



The Badger

August 31, 2010

Yosemite National Park Valley School
P O Box 485, Yosemite National Park CA 95389
Catherine Soria, Principal 209.372.4791 Csoria@mariposa.k12.ca.us

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 8/31 Scotland Trip Meeting 4:30 pm,
PTG Meeting 5:30pm
- 9/1 Collaboration Day 12:30pm dismissal
- 9/6 Labor Day Holiday—No School
- 9/8 Back to School Night
Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal/Art for
the 6th-8th grades
- 9/15 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal/Art
- 9/21 S'mores and Stars School House Sleep-Over
Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal/Art
- 9/27 Lifetouch Picture Day
- 9/29 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal/Art
- 10/4-7 Minimum Days, Conferences
- 10/18-22 Fall Break

evening (the one parents only meeting we have during the school year).

SITE COUNCIL NEEDS NEW

MEMBERS We need three parent members for our SITE Council. The work this group does examines our school programs and makes recommendations for setting goals for student achievement. If you are really interested in the inside track to what your child is learning this is the group for you! Call 372-4791

DISTRICT HIRES MATH AND LANGUAGE ART COACHES FOR OUR TEACHERS

As part of a push to improve education in our school district math and language art teachers have been hired to work as coaches for classroom teachers. These coaches will visit our classrooms and work with our teachers to improve instruction. The school district also invested in a data analysis program, Data Director, designed to give teachers information about how well students do on standardized tests as well as other benchmark tests. The teacher coaches plan to visit school sites soon. We'll keep you up-to-date about how this district program helps teachers at our site.

THANK YOU

- ♣ Ms. Fulhorst and Mrs. Soria for revamping the FABBB program.
- ♣ Tony for helping dig out the pathway we plan to fill with crushed gravel in our native plant garden. Next we need to get benches to sit on!
- ♣ To all parents for returning the 1st day paperwork!

FABBB GETS SPIFFED UP

All last week and on Monday this week YVS students got an in depth review and introduction to our FABBB program. If you ask your child he or she should be able to tell you that FABBB stands for Fun Aerobics Build Brains and Brawn, Ms. Fulhorst and Mrs. Soria broke FABBB into four parts to teach our children how the body gets fit: endurance, flexibility, hand-eye coordination and strength (ask your student to tell you what each of these four parts means). Students did some practice activities to build fitness in each of these areas.

PTG MEETING / POTLUCK

TONIGHT, 5:30 PM Parents, please come to the first Parent Teacher Group meeting of the school year tonight. At this meeting the budget allocations we set at the end of the last school year will be revised now that we have our federal funding in place for our teachers this year. Please bring a dish to share. Childcare will be provided.

Today began the regular rotations of FABBB which will take place every morning except Thursdays. Students will rotate through mornings of yoga, and FABBB activities in mixed age groups. Very soon we will have a chart that will outline activities for the week for everyone to see. Later in the year students will design their own sets of activities for the FABBB rotations.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – PARENTS ONLY

Parents we hope you all have a chance to come to see the formal presentation the teachers will make about how they have set up their classrooms for learning this year. The schedule has been set so that each classroom presents at a different time. Mrs. DeCecco heads up the evening with her presentation about the K-2 class in the 5:30 pm slot, Mrs. Stewart & Ms. Mackin, 3rd-5th grades, follows at 6:00 pm and Ms. Fulhorst, 5th-8th grades, conclude the evening beginning at 6:30 pm. The 30 minute time slots are designed to give teachers enough time to present an outline of their education program for the school year and to answer general questions. If you have more specific questions, especially those that pertain to your child please set up a meeting with your child's teacher for another time. Also be aware that conferences with all parents about each student have been scheduled for the first week of October. This evening is a "parents only"

MUSIC ON THURSDAYS

This Thursday Miss Mackin will begin the first of regular music times with the whole student body. After we have our recognition assembly we will all sing and play simple instruments. We are excited to continue having music for our students.

FIRST DAY PAPERWORK

Thank you to all for getting that paperwork turned in. It is a lot to sign and even more to go through. We are planning to send out follow up emails later today for those who are still missing a portion of this important paperwork. So please check

your emails today and if you receive nothing than congratulations you are a super star!

EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK

Wednesday's are our Professional Development days so all students will be released at 12:30 pm. This week there will be no afternoon art classes for the 6th-8th grade students. Once art classes begin the 6th-8th grade students will be expected to stay at school until 2:00 pm. Please check the calendar in the box above for changes in the weekly schedule.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM Once again YVS will be offering lunches through the District program. Please note the price change, and *Keep in mind you are ordering for Tuesday through the following Monday.*

Breakfast: Milk, fruit, yoghurt, cereal

Lunch: All lunches include fruit and vegetables, milk and will include one of the following: Deli sandwich & chips, grilled chicken wrap, or taco salad.

Breakfast costs \$1.50

Lunch costs \$2.50

If you would like to order meals for your child(ren) please send a note detailing which meals for which days as well as payment to Ceci by 9 am Friday of the week before, thank you.

THE GREAT GUMBALL CHALLENGE! YVS READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM BEGINS

Paperwork went home last week with library books as to the particulars for each classroom. K-2 students have an opportunity to earn "charms" and help to add gumballs to our hallway machine and watch it grow. Students in the 3-5 room will be taking quizzes on the Accelerated Reader program which will assess their reading fluency and comprehension and be adding "gumballs" to their personal reading records. And students in the 6th-8th grade have transitioned to simply taking quizzes on the AR program. All students in 2nd -8th grades will be tracking their homework reading progress on our wall chart and receiving a "prize" as they reach their 6 week goals.

WHOOPING COUGH Whooping Cough is spreading in Mariposa County and California in part due to many people whose protection from immunization has worn off or is incomplete. We want to prevent an outbreak in the schools but ***we need your help!***

- Please get yourself, your family and your children protected.
- Immunization is recommended for all children age 6 weeks and up.
- Booster shots are necessary for anyone from AGE TEN AND UP to stop this outbreak.
- Please keep your student home whenever he/she is ill.

Thank 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 in Mariposa...even if you have been so before. 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 and teachers alike 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. 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 clearance and keep in mind that this year they are only good for 30 days. The district is working on another plan for drivers... but this is how things stand for now.

PAPER TOWEL ROLLS Once again there is a holiday art/recycling project in the works spearheaded by DNC. This year we need students to bring cardboard paper towel rolls to help with this project. If you are able to donate, please have your child drop them off in the office. Thank you

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.