

YNP El Portal School

March 8, 2010

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

ALL FRIDAYS – 1:06 DISMISSAL

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

4/5 – 4/9 **SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL**

SURVEYS PLEASE! Both the El Portal and the Yosemite Park High School Site Councils have developed surveys assessing the quality of our schools, and these are being sent home today. We ask each family to fill out the survey and send it in. *Your opinion is important to us.* These surveys can be anonymous if you like. If you would like a copy of the survey for both parents, please request it. We have a box in the office for them to be deposited. Students in each classroom with a **95% return rate** will earn an **ICE CREAM PARTY!**

HULA DANCERS – One more hula class to go...see you this Wednesday at 4:00.

WILD ABOUT READING! Students must read, write the book titles, and return the bookmark to school by **March 19** in order to receive two free baseball game ticket vouchers per child, which can be redeemed at the Chukchansi Park ticket office on Kern & H St. in downtown Fresno. **Parents, please help by setting aside quiet, no-TV time each day for reading.**

MAKE READING FUN AND SET EXAMPLES! Children who see their parents reading usually grow up to be readers themselves. Visit the library with your child on Mondays or Thursdays. Talk with your child about what you're reading and why. Let your children read in the car, outdoors, or under a blanket tent for more fun.

YPHS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS are going bird watching tomorrow to the Merced Wildlife Refuge. They also took a local bird walk around the school last Friday as part of science class.

THE REDBUD POETRY FESTIVAL is coming soon. Your child has received a poem to memorize. Please help with that at home, and help him or her say the poem with a lot of feeling. Set aside Wednesday, March 31, at 6:30 for this fun event. This year the poetry will be presented in the classrooms in smaller groups and as part of our Open House.

SAVE THE DATE

PTG's next meeting is at **SAL'S NIGHT!**

Thursday, April 15th at 6:30 pm

Email Barb at barmon@mariposa.k12.ca.us with your Sal's food order. It will await you at the meeting!!!

DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR 0-5 YEAR OLDS

Take advantage of this no cost dental health education program for your child. A Dental Hygienist will visit you or your organization to demonstrate proper dental hygiene, provide educational materials, assist with a visit to a dentist and provide a toothbrush, floss, timer, toothbrush calendar and book. Please call the Mariposa County Health Department for more information. 1-800-459-4466

CLASSROOM NEWS

From Mr. Marcis: This Thursday, March 11th will be our last ski day. If you can come, please do to see how much better your son or daughter can ski. Our kindergarten class will be joining the Grades 1, 2, and 3 for a field trip to the Challenger Science and Technology Center in Atwater. This field trip is on Tuesday, March 23rd and will be an all day trip (return at 4:30)—more information to come soon. Your child's poem for the Redbud Festival (Wednesday, March 30th) was sent home last week on an orange piece of paper. After singing a group song the poems will be presented individually. Please practice at home for memorization. Our Easter Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, April 1st in the afternoon. Thank you, again, Leslee Whatley for all the time you have contributed to organizing these creative, family celebrations. Have a super week!

From Mrs. Bown: In art, 1st grade is working with clay to create "Critters of the Pond". We experimented with turtles and frogs, along with a few tadpole shapes. In writing, students illustrated their cooperative story "Flat Stanley in Yosemite". Be sure to sit and read this with your child. They worked long and hard on this one. They are now starting their first independent story writing experience around the theme of adventures they might have if *they* were flat!

From Mrs. Sprague: In math the second grade has been working on shapes and fractions. This coming week our focus will be on measurement and time. In reading we will continue reading books about families and in writing we are working on writing stories about ourselves. Please remember to keep reading at home with your child. Have them tell you about the book they read and describe the characters and setting of the story. Also, please don't forget to practice the spelling packet sent home a few weeks ago.

From Mr. Moore: Both the 3rd grade and 4th grade are working on fractions. We have been learning ways of comparing the size of two different fractions. All of the children have been doing well on recent tests. The 3rd grade read a story about the Mayflower and the troubles the pilgrims had on their voyage. The artwork for this story was particularly dreamlike. In writing we have been dissecting poems. We have been looking at poems by Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Gary Soto, and El Portal poet Tim Acree. Each child has picked a poem to memorize, practice these at home. In science we finished our secret formulas unit. Last week we made toothpaste and ice cream. Third grade parents; last week I sent home a packet of assessments. I hope you found these and had a chance to look at them. Please contact me if you would like to discuss your child's progress.

From Ms. Medema: Last week was a busy one for fourth graders. It was so wonderful to have 5 days in class without interruption! We spent time reading poetry, and students picked out their poem for the Red Bud Festival. I sent home a copy for your child to keep at home. Please practice the poem regularly. It should be memorized by March 22nd. We continued reading By the Great Horn Spoon. Praiseworthy and Jack finished their 5 month voyage around Cape Horn...or did they? Find out from your child if the captain took a short cut and where. They should be able to find this on a map. In science we began our unit on electricity. We used 4 components to build a simple circuit which provided power to a light bulb. Your child should be able to draw this for you. We continued to work with the new spelling program. So far we have focused on long O, long I, the /K/ sound, homographs, compound words, and lots of proofreading. I am noticing students paying more attention to correctly spelling words while they write. Great work fourth graders!

From Mr. Sakols: Last Friday in our Steps to Respect lesson, grades 4-6 discussed the differences between Face-to-Face Bullying and Behind-the-Back Bullying. Ask your child for examples of each of these. On Wednesday 4-6th graders worked on our school-wide clay mural project with Ms. Henrietta.