



The Badger

October 5, 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:

- 10/4, 5 & 7 Minimum Days, Conferences
- 10/6 Collaboration Day – Early dismissal/Art
- 10/13 Collaboration Day – Early dismissal/Art
- 10/18-22 Fall Break
- 10/27 Collaboration Day – Early dismissal/Art
- 11/3 Collaboration Day – Early dismissal/Art
- 11/10 Collaboration Day – Early dismissal/Art
- 11/11 Veterans Day Holiday – No School
- 11/13 Fall Frolic
- 11/19 End of First Trimester
- 11/24 Non-school Day
- 11-25 & 26 Thanksgiving Break

THANK YOU

- ✦ Tony for working so diligently on the garden pathway preparations. We are almost ready to put the gravel in! The next step is benches and more plants. Hurray our garden is really taking shape!
- ✦ Janis Kunz for all her early prep work on the Fall Frolic. With total parent participation this event will start off our 2010/2011 fundraising effort with a bang!
- ✦ Tracy Gabriel, Jessi Wright, Cathy DeCecco and Kelly Osborne for attending the SITE Council meeting today.
- ✦ Delissa Fulce and her mother-in-law, Kareen, for helping out in Room 5!
- ✦ All parents for sending in the T-shirts for the art project.
- ✦ Mrs. Soria for putting together the FABBB chart. Now we can all see what we are doing for FABBB every day.

FALL BREAK—OCT 18-22 YVS will be on break from October 18-22. There will be no school for students and teachers that week. Hope you have a wonderful break from school that week.

CONFERENCE WEEK MINIMUM DAYS TODAY AND THURSDAY

This week teachers will be meeting with parents, and students for conferences. This is the best time for parents to let teachers know what their goals for their children are. Teachers will also let parents know what goals they have in mind that will help students make necessary progress at their grade levels.

FALL FROLIC Plans for the Fall Frolic are well underway. Be looking for information about collecting auction items to be attached to the Badger! With all parents participating we plan to have the best Fall Frolic ever! Please set aside the November 13th date so that you may attend the event.

HOMework READING GOALS This is week 6 of our 6 week tracking session. The goal for the program is that all students in 1st-8th grade will attain their reading goals. Parents please encourage your child(ren) to take quizzes on the books they are reading for homework so they can get credit on our progress chart!

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM Once again YVS will be offering lunches through the District program.

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.

SUPPORT YOUR PTG The Parent Teacher Group at YVS is essential to the successful operation of our school. The programs that our PTG fund change our school from being poorly funded and barebones to being generously funded and well rounded with extra programs for students. The PTG makes that possible by turning generous donations of food and venues into money-making events. Four of these events provide about \$10,000 to the budget of the school: Fall Frolic, Lu'au, Cinco de Mayo and End of the School Year Picnic. These proceeds added to the generous cash donation from DNC enlarge the school's budget from about \$1000 of district money to about \$20,000.

The PTG budget allows funds to:

- ✦ supply ample teacher allowances
- ✦ run a music program for our students,
- ✦ buy new PE equipment and new computers,
- ✦ supply expensive laser printer cartridges
- ✦ provide our copier, copier supplies and upkeep
- ✦ send students on field trips
- ✦ have assemblies—like Storytellers
- ✦ provide professional development for teachers
- ✦ student materials like spelling books
- ✦ fund special projects like the garden
- ✦ provide art materials
- ✦ and much more

This wonderful budget allows YVS to have private school opportunities in a public school setting. This quote from Raising Life Long Learners by Lucy Calkins does a great job of explaining how important parent contributions from the PTG are:

“In general, parent leaders and people who are active in the parent-teacher organization offer extraordinarily valuable services to schools. Two of the most valuable contributions of the parent-teacher organization are the fund-raising and the community building events they plan and sponsor. Every school sponsors events such as book fairs, annual carnivals, plant sales, or school plays; often the success of these endeavors depends on parent volunteers. And because the funds raised by a parent-teacher organization need not go through the red tape of a district’s budget, they can be put to immediate use. Many schools have used these funds to purchase playground equipment, musical instruments for the band, books, or computers. Parent leaders and parent organizations also do an enormous amount of work to foster goodwill in the school community. In my school, parent leaders host welcoming teas for parents of kindergarteners, guest storytellers for family evenings, and frequent parent education workshops. The community comes together around these occasions...

Parent leaders of parent-teacher organizations also use their positions to act as advocates for the school. “

In our small school we need all parents to support the efforts of our PTG. There has always been a small core of parents who head up the PTG board and organize the fundraisers. *Hurrah* for their efforts that allow all our children to benefit from private school opportunities in a public school setting.

Parents who cannot serve directly or help organize can show their support for the incredible work our PTG does by showing up to help out and participate at each of our fundraising events—by becoming an active member of our school community!

MRS SORIA’S BLOG Please see “Mrs. Soria’s Blog <http://yosemitevalleyschool.weebly.com/mrs-sorias-blog.html> on our website to read about the Scotland trip and PTG fundraising efforts. To read more about and see pictures of our previous trips to Scotland please copy and paste this link: <http://yosemitevalleyschool.weebly.com/scotland-trip.html>