

YES CHARTER ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

November 2022

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A Word from Ms. Miller

On behalf of the YES staff, welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We are excited about the possibilities the year holds! All of us are working enthusiastically for your students' success.

Part of the incredible culture at YES comes from our practice of SPARRK, the acronym for the character traits that we demonstrate and practice through our actions. These are Environmental Steward, Positive Team Player, Academic Master, Responsible Citizen, Resourceful and Kind.

All YES students have already acted as Environmental Stewards by participating in the YES annual September cleanup of the Yuba River.

SPARRK was adopted as the YES PBIS, or Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports initiative after parents, teachers, staff, and council members worked together to identify the values they wanted to model and teach YES students. The COD president at that time, Jackie Stanfill, synthesized the work and created the SPARRK acronym. Paul McGovern, a YES COD member, characterized it as . . . "perhaps the best work we did as a council".

We are looking forward to doing similar work to create a plan for increased academic achievement. We will host focus groups with parents, teachers, staff, council members, and this time, with YES students as well. Please watch for an invitation on Parent Square.

I am glad to see that so many parents have scheduled an academic conference with their child's teacher through Parent Square. YES academic conferences will be held in the afternoon on early release days, November 15 through 18.

Yours in education,

Louise Miller

Principal/Superintendent

"My real emphasis is on the farmers who are taking care of the land,
the farmers who are really thinking about our nourishment."

Alice Waters, Author of *We Are What We Eat: A Slow Food Manifesto*, Founder of the
Edible Schoolyard Movement

IMPORTANT DATES

November 2

Waterfowl Assembly

Grades 5th-8th

November 3

Illustrative Math Support Site Visit

November 9

Cheese Making Field Trip

2nd Grade

November 10

Awards Assembly

November 10

Tantrum Training Workshop

ABC Sprouts

November 11

Veterans Day

NO SCHOOL

November 14

Raptor Visit

Grades 5th-8th

November 15-18

Academic Conferences

MINIMUM DAYS

November 17

YES Council Meeting

November 21-25

Thanksgiving Break

NO SCHOOL

November 30

Mobile Museum

Alcuffe Center

See page 3 for details of events.

DID YOU KNOW?

FREE TO ALL YES STUDENTS:

- School Breakfast
- School Lunch
- After Care Until 5:00p



BELL SCHEDULE

8:15a	Breakfast
8:35a	School Begins
10:10a – 10:25a	Morning Recess (TK/K/1/2)
10:25a – 10:40a	Morning Recess (3/4/5)
10:40a – 10:55a	Morning Recess (6/7/8)
11:15a – 11:30a	ABC Sprout/TK Lunch
11:25a – 11:45a	K/1 Lunch
11:30a – 11:50a	2/3 Lunch Recess
11:45a – 12:05p	K/1 Lunch Recess
11:50a – 12:10p	2/3 Lunch
11:50a – 12:10p	4/5 Lunch Recess
12:10p – 12:30p	4/5 Lunch
12:20p – 12:35p	6/7/8 Lunch Recess
12:35p – 12:55p	6/7/8 Lunch
1:00p	School Ends (FRIDAY ONLY)
3:00p	School Ends

Rafting the Yuba River

By Julia Campbell

This October, Allison Leininger's fourth graders went rafting in the local Yuba River. With the help of the South Yuba River Citizens League, they learned about salmon life cycles and their spawning ground, restoration efforts and the importance of preservation, as well as the effects of hydraulic mining on the river over the years. Starting at Parks Bar and floating downriver 4.5 miles to Sycamore Ranch Park, second-time chaperon Dawn Kaundart was able to point out the fish, waterfowl, and new growth along the banks to the students as the Naturalists provided further information. Leininger's class has been studying the changes to our local watersheds that were caused by hydraulic gold mining, saying "It was so valuable for them to be able to see the impact still today firsthand. We even got to see a restoration project in progress". Witnessing the impact in person creates a clear visual, helping the students to better understand the impacted watersheds and the effect on the endangered salmon and other life present in the river. They even saw salmon spawning; one of her students Silas Schroder said that "It was so cool to see the living salmon and the skeleton of the salmon that has been eaten". Another student named Lexi Walchesky enjoyed it when "We learned how the bugs (BMI's) can tell us about the water quality". Seeing the things they are learning about in a more hands-on environment also prepares them for some of the activities done during YES's annual fifth grade trip to Shady Creek Outdoor School. This river rafting trip was a once in a lifetime experience for some of these students according to Leininger, making this an incredible and memorable excursion for everyone involved.

"We share this planet, our home, with millions of species. Justice and sustainability both demand that we do not use more resources than we need."

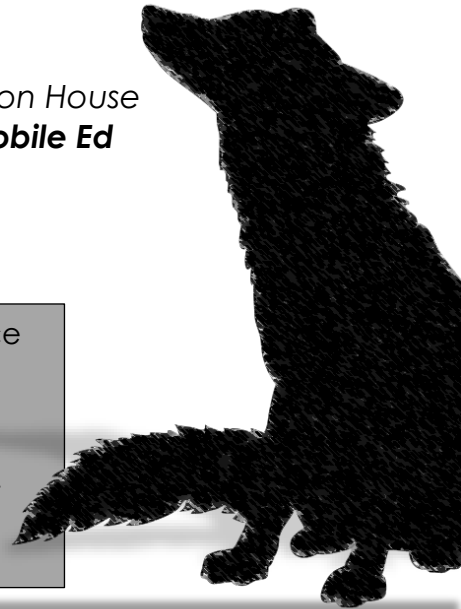
Vandana Shiva, Author of Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture: Sustainable Solutions for Hunger, Poverty, and Climate Change, food sovereignty advocate, environmental activist

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 2:** *5th – 8th Graders* will enjoy a visit from the **California Waterfowl Association** for a hands-on exploration of feathers, bones, & wings from ducks, geese & swans
- November 3:** *Illustrative Math Support Site Visit*
- November 9:** *2nd Grade students* will visit a local farm to learn all about how cheese is made!
- November 10:** The YES Charter **Awards Assembly** will be held at **9:30a**
- November 10:** **Yuba County First 5 & YCOE** are presenting a series of **Behavior & Development Workshops** for families of children ages 0-5. This workshop will focus on Tantrum Training & Other Tips in the ABC Sprout Classroom beginning @ 9a
- November 11:** **VETERAN'S DAY – NO SCHOOL**
- November 14:** *5th – 8th Graders* will enjoy an assembly with live raptors (hawks and owls) from **Gold Country Wildlife Rescue** where they will learn how to protect raptors and their environment.
- November 15-18:** **Academic Conferences** - Please see **ParentSquare** or call the front office @ 692-2210 to schedule your time. **EARLY RELEASE @ 1P ALL WEEK**
- November 17:** **YES Council Meeting** to be held at 3:30p
- November 21-25:** **THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO SCHOOL**
- November 30:** **YES Students** will visit the **Alcouffe Center** in Oregon House for a **Mobile Museum Assembly** presented by **Mobile Ed Productions**

Contact the office at 530-692-2210 for more information

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE: We have monthly and yearly perfect attendance awards and drawings. In order for your student to be eligible for Perfect Attendance they will need to be in their seats or completing all of their assigned Independent Studies (ISP) on time. ISP is not only important to your students' attendance but also to their learning. No more than 15 days of ISP will be issued. Please be sure to check your student's backpack after any absences. If you are unsure of their status please contact the office at 530-692-2210. Thank you!



"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction."

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Lean & Green Monday	Taco Tuesday	Global Wednesday	California Thursday	Fun Friday
	1 B: Cereal or Pop tart L: Tostada Bowl w/ Ref. Beans	2 B: Yogurt L: Spaghetti w/ Meat Balls	3 B: Bagel w/ Cream Cheese L: Richards Ranch Burger w/ Bun	4 B: Oatmeal L: Pizza (French bread)
7 B: French Toast Sticks L: Bean Burrito	8 B: Smoothie L: Enchilada Bake	9 B: Egg Biscuit w/ Cheese L: Chicken Pot Pie	10 B: Pancakes L: Richards Ranch Frank & Bun	11 NO SCHOOL
14 B: H.B Egg w/ Hot Biscuit L: Veggie Burger (Not Vegan)	15 B: Oatmeal Muffin Square L: Crispy Tacos	16 B: Waffles L: Turkey Pita Pocket	17 B: Biscuit & Gravy L: Sloppy Joe	18 B: Cereal & Graham Crackers L: Turkey Mashed Potatoes W/ Gravy
21	22	23	24	25
NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK				
28 B: Bagel w/ Cream Cheese L: Mac & Cheese	29 B: Roasted Potato w/ Sausage L: Nachos	30 B: Scrambled Egg w/ Cheese L: Zuppa & Bread Stick		

* The YES farm to school program brings school lunches to life with fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables grown in the school garden and greenhouse, and by local farmers. Farm to school foods are in addition to the above menu items.

Milk, fruit, and salad are offered daily and will not be listed on the menu.



FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR ALL STUDENTS!

- Lean & Green Monday
- Taco Tuesday
- Global Wednesday
- CA Thursday
- Fun Friday

- Students help develop menus!
- Students help grow food!
- Students help serve meals!
- Students learn to clean up!
- Students learn responsibility!

“How we eat can change the world.”

Alice Waters, Author of *We Are What We Eat: A Slow Food Manifesto*, Founder of the Edible Schoolyard Movement

October
Perfect Attendance
CONGRATULATIONS!

Addison S.	Joy L.
Adriana A.	Jude D.
Aksel S.	Julie F.
Alayna A.	Justice N.
Alex W.	Kasen B.
Alexander L.	Kendall C.
Amyah M.	Landon D.
Annabelle E.	Lexi W.
Atom R.	Madelyn E.
Auh'Ge H.	Mason G.
Bailey M.	Mazzie W.
Bakari H.	Meena M.
Bella J.	Mena'Ge H.
Brenden R.	Micaela V.
Carolina R.	Nevaeh M.
Catalina C.	Nyx S.
Cecilia R.	Odessa E.
Daria U.	Odin S.
De Marcos V.	Ometeotl D.
Demetrius J.	Pearson B.
Dylon P.	Phoenix N.
Emelia S.	Ryliegh D.
Emmalina G.	Sabrina R.
Flora C.	Samuel R.
Gracie M.	Silas S.
Harvey B.	Silvia S.
Hayden O.	Solomon S.
Heaven H.	Valrie W.
Isabella A.	Vela'Ge H.
Jackson S.	Violeta G.
Jacob D.	Vivienne H.
Jake W.	Wyatt B.
Jaylieann S.	Wyatt C.
Johnathan E.	X'Zander S.
Johnny G.	Zoey R.
Johnny S.	



ParentSquare is a great way to stay connected!
WWW.PARENTSQUARE.COM

GET SCHOOL UPDATES & EVENTS • SEND MESSAGES TO YOUR TEACHERS • LOG
VOLUNTEER HOURS • GET TEXT MESSAGES OR EMAILS – YOU DECIDE!

The Annual Harvest Festival and Chili Cook Off

By Julia Campbell

On October 7th, our annual Harvest Festival took place and was a fun-filled success. Tracey Fuschich, the festival organizer and Kindergarten teacher, noted the “happy, festive mood of the annual event” when recalling the evening. Alongside the great excitement and festivities, this event served as a fundraiser for the 5th grade field trip to Shady Creek Outdoor School, a well-known program that allows students to interact with and learn about the environment in a hands-on fashion. Across the ten acres, the school and local community members enjoyed face painting, a raffle, and various games to choose from. The live music provided a relaxing setting for the festival-goers as they enjoyed their evening and visited with community members. A silent auction of many baskets and prizes also took place, raising funds specifically for Shady Creek. One of the most popular aspects of the festival was the Chili Cook Off, judged by Fire Chief Mike Butler, 2nd grade teacher Anthony Emmolo, and Principal Louise Miller. After tasting all the entered chilis and pondering their decisions, Melody Buckley was the judges' winner. Festival-goers voted Kenny Chacon's chili the people's choice winner; a job well done from both. Fuschich expressed that both she and Principal Miller were pleased with the enjoyable experiences by community members who attended, saying “...local people really felt a warm welcome from our school”. Miller expressed her heartfelt thanks to the parent volunteers who donated time, talents, and baked goods, and to local businesses that donated raffle and silent auction items saying “The Harvest Festival was a success because of hard working volunteers and generous donors. We couldn't have done it without them”. School events such as these provide an incredible opportunity for local community members to witness and understand the mission and priorities of a school, all while actively participating in the fun alongside them.

**“When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned
around.”**

*Willie Nelson, Singer, Song Writer, Cofounder of Farm Aid, an annual benefit
concert held for American family farmers*



“YES to Excellence in Education”

Snack Time: Eating Local Produce at YES Charter Academy

By Julia Campbell

This year, YES was awarded the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant (FFVP) thanks to the diligent efforts of Business Administrator and Grant Author Debbie Campbell. This equips the school with \$10,000 towards fresh produce. Sourcing from farms in Oregon House, Dobbins, Loma Rica, Marysville, and Gridley, the fresh, local, and organic fruits and vegetables are offered a minimum of three times a week during recess. The school also has the option to cook the produce once a week. According to Sheila Rolfer, the Farm to School Procurement Coordinator, her offerings have become increasingly popular with the curious children playing outside during their recess breaks. A key part of this grant is offering education about local and seasonal produce, informing our children of the benefits and importance of them; as the seasons change, the produce available shifts and provides a new opportunity for education. Rolfer is passionate about teaching our students about the environment and draws inspiration from Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard, both a book and an actual place. After visiting its location at Berkley's Martin Luther King Middle School, Rolfer came away highly inspired. Discussing the grant and its benefits, Rolfer concludes that "...big farming is damaging our environment and locally grown food is a win-win for our health, our community and our planet". The FFVP grant awarded to YES allows for students to learn more about the environment and how it benefits us and our communities, all while enjoying healthy, local fruits and vegetables.

YES's New Electric Bus

By Julia Campbell

Continuing our efforts towards an environmentally sustainable school, YES Charter Academy has purchased its first electric bus this year. Debbie Campbell, the YES Business Administrator, was fortunate enough to pursue funding through the Feather River Air Quality Management District and Pacific Gas and Electric for both the bus and the backordered charging station. This bus guarantees a reduction in the YES carbon footprint, maintaining our commitment to environmental sustainability. The use of an electric bus reduces costs and provides higher efficiency than the typical diesel-powered bus, making this decision beneficial to both the school and environment. The acquisition is hopefully just the beginning of multiple buses in use at YES. Transportation Director Mikela Amaral says that she is "...very excited to get it on the road [more], get familiar with the bus, and start picking up the students who are excited to ride in it". She also notes that the electric bus felt like the next important step for the school to take. YES Charter Academy continues to spearhead important environmental initiatives within our local communities with each new school year, providing inspiration for other schools to adopt similar practices.



“Slow Food unites the pleasure of food with responsibility, sustainability and harmony with nature.”

Carlo Petrini, Author of Slow Food Nation: Why our Food Should be Good, Clean, and Fair, Founder of the Slow Food and Terra Madre Movements