. Moore: In math the 4th grade finished Chapter 15 which covered measurement. Chapter 16 will introduce negative numbers. Talk to your child about temperatures below zero to help with this confusing concept. The second grade continues to work on basic division. Our next chapter will deal with fractions. Talk at home about dividing your pizza, or cake to help your child visualize fractions. In reading the 3rd grade read a nice story called Seal Surfer. Ask your child how the boy and the seal were similar. We worked on typing our newspaper articles. We worked on creating interesting headlines, imported pictures, and included a quote from another student. The 2nd and 3rd grade worked on throwing and catching Frisbees for PE.

From Ms. Medema: In language arts we read the story The Last Dragon, which is about a boy who spends the summer living in Chinatown. Ask your child what problems he encounters and who helps him solve them. We are also celebrating the Chinese New Year, learning about Chinese traditions, old and new. We completed many new spelling activities in our new program and wrote thank you letters to DNC for their continued support of our school. We began studying the Gold Rush by learning about the reasons why folks endured long, hard voyages to try and strike it rich.

From Mr. Sakols: On Tuesday we have a Project Pluton field trip to learn about early people who lived in Yosemite Valley and have some training on Leave No Trace ethics. Make sure your children come with warm clothes, rain protection, a bag lunch, water, and a day pack. We will leave El Portal School at 8:30 AM and return by 3:00 PM. Last week in science we learned about the importance of wetlands and how they can protect land from being flooded. This week we will evaluate the effects of different kinds of land use on wetland habitats. This week in writing we will begin writing a response to literature on My Brother Sam is Dead. The purpose of this writing assignment is to provide evidence and examples from the novel that supports the statement that war is not always glorious. In social studies we will look at the brave women who were involved in the Revolutionary War.

