



The Badger

August 24 , 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:

- 8/25 Collaboration day, 12:30 pm dismissal for all students
- 8/31 PTG Meeting 5:30pm
- 9/1 Collaboration Day 12:30pm dismissal for all students
- 9/6 Labor Day Holiday—No School
- 9/8 Back to School Night
Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal/Art
- 9/15 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal/Art
- 9/22 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

THANK YOU

- Tony Munoz for an excellent clean up on the school so that teachers could get their rooms set up. The floors really sparkle!
- Mrs. DeCecco, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Mackin, Ms. Fulhorst for taking extra summer days to prepare for their classes this year. The rooms look all bright and new!
- Mrs. Soria for preparing a nice lunch for the Tobishima visitors and YVS students. See the article about their visit for more information.

WELCOME MS. MACKIN AM 3RD-5TH GRADE TEACHER

We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Mackin as the language arts and math teacher in the mornings for the Room 2 3rd-5th grade students. Ms. Mackin comes to YVS with teaching experience from Watsonville CA and teaching experience with the Yosemite Institute. She sings as she works and has offered to run a whole school singing time on Thursday mornings. Next week look for more information about Ms. Mackin in the Badger.

TOBISHIMA SCHOOL VISIT For the 6th or 7th year in a row Tobishima, Japan, 8th grade students visited our school to share lunch and play challenge games with our students. YVS children drew pictures of themselves as part of an activity where the Japanese students had to use the picture to find a YVS child. Our children then gave each Japanese student a memento—a Yosemite quarter in a decorated coin sleeve with a fun Yosemite keychain attached. The day ended with everyone sharing popsicles and waving goodbye as the two tour buses left our parking lot.

ALL MCUSD TEACHERS ATTEND TRAINING IN EDI

Last Friday all district teachers were trained in the *Explicit Direct Instruction* (EDI) teaching model that has been a buzzword in teaching strategies for several years. EDI consists of several strategies that demand student attention and checking all through the lesson for comprehension. EDI asks teachers to explicitly teaching definitions and concepts and ask students to immediately relate back to the teacher about these definitions and concepts. Many of the methods are already in use at our school but it is always inspiring to have good teaching techniques reinforced. Another EDI training for all teachers will be held on Sept. 3. We look forward to sharpening our skills as teachers with this great training.

MCUSD ATTENDANCE GOALS

The Mariposa County Unified School District would like to reach a goal of at least 90% attendance for all students. In order to reach this goal attendance will be strictly monitored this year. Our electronic attendance program, Aeries, will track excused and unexcused absences as well as tardies and early dismissals and automatically send out letters when certain numbers of absences have accrued. For example, after three unexcused absences a letter will be sent and a meeting set up with parents, students and school personnel to discuss how the absences might avoided. The point is everyone in the school district wants students to succeed and the best way for that to happen is for the students not to miss any days of instruction. Please refer to the newsprint publication about school district policies, page 3, for information about what makes an absence excused.

PTG MEETING/POTLUCK NEXT

TUESDAY, 8/31, 5:30 PM Parents, please set aside next Tuesday evening for our first Parent Teacher Group meeting of the school year. 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.

SITE COUNCIL NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

Parents, please consider joining the YVS SITE Council. This group meets to revamp our Special Plan for Student Achievement after reviewing and discussing data about student progress. If you are interested in finding out more about what we teach and why this is the group for you. We will try to set meeting days and times to accommodate the needs of our members. For example, in the past two years meetings have taken place in the mornings so that parents didn't have to find child care for their school age children for an afternoon or evening meeting.

EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY THIS

WEEK Wednesday's are our Professional Development days so all students will be released at 12:30 pm. For today and next 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 2:30 pm. Please check the calendar in the box above for changes in the weekly schedule. We'll make an announcement in the body of the *Badger* as well. We try to keep that calendar current for at least the next few weeks.

STUDENT LUNCH GUIDELINES We have found it necessary to rescind the past practice of allowing use of microwaves and other heating methods during the lunch period. While we understand the desire to provide children with a wholesome "warm" lunch we simply do not have the staff or required training to provide this service to the level that has been expected of us in the past while meeting district mandated guidelines. This year students will need to bring "ready-to-eat" lunches that do not require heating and or use of school supplies (dishes, utensils, condiments). We appreciate your understanding and hope you might take advantage of this situation and perhaps work with your child to discover tasty-healthy meals that can be placed in a thermos☺.

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, Oriental Salad & Fortune Cookie, Yoghurt & Bagel with cream cheese or wrap sandwich & chips

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 to Ceci by 9 am Friday of the week before, thank you.

S'MORES AND STARS SCHOOL HOUSE MEADOW SLEEPOVER

Parents and students are invited to a sleepover in the school yard on Tuesday, September 21st, to mark the beginning of the school year and introduce students to the neighborhood. As part of the Native Plant Garden project YVS students will be learning about the historic guidelines that were established years ago to create a park like feeling in the neighborhood. The staff wanted to begin the year with an event that would build school spirit and give students some firsthand information about the neighborhood of the school. We will have a talk about the history of the area as well as a star program for everyone who attends. We ask that families and students arrive after dinner at 6 pm. set up tents and sleeping bags, join us for the history and star talks and roast marshmallows for S'mores. It will be a blast. The next morning we'll get students up and feed them breakfast to get them ready for the Facelift/Park Clean Up day.

NO "FROM THE CLASSROOMS"???

Well, we are glad you noticed! Over the summer we realized that our teachers were doing double duty—reporting in weekly reports to parents and in the *Badger*

about what was happening in their classrooms. Since weekly reports go home and must be signed by parents we thought that would be the best way for you to check up on what was happening in the classroom and we would save the *Badger* for other kinds of articles and announcements. That saves you from reader overload. We really do want you to read the *Badger* and we hope it is an effective way to communicate. Let us know how you feel about this change—it is all about getting you the kind of information you would like.

FIRST DAY PACKETS We know there is a lot of information coming home but please do your best to work through it and return completed paperwork as soon as possible. We will be contacting you to help fill in any gaps that we come across... Thank you

THIS IS IT! FINAL PAPER BADGER

So, here it is the final paper Badger....

Our hope is that you will begin accessing this very important information on our website at yosemitevalleyschool.weebly.com

As promised the new edition of the Badger will be added every Tuesday no later than noon.

We hope you will join us in embracing this "GREENER"

way of staying informed.

Please contact the office if you do not have internet access and we will be sure to get this information to you. Thank you