



The Badger

October 19, 2012

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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 10/19 End of first grading period
- 10/24 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
- 10/29 Report Cards come home
- 10/31 Halloween Parade
- 11/7 Collaboration Day – 12:30 dismissal
PTG Meeting @ 5:30pm
- 11/10 Fall Frolic Fundraiser
- 11/12 Veteran's Day Holiday – No School
- 11/21 – 23 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School
- 11/28 Teacher Work Day – No School

THANK YOU

- **Christina Stark** for volunteering in the Library & volunteering for SITE council!
- **DNC/YTS** for the bus donation for our field trip transportation.
- **Julaine Cornforth & Jen Beavers** for chaperoning on the Farm field trip.
- **Stephanie Hance, Janis Kunz, Melissa Devlin, Heather Foster, Christina Stark, Jen Beavers & Joy Small** for chaperoning on the FDM field trip.
- **Jua Xiong** for helping with babysitting so Heather could chaperone – teamwork!

905!!!!

Nine Hundred and Five!!! What is this number you ask... it is our new Academic Performance Index...the results of the spring STAR test for the 2011-12 school year and once again we are at the top of the MCUSD schools heap. So we are taking a little break from our academic schedule for some celebratory "high fives" all around as we are obviously very excited to have edged above the 900 margin (this is up 24 points from the year prior). **We would also like to congratulate all MCUSD schools as advances were made by all sites.** Ok, breaks over... back to the books!

IMPACT AID SURVEYS Attached to this week's Badger you will find a residential/workplace survey. The bottom line is that our district receives compensation for students of families are connected with Federal Properties – *that is us to a "T"*. It is Mrs. Archer's duty to ensure that each family return their survey – so please if you are sending one with another child at another school site please let the office know so you do not continue to receive reminders from her. We hope everyone will take just a few minutes to complete the survey, it has been highlighted with all necessary

response "zones" in an effort to help with completion. Please note that the first line is for your physical address... and remember to sign and date. Please return it to the office asap. Thank you

SMILE-SAFE KIDS CARDS Attached you will find your child's ID card.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR BOXTOPS We are quickly approaching the fall Boxtops4Education deadline... if you have any Boxtops at home please turn them into the office right away. Thank you

ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM 3RD-6TH GRADES We have been trying to find a way to "bridge the gap" left by Mrs. Archer... (the District was unable to continue the library funding for this year) and we believe we have a plan.

Students were still assessed at the beginning of the year, and given weekly reading goals accordingly. We sent home these assessments along with your child's reading goal.

The reading chart is once again up in the hallway and is being updated weekly

What has changed is *Reading Recess*... Mrs. Archer simply no longer has a lunch hour to spend helping to get students who fall behind on their reading homework caught up. So we are sending home with the weekly reports a weekly list of reading quizzes your child has (or hasn't) taken. To help you track your child's quizzes.

Right now we are on the final week for this first 6-week session... And we can say with complete confidence that your child knows exactly how many stickers (weeks of goals met) they have...it is a major topic of hallway discussion.

We have attached the Home Connect flyer (and a few more notes ☺), if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you

FRESNO DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Yesterday the whole YVS student body traveled down highway 41 in a YTS donated bus. We headed to a hidden urban treasure known as the **Fresno Discovery Center** science park. We all enjoyed the common park area that included a desert tortoise garden, an amazing maze, a dinosaur digging pit, a worm farm, a fishing pond, a space capsule and much more. K-2 students were treated to an interpretive program titled "Animal Mania". "**Animal Mania**" integrated the bio-facts on different kinds of plants and animals that inhabit our earth. Everyone learned about the similarities and differences of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Students reported their favorite part was touching the live bunny, bearded dragon, and snake.

Star Lab was the program specific to the 3-6th graders. This class was all about the planets, stars, galaxy and the constellations in the sky, along with different cultures

legends and characters. The report from the older students was that the class and blow up planetarium was "out of this world!"

FALL FROLIC Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 10th. This is the date set aside for our biggest fundraiser of the year, The Fall Frolic. This is a dinner (generously provided by DNC) at Curry Village. This event usually incorporates a silent auction & raffle.

At this point the most important thing you can do is to set aside that weekend, we hold this event at a time when we can get more-bang-for-our-buck as this is a high visitation time for the park...however, if we don't have folks to staff the event we are out of luck.

SITE COUNCIL FORMING The SITE Council at YVS is an important group as it reviews and revises our School Plan. Our School Plan covers topics like academic achievement goals, school climate and all the extra programs that are in place for students. State and Federal money for various programs is budgeted by the SITE Council. Even though our school receives a small amount of these monies we still needs goals in place in order to budget our allotments. The council consists of three staff members and three parents. If you are interested and would like to serve please call the school and let us know. If more than three parents want to serve we will have elections. *All parents are invited to attend meetings (3-5/year) even if they are not official SITE Council members.*

K-2 FARM FIELD TRIP Wednesday, October 10, 2012, kindergarten through second grade students visited Mountain Meadow Farms in Mariposa. Farmer Brenda Ostrom and a team of dedicated staff escorted students through a series of stations. Students learned about worms and composting; tasted heirloom tomatoes and cucumbers; learned about chickens and turkeys, and were treated to delicious cooked apples. It was a perfect day for a fall field trip at our local farm.

MCHS DISABILITY AWARENESS

ASSEMBLY Students from MCHS Student Council presented a disability awareness assembly on Thursday, October 11, 2012. The high school students set up a variety of stations to let students know about different kinds of disabilities. Stations included playing basketball from a wheelchair, writing with a non-dominant hand, and completing tasks without vision. This thoughtful assembly was very well organized and provided the younger students with some powerful insight about different kinds of disabilities.

THURSDAY MORNINGS' ALL SCHOOL MEETING

It is our tradition at YVS to meet as a school on Thursday mornings after the bell rings. We gather in the library in classroom groups and begin with a student led Pledge of Allegiance – we start with the oldest student and work our way, week by week down to the youngest.

After the flag salute there may be some brief whole school announcements or discussions about the previous week – for example – after the Facelift, we talked about what the students had found/picked up during their day. We then acknowledge individual student achievements both in math (JJI) and reading (AR).

We also have students share their work, most often writing projects that have been completed. It is an

exciting way for us to share with each other what is happening in our classrooms.

HALLOWEEN PARADE On Wednesday, October 31st, we will be having our annual Halloween parade. We will leave school promptly at 12:45pm. Students are allowed to bring in their costume and we will make our rounds around the DNC offices. This has become a fun and treasured tradition. A few things to remember:

- 1.) Please send your child's costume into school that day clearly labeled with your child's name.
- 2.) Please ensure that the costume is not too scary! (No blood please).
- 3.) Don't forget a bag (name labeled, please) to collect all the generous offerings we receive from the offices that we visit.
- 4.) If you would like to come help put your student in their costume, you should be at school around 12:20pm.
- 5.) If you would like your child to be signed out to you – you must meet us at the end of the route to sign paperwork, all other children will return to school for 2:30pm dismissal.

Thank you for your support in this exciting community event.

COMMUNITY ATHLETICS Community Athletics teams are being formed for 6th, 7th, 8th grade students for Girl's and Boy's Basketball and Wrestling. If you are interested in learning more about the programs please contact Basketball Coach Bob Jaekle at 966-7143 or Wrestling Coach Gary Pilcher at (209) 377-8246. Please note Community Athletic Programs are NOT affiliated with Mariposa County Unified School District.