

The Badger

September 27, 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:

- 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
- 11/2 Collaboration Day
- 11/9 Collaboration Day
- 11/11 Veteran's Day - Holiday
- 11/12 Fall Frolic
- 11/14 Project Pluton 4th-6th grades
- 11/16 Teacher Work Day – No students
- 11/23 Collaboration Day
- 11/24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/30 Collaboration Day
- 12/21 Winter Program

THANK YOU

- ❖ **Joy Z/Small** and **Melissa Devlin** for answering the call to serve and beginning the volunteer process.
- ❖ **Julaine Cornforth** for her help in the K-2 classroom.
- ❖ **To Parents** who have brought in tissues for the classroom and a special thank you to **Mrs. Moua & Mrs. Kearns** for bringing in cases!
- ❖ **Thanks to all for participation in the last minute bake sale. We had many bakers and also those who manned the table – it was a fantastic success raising over \$880.**
- ❖ **MCUSD** for picking up the cost of our copier maintenance.
- ❖ **Mrs. DeCecco** for taking on the privilege of being the student council adviser.

PTG MEETING NEXT WEEK We hope you will join us for the meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, October 5th at 5:30 pm. For those interested in child care Will Fontana has offered his services.

PICTURE DAY SNAFOO Unfortunately a mistake was made and in your packets you will be receiving a “composite” class/group shot. The folks at Lifetouch apologize and will be coming out later this fall

to shoot the class pictures which you will receive at a later date.

FROM SNAFOO TO WOO-HOO! The school district is picking up the maintenance cost for our copier machine...this cost is usually handled by the PTG so that is about \$900 that comes back into that budget – thanks MCUSD! WooHoo! ☺

YOSEMITE VALLEY SCHOOL CELEBRATES OUR CONSTITUTION

Saturday, September 17th was the 224th anniversary of the US Constitution. We had a whole school commemoration on the Friday before. This YVS tradition is always fun and educational, the students of Room 1 and Room 2 put on a great *Readers Theatre* performance called “Unite or Die”. Students portrayed the 13 colonies. Their lines gave voice to some of the obstacles that ultimately ended in unity and a new nation! This was followed by all students creating Constitution Day posters which Ms. Fulhorst will submit to Gov. Kids for a chance to win US savings bonds.

STUDENT COUNCIL As the Student Council Advisor, Mrs. DeCecco is pleased to announce the following students have been voted by their peers to serve as student council officers: President: Will Fontana; Vice President: Zoe Evans; Treasurer: Sara Levine; Secretary: Serra Webber; Room Two Representatives: Clara Devlin and Nolan Lyle; Room Two Alternate Representatives: Layton Hauser & Kiersten Lott. Room Five will have the second graders take turns as representatives. We had our elections on Constitution Day and ALL of the candidates prepared outstanding speeches and posters. In fact, Mrs. Soria commented that they were the best speeches she has heard in her Yosemite Valley School career. We had our first unofficial meeting last week and will have our first official meeting this week. The students have many great ideas and are so enthusiastic about their duties. We are looking forward to a great year.

PROJECT PLUTON *Last Monday the 19th of September, the 4-6th graders went on an adventure. The following is an eyewitness report from 6th grader Serra Webber. On our first Project Pluton trip at Tuolumne Meadows my group and I went up *Puppy Dome*. We started at the base of *Lambert Dome* and walked along the *John Muir Trail*. At 12:15pm we ate lunch in the forest; after lunch we played *camouflage*. Then we went up *puppy dome*. On the top we looked at the view, we also played *polar bear* and I won. Finally we got on the bus and rode home.*

CONGRATULATIONS!!! On August 31, 2011, California's Academic Performance Index (API) results for 2011 were released. API scores track the academic performance each year of California public schools. Scores range from 200 to 1,000; the target

score for all schools is 800. Yosemite Valley School received an outstanding API score of 874, highest in the district! This is the 4th consecutive year that YVS has received an API score of over 800. The state also gives an API Statewide Rank ranges from 1 to 10- YVS received a rank of 8 out of 10, which means that our API fell into the top 20% of all schools in the state with a comparable grade range. Congratulations and thanks to YVS students, staff, and parents on working together to provide such a wonderful place for children to learn.

Principal Jacobs

YVS PARTICIPATES IN 8TH

ANNUAL FACELIFT All YVS children spent the morning of Sept. 14 combing areas by the Lower Falls, Church Bowl and along the beaches at Housekeeping camp for trash. Over 100 lbs. of what Mrs. DeCecco calls micro-trash was collected and disposed of by the Facelift team. Cigarette butts topped the list again for most numerous types of trash. A few hardy middle schoolers carried some very heavy pieces of asphalt all the way back from the Wellness Center—kudos to them! The Facelift generously made sure that all YVS students received raffle items like headlamps, caps and shirts and water bottles as a reward for their efforts. We look forward to many more years of helping to clean the park during future Facelift weeks.

YVS SCHOOL SHIRTS Once again, we have very stylish YVS T & Sweat shirts available to purchase in the office. 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.

LIBRARY NEWS What a flurry of a time we have had... we are in our fourth week of this first reading session which somehow caught some of our students off-guard. So as you can guess reading recess has begun to help students get back on track. Having said that, some of our students have read above and beyond their weekly goals and are in fact thrilled to see all their progress on the home-connect website...we have reminded students that while they may have reached their goal...they cannot receive homework credit for homework that hasn't been assigned yet so they should keep on reading.

Last week the 1st & 2nd graders began quizzing so they will begin the process of tracking their progress as well.

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 gage 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

WINTER IS A-COMIN' Yes, we know, fall has only just begun... and while we don't want to get too ahead of things we just wanted to remind you of two things shoes and snow. At YVS we allow (and actually promote) students to wear slippers in classrooms during the wet, sloppy, snowy weather. Students will be given a dry spot to keep their slippers so they can stay at school and snow boots can remain outside the classroom. This helps to keep our classrooms dry. Slippers however must follow the shoe guidelines of having a shoe-type rubber sole – sock type slippers are not allowed, as we still need to keep our young feet protected. Students who cannot keep the slippers on their feet (and you know who you are ☺) will be asked to wear their shoes. Thank you and enjoy this crisp fall weather, we usually get our first snowfall by the end of October – it could happen.

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.