



The Summer Badger

August 23, 2011

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A California Distinguished School
Mariposa County Unified School District
<http://yosemitevalleyschool.weebly.com>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 8/24 Minimum Day for all Students, 12:30 pm dismissal
- 8/31 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
PTG Meeting – 5:30pm
- 9/5 Labor Day Holiday—No School
- 9/7 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
Back to School Night
- 9/14 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
- 9/20 Lifetouch Picture Day
- 9/21 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
- 9/28 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
- 10/3-6 Minimum Days, Parent Conferences
- 10/12 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
- 10/17-21 Fall Break (furlough)
- 10/26 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal

THANK YOU

- ❖ **All the parents** who participated in Friday's PTG meeting – it really does help to have input from all our families as we move forward.
- ❖ To **Mrs. Gabriel** and **Mrs. Cornforth** for stepping forward as considered candidates for the PTG Board.
- ❖ To **Mrs. Gabriel** for volunteering to come in and help with the FABBB program in the mornings.
- ❖ **Mrs. Soria** for preparation of the Tobishima lunch.
- ❖ To all of you for your diligent work on completing and returning the first-day packet/documents ☺.

A BEAR AT YVS? ABSOLUTELY You no doubt heard of our first day recess visitor...it is true we had a beautiful brown bear munching on the outfield, who seemed to enjoy the exited company of our students at recess time. The bear hung out as we diverted the students to the play area and didn't seem to mind the company at all... it will also be a wonderful lead in at our whole-school meeting with students on Thursday morning as we remind students to be aware of our unique neighbors. Also see "landlord" article that follows.

WELCOME MRS. LYLE We are very pleased to be joined by Mrs. Peggy Lyle who will be teaching in the 3rd-5th grade classroom during the mornings. Mrs. Lyle moved back to Yosemite Valley from Phoenix a year ago with her husband Dan, son Nolan, daughter Skadi, and son Ryder. She was raised on the East Coast and then moved to California as a teenager. Mrs. Lyle earned her B.S in Exercise Physiology, and after she realized her passion for teaching she completed her Multiple Subject Credential through National

University. Peggy spent her first part of her career teaching Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies in Fresno, CA. After marrying and relocating to Yosemite in 2001, she taught Math and Science at Mariposa Middle School. When she began to raise a family in the years to follow Mrs. Lyle became involved in online learning and became a teacher for California Virtual Academies K-8, and later for K12. After spending six years in the virtual education committee the calling to come back to classroom teaching and work with students face to face was strong. The opportunity to work at YVS was a golden opportunity. Mrs. Lyle enjoys hiking, biking, snowboarding and playing her cello in the Mariposa Symphony Orchestra. She looks forward to the privilege of working with you and your child and encourage you to call, email, stop by or write me a note should you have questions and concerns.
peglyle68@gmail.com

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT As we have discussed at our PTG meetings this summer, the financial situation remains challenging. As we deal with the various obstacles, my goal is to continue pursuing all available resources necessary for YVS to remain an outstanding K-8 school.

Having said that we have some definite challenges facing us as we begin the school year...

At this time the School District is in negotiations with Park Service as it seems that there is some conflict about last year's funding. The Park Service is holding that the money spent by MCUSD in the 2010-11 school year for the park schools was not available to be spent and therefore will not be reimbursed. This means that MCUSD is "in the hole" to the tune of approximately \$250,000.

At last Thursday's MCUSD Board meeting it was approved to move forward with the park schools funding in place for this year in hopes that this issue will be cleared-up soon and the park money be reinstated. If that does not happen however, a new plan will be put in place at the semester which would certainly include a down-grading of services provided at these schools.

This was already going to be a challenging year considering that we are funding a teaching position from left over park-grant monies that we are confident we will not have next year...

It is the deepest hope of the staff at YVS that we can all pull together to meet these challenges and raise the funds needed to keep our school afloat and the first step to that end is becoming involved in the Parent-Teacher-Group we hope you will join us.

PTG BOARD UPDATE There are lots of changes for the beginning of the school year. This is how it stands right now...

President – Tracy Gabriel – nominated
Vice President – Open – need volunteer

Secretary – Julaine Cornforth – nominated
Treasurer – Deb Strazi

As you can see the majority of our positions are “open” at this time. If you are interested please let the office know asap. Elections will be held at the next PTG meeting on August 31st.

PTG MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31ST AT 5:30PM ANNUAL CHILD-CARE NOTIFICATION

There is so much going on this year that we really hope all our families will make a concerted effort to attend and participate in our Parent-Teacher-Group meetings. The meetings are held monthly and we really do try to make an effort to have them run no longer than 90 minutes...

We do try to provide child care for those who otherwise could not participate in the meeting, however we have to be very careful not to over-tax our sitter. To that end we ask that students do not come to “hang-out”, if it is possible for them to remain at home we ask that they do so. Please keep in mind that often our child-care pool is made up of our middle-school students who have limited experience with handling large groups of kids.

If you know of someone who is interested in babysitting at these meetings please contact the office. We will remind our students that we really take into account their in-class behavior when making decisions about whether or not they will be considered for this task.

We would also ask that if you know you are going to need child care please contact the office, it just really helps us to know what we should be preparing for – especially for those who are bringing young children.

Thank you

EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY

Wednesday's are our Professional Development days so all students will be released at 12:30 pm.

CLASSROOM HOURS All classes begin at 8:15am. The Kinder day is done at noon but students are welcome to bring lunch, remain for the lunch recess and are to be picked up at 12:40pm. 1st and 2nd graders are released at 2:20pm and 3rd-8th grades are released at 3pm.

THE BADGER IS GREEN! We would like to thank everyone for embracing last year's transition to a “greener” world... not only did we save a few trees but quite a chunk of change by not having to purchase paper/ink for our weekly newsletter. As state funding continues to look bleak, we at YVS are looking for new ways to be more efficient with our time so that we have more time to spend with your children...

In the office that translates to continuing with the online badger that can be accessed at our website <http://yosemitevalleyschool.weebly.com> The Badger will be updated every Tuesday afternoon and we hope that you will continue to check there for the most recent information and calendar of events.

Please contact the office if you do not have access to the internet so that we can be sure you receive this very important information. Thank you

LUNCH PROGRAM Once again YVS will be offering lunches through the District program, however, this year there will only be a cold option which may include sandwiches, yogurt or salads – there will be no hot meals served.

Breakfast: Milk, fruit, yoghurt, cereal

Lunch: All lunches include fruit and vegetables, milk and an entrée.

Breakfast \$1.50

Lunch \$2.50

If you would like to order meals for your child(ren...)

- **Orders and payment must be received no later than 9am on Friday morning.**

Orders are placed for Tuesdays thru the following Mondays.

LUNCH UTENSILS Please note that the school district only provide utensils for those students who are purchasing lunches, if you are sending lunch and healthy snacks from home please remember to include spoons, forks, etc... while we do have a limited amount of “metal” utensils at school they are designated for special event use... we loose many of these each year that are either thrown away or taken home by students.

TISSUE DONATIONS Budget cuts – the next stage is apparently going to affect our drippy noses. This year we will not be supplied with Kleenex for the classrooms (oh, sorry – 2 boxes, per teacher, for the year), so we would be very pleased if you were able to donate Kleenex for the classrooms, just another way folks can help.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT –

PARENTS ONLY Parents, you are cordially invited to come to Back To School Night. This is the evening where you will receive important information about your child's class, meet your child's teacher and get questions answered about school schedules and programs. We hope to see you there! The tentative schedule follows: K-2nd grades 5:30-6:00 pm. 3rd-5th grades from 6:00-6:30 pm and 6th-8th grades from 6:30-7:00 pm. Please keep in mind that this is our one non-child event so please be sure to arrange for child care early. Thanks

EMAILS If you have received this Badger via email that is because Mrs. Archer has collected email for you from somewhere... and in some instances multiple email addresses... if there is an address you prefer please let us know...thanks.

IN – A – PERFECT – WORLD... In a perfect world everyone returned their emergency cards today, *and* Mrs. Archer has had plenty of time to go through it all *and* is pleased to announce it was all done perfectly! Now, that didn't happen – most of the cards came in and Mrs. Archer had very little time to go through them - but wouldn't it be nice☺. The reality is that we would prefer that folks take an extra day, fill in those cards completely and accurately and get them all in by tomorrow- that is our goal. And then Mrs. Archer will be able to continue to brag to all the other secretaries about how fantastic her parents are... and please remember to update those cards as seasons/jobs/contact info changes, please don't assume that we all know where to find you.

VOLUNTEER FINGERPRINTING As parents you – no doubt – applaud the lengths we go to protect your child, as someone who would like to volunteer in classroom or on fieldtrips you will probably find this a bit distressing.

Fact of the matter is, if you are planning to spend much time in classroom or attending any field trips you will need to be fingerprinted for the school district. The only exception is if you have been fingerprinted by MCUSD for another school site.

Please contact the office so we can walk you through the process which begins with you bringing in a copy of a "cleared" TB test. This can be done at the clinic or there is a free clinic in Mariposa...these expire every 3 years.

JUST ONE REASON WHY WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Most of the fieldtrips we take are "overnighters" it is just too much for students to go just about anywhere from here in a day. And we cannot take any adults on a field trip who have not been fingerprinted – and this does take some time. We also often call on parents to help with the driving...this too requires fingerprinting (as well as a certain level of insurance and copy of driver's license – more about that later). So please consider getting the clearance we need so when we plan for these activities we are sure to be covered, you never know when we might want to enhance students' learning experience with a field trip.

ONE MORE NOTE ABOUT

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS At this point there are no solid plans for a "driving" field trip however, when this happens... and it will, it is a whole new ballgame. All who received H-6 clearance last year, thank you, however that is no longer valid and should you wish to drive this year (and we hope you will) you would need to get another H-6, however, once done you may sign up for the DMV pull notice program which allows the DMV to notify the school district of any driving citations you may receive therefore allowing the district to have an ongoing opportunity to make decisions about who is allowed to safely drive our students.

TOYS IN SCHOOL Just a reminder: we are asking for your help in having toys remain at home or at daycare. We have a wonderful playground structure and different kinds of balls for the students to enjoy during recess-not to mention, good old imaginative play. Toys from home can interfere with valuable instructional time when they are lost or not put away at the correct time. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

OUR "LANDLORDS" ARE BAAAACK

Not that we can forget where we live, but sometimes we need a reminder. So here is our annual notice that the deer are back! In the fall our field becomes a favorite spot for rutting males and while that is quite a show for us the fact is that the deer are everywhere... Students should be aware and "on guard" as they arrive to school that deer herds can be anywhere... in the parking lot, across the street, in the back by the bike stand... by the play structure. It is best for kids to arrive in groups and even be a little loud to alert our four-legged neighbors.