

The Badger

November 8, 2011



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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 11/9 Collaboration Day
SITE council meeting 5pm
- 11/11 Veteran's Day - Holiday
- 11/12 Fall Frolic**
- 11/14 Project Pluton 4th-6th grades
- 11/16 Teacher Work Day – No students
- 11/18 School Spirit Backwards Day
K-2 trip to Mountain Meadows Farm
- 11/23 Thanksgiving Feast, Collaboration Day
- 11/24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/30 Collaboration Day
- 12/2 Craft Bazaar @ CV
- 12/7 Collaboration Day
PTG meeting 5:30pm
- 12/14 Collaboration Day
- 12/21 Collaboration Day, Winter Program
- 12/22 End First Semester 7-8th grades
- 12/23-1/6 Winter Break – enjoy
- 1/9 School Resumes
- 1/11 Tentative Ski Day
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Day – No School
- 1/18 Collaboration Day
- 1/25 Tentative Ski Day
- 2/8 Tentative Ski Day
- 2/29 Tentative Ski Day
- 3/21 Tentative Ski Day

THANK YOU

- ❖ To all who have volunteered to help with the Frolic this weekend.
- ❖ DNC for their generous donation of the Frolic meal and venue as well as many of the raffle/auction prizes.
- ❖ Mr. Fontana, Mr./Mrs. Gabriel, Mrs. DeCecco, Mrs. Archer for volunteering to join SITE council.
- ❖ Mr. Jacobs for once again joining students on their Project Pluton.

SKI DAYS – WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

We wanted to let you know of our tentative upcoming ski days so that you can get them on your calendar and contact us if you are going to be available. January 11 & 25, February 8 & 29, and finally March 21st. We hope that folks will start planning for participation this year... This is a wonderful program for our students but it does take a lot of commitment from

you, our families. Please plan ahead so that you can help make this year's ski day program a success. Our students depend on you.

FALL FROLIC THIS SATURDAY!

If you have never been to a YVS Fall Frolic you are in for a TREAT! The name says it all, this is going to be a fantastic and fun event! To start with there is a very, very, very yummy fried chicken dinner waiting for you, complete with all the fixin's and of course we have a veggie option.

We have many wonderful items ranging from art to gift certificates for the Auction (and don't forget all the fun that comes from out bidding your neighbor) so chances are you will walk away with some great merchandise while supporting your child's education – what a deal!

The prize for the raffle will be a DNC gift certificate, so be sure to buy your raffle tickets! We hope to see you there and bring some friends... Dinner begins at 5:30pm and we have sold out in the past so don't be too late! There will also be beer and wine available for purchase.

Sign-up and pre-sales sheets were emailed home last week, we hope you have been able to respond, you will find them attached again this week. Pre-sales sheets, must be returned by tomorrow if you are interested in avoiding the line at the door, we have also attached the sign-up sheet so please have a peek and remind yourself where and when you have signed up.

And finally, **JUST COME**, bring your neighbors and co-workers and have a great time while supporting the kids!

Thanks

SITE COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 5PM

The newly formed SITE council will meet this Wednesday at 5pm, we could still use a few members so please contact the office asap – meeting will be held to 30 minutes. Thanks

PROJECT PLUTON ON MONDAY – 4TH – 6TH GRADES

It is very important that students are prepared for their trek up to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. The weather is unsettled and as you know anything is possible in November. Please be sure on Monday that your child is prepared for the weather conditions and a day of hiking, a parent letter also went home this week to help with that process. Thank you

STUDENT COUNCIL FIRST SPIRIT DAY A SUCCESS

Student council had their first

spirit day on Friday, October 28, 2011. These days are a fun way for the student body to show their support for their wonderful school. Many students creatively dressed as an animal! Best of all, there are many animal ears around here from past plays, so students who may have forgotten were also able to participate. Be sure to mark your calendar for the next spirit day, Friday, November 18, 2011. This day will be Backwards Day. Some suggestions for this day are wearing your shirt or pants inside out or actually wearing them backwards. Thank you for your support of Yosemite Valley School.

GATEWAY EXPRESSIONS STUDENT ART AND POETRY

CONTEST Students in room five entered a piece of art and writing in the Gateway Expressions Art contest sponsored by the National Park Service and the Yosemite Conservancy. All of the pieces were beautifully made and highlighted what students find special about their park. Congratulations to Allie Blackwell, Jake Blackwell, Elyse Gabriel, and Izzy Hance who were awarded honorable mention in their age categories and had their work hung in the Ansel Adams Gallery. We are so proud of all of our budding artists!

WINTER RECESS Outdoor recess is very important to the mental health of students and staff alike... everyone needs a little break... so we have a sun or snow policy.

- If it is raining, we stay indoors – there is just no way to stay dry in that.
- If it is actively snowing, students may be given a choice as to whether they want to play indoors or outdoors (dependent on staffing), depending on the intensity of the weather – see dress code below.
- Clear days, even if there is 2 inches or 2 feet of snow on the ground if the weather is clear, students will go outside for recess.

Students should always come to school prepared for outdoor recess because nature has a way of having little windows of clear weather in most storms enabling us to take advantage of some fresh air – outdoor – play.

AND THEN THERE IS... DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Already we are reminding students to wear some kind of outergear for recess...it is cold! But wetter weather brings a whole set of guidelines to the “table”. Please keep in mind this is to help keep your children and our school environment warm and dry so we are not distracted from the business of learning when recess time is over.

- Rubber soled slippers – great warm toes fun!
- To play in the snow – no matter how much is on the ground... students must have water repellent snow gear that can be removed for classroom time (pants or bibs, jacket with hood and/or hat), water resistant gloves – no knitted mittens in the snow, water resistant snow boots. Basically students must be covered head to toe in snow gear.
- We do have a small collection of gloves here at school so sometimes we can help with that... we really do try to make sure everyone gets a chance to play out in the snow.
- If it is a clear day and students don't have all appropriate snow gear they are unfortunately

limited to standing in our covered porch area near the front door... it can be very sad and boring and breaks our hearts to see so let's try to all work together to get the kids geared up for winter play.

PTG MEETING UPDATE – FUNDRAISING IS ESSENTIAL

We were just able to have enough members to hold an actual meeting so we really hope for more attendance in the future, having said that, this core group has really put a lot of time and effort into coming together each month to help move YVS forward so thank you.

Other fundraisers were discussed as well as a REAL need to pick up the pace with fundraising in a BIG way. We have pretty much diminished our “nest egg” to help fill the staffing gap this year which means that next year (unless some very successful fundraising happens very fast *as in* double our usual monetary success) we will be operating just above “in-the-red” level for next year and that is not good.

We desperately need for any and all upcoming fundraisers to do above “*averagely*” well. We also need to hear new ideas and input from you, our families which is why we hope to see more of you at future meetings.

We absolutely believe we can, as a group, rise to meet this challenge and it is our deepest wish that you join us in this venture – please keep in mind that it is for the future of our school and your children's education.

Our goal is to replenish the “coffers” so that next year we can continue to support the students providing art and music supplies, assemblies, computer support and supplies, library supplies, teacher training, field trips...etc as well as filling the staff gap as necessary, but we totally need your help to do it.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our next meeting on December 7th at 5:30pm. Thank you

SLIPPERS AT SCHOOL

- Only for snowy weather – the basic reason for allowing this change to dress code is to keep snowy boots from dropping puddles in the classroom.
- Slippers must have an actual rubber sole.
- Students need to be able to perform recess activities – so tennis shoes can be sent instead or should be left at school so students can change into them for recess activities.

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 noon on Thursday.**

Orders are placed for Tuesday thru the following Monday.