

The Badger

September 13, 2011



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

9/14 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal
9/19 Project Pluton 4th-6th grades
9/20 Lifetouch Picture Day
9/21 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal
Yosemite Park Clean-Up
9/28 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal
10/5 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal
PTG Meeting – 5:30pm
10/10 Project Pluton 4th-6th grades
10/12 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal
10/14 End first Quarter 7th & 8th grades
10/17-21 Fall Break (furlough)
10/26 Collaboration Day – 12:30pm dismissal
10/28 End first Trimester K-6th grades
10/31 Halloween Parade
11/12 Fall Frolic

THANK YOU

- ❖ **All parents** who joined us for our back-to-school – we had a remarkable “showing”, it is always nice to get started with everyone on the same foot.
- ❖ **To Parents** who participate in Boxtops or Target school donation programs.
- ❖ **Debra Strazi** for continuing to act as the Boxtops coordinator.
- ❖ **Principal Jacobs** for attending the Project Plutons as our student’s teacher representative.
- ❖ **Tracy Gabriel** who continues to volunteer with our FABBB program and is now filling in and helping with our lunches.
- ❖ **Teachers** for helping with the lunch and recess duties this week.
- ❖ **Mrs. Soria** for her continued attention to our native plant garden – it is looking really good and ready for the upcoming hibernation season.
- ❖ Our newly voted in PTG board members **Tracy Gabriel, Stephanie Hance, and Julaine Cornforth**...for answering the call to serve.

AFTERNOON VOLUNTEER(S)

NEEDED We would love to be able to have the 3rd-8th grade students practice keyboarding regularly. If we have a volunteer from about 2:30 pm-3 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays then those students can be monitored as they work on computers in Room 2.

No teaching is required! Please call the school if you can be available to help us out, 372-4791.

STUDENT MORNING ARRIVAL We are trying to adjust to our new staff line-up and wanted to remind you that there is no one available to monitor students outside until 8am. This is a concern with students arriving earlier as our field is home to the rutting deer population. Having said that, we would like to thank the parents who have been arriving in the mornings and helping with monitoring kids Mrs. Archer does not always escape her office at 8am. Thanks so much

NEW ALTERNATING WEEK

BADGER SCHEDULE We are trying a little experiment to see if we can “get away” with having the Badger every other week. While we still believe the Badger to be full of important information that does and can change from week to week we do need to tighten our belts somewhere and this seems to be the least student-impact place to begin. We will certainly send out emails if something “pops-up” but for now we will try this new schedule. Thank you for your understanding.

PICTURE DAY NEXT WEEK Lifetouch picture day will take place on Tuesday, September 20th. Order forms went home this week with your weekly reports. Please fill them out completely and have students return them to the office asap. Please keep in mind all students will be photographed, however, only students who pre-order will receive portrait packages.

PROJECT PLUTON Project Pluton is a great program donated to the park schools by the generous folks at the Yosemite Institute. They provide our children with an enhanced program that differs slightly from that experienced by visiting students to the Park. It takes into account that our students live and grow up in this wonderful area and may be a little more “exposed” to these unique surroundings. This program is for students in the 4th -6th grades and because this impacts two classrooms we have found it more and more difficult to participate as there are students “left behind” in each classroom. Enter Mr. Jacobs, our principal, who has generously volunteered to leave his duties and join our students on this venture allowing our teachers to remain behind with their classrooms. Some of us believe their might be an ulterior motive to leaving his office for a wonderful trek in the wilderness, but ok, he deserves it! Thanks Mr. Jacobs.

YOSEMITE FACELIFT The Yosemite Facelift is sponsored by the Yosemite Climbing Association and is the park’s biggest volunteer event of the year. Volunteers come from all over the world to help clean up Yosemite near the end of the busy season, removing tens of thousands of pounds of debris each year. Once again, our students will participate in this

wonderful event. Permission slips have gone home, please return them asap so that we will be all ready for Wednesday's participation. This is also a wonderful opportunity to dust off those YVS T-shirts – show your school pride.

YVS SCHOOL SHIRTS Funny you should ask... we have very stylish YVS T & Sweat shirts available to purchase in the office. These may very well become collectors' items as the company who used to do our printing has gone out of business and there are no new plans to start this process again...so get them while they last. The shirts come in both adult and child sizes and cost (for YVS families) T-shirts: child \$10, adult \$15, and Sweatshirts: child (crew or hooded) \$20 and adults crew \$20 and hooded \$25 – really the best deal in town.

PTG EMAIL LIST An email went out early this morning to those who have already given permission to have their email added to a contact list for the PTG Board, their intention to keep everyone informed about upcoming events and school information. If you did not receive this email then please forward your email information to carcher@mariposa.k12.ca.us or contact us at the school office and we will be sure that you are added. Thanks

LIBRARY THIS WEEK I would like to thank everyone for their patience, it has been one happenin' year so far as seen from behind stacks of books in both my offices...But I am very excited to announce that we have cleared the floor and the library is open for business!

Students in 3rd-8th grades have been assigned reading homework for some time now and may begin AR testing at any time (some have already begun).

Things are a little different this year in that I have set up the "sessions" to correspond with the grading periods...what this means is that students might see slight fluctuations in the goal points needed from session to session but they will be able to access that information from home with the Renaissance Home Connect aspect that we "unveiled" last year.

Your child will have a scheduled library period every week, this week I will be sending home a packet with every child that includes the Home Connect flyer and sign-on info for each child, the results of the initial STAR reading assessment (3rd-8th), and some library rules and guidelines.

Mrs. DeCecco's class will receive a flyer about our *BEE A Reader* incentive program as well as rules and guidelines. The Home Connect flyer will come home with your child once they begin quizzing with AR, this does not usually happen at the beginning of the year.

I am very proud of our library and enjoy the time I get to spend with your children as they meander through the joy that is reading. While they have scheduled "time" in the library each week, I am here *all-the-time*... and am more than happy to break away from my usual tasks to help them if needed outside of that time. I am also here for you so if you have any questions or concerns about our reading program please don't hesitate to call. Thank you, Mrs. Archer.

PTG MEETING RECAP We are delighted to announce our new PTG officers: President – Tracy Gabriel, VP – Stephanie Hance, and Secretary – Julaine

Cornforth...they join Deb Strazi – Treasurer to round out our fabulous PTG Board.

Last night we discussed many options for new fundraising, enhancing ongoing fundraising, getting excited about fundraising – notice a trend??? This year it will be very important for us to raise money, off the top we have committed to \$15 thousand towards staffing and that is something we need to desperately replace in our budget. The good news is that last year's Park Grant funding was reinstated and so we are pushing forward with optimism about the rest of the school year.

Also discussed was the music program – provided by the district which is set to begin possibly next week. We would like to provide a whole school music experience led by Mrs. Tiner and approached in a by classroom manner. There were parents who would like to see about paying to have Mrs. Tiner provide instrument instruction to interested students and so we are looking into what that would cost, how to schedule etc...

The next meeting is set for October 5th, hope to see you there...

ADDITIONAL MUSIC INTEREST If you are interested in your student receiving instrument training in addition to the provided music program please contact the office. We are trying to gauge the community interest. This would be an out of pocket expense should a teacher be found/available.

FALL FROLIC Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 12th. 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. Mrs. Kunz has already begun sending out donation requests and is in the process of compiling a list of her contacts... the hope is that if you are interested in helping with this process (and the more donations we can collect the more successful the event will be) you will be able to see whom has already been contacted.

Please contact the office if you are available to help with some of this early planning stuff.

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.

FALL FROLIC FAMILY FUN BASKET in years past we have collected items from our families with a family fun night theme to be packaged as an item (s) for the silent auction, and these have proven to be very popular. Items may include: games, DVD's, movie passes, popcorn/snacks, & cards...get creative – what do you and your family like to do together? Donations may be dropped off at the office... Thanks

BOXTOPS 4 EDUCATION We do collect General Mills Boxtops 4 Education. Please check your pantry and shelves for these handy little gifts of free money... the boxtops can be collected (trimmed would be highly appreciated) and then sent in to the office... these are sent in twice a year and we often receive a check for \$40-\$60...every little bit helps. We would appreciate it if you would check it out at www.boxtops4education.com

...you can sign up to have a percentage of your on-line shopping donated to YVS as well...its great!

TARGET DONATION Furthermore, you can designate the Yosemite Valley School to receive a donation when you use your Target Red Card. We also receive a check annually from Target.

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.