

Mark Your Calendar!

Independent Study and Winter Break

November 1
NO SCHOOL
Staff Development

November 10
NO SCHOOL
Veteran's Day Observed

November 17
End of 1st Trimester/Gr. K-5

November 20-24
NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving & District Holiday

December 22
12:30pm-Early Release
End of 2nd Quarter/Gr. 6-8

Dec. 25, 2023 –Jan. 5, 2024
NO SCHOOL
Winter Break

"All absences from school detract from your child's education. Chronic absenteeism is defined as being absent for 10% or more a year. Chronic absenteeism has been proven as a factor in poor reading and math scores and academic failure. Arena had one of the highest chronic absenteeism rates (50.7%) in the state of California; the state average is 10%. To achieve the district's goal to reduce chronic absenteeism in order to improve student achievement, we want to limit whenever possible absences to less than 10 days a year. Please consider travel arrangements that minimize your child's absence from school."

Due to the large number of student independent study requests during *November and *December, **all signed contracts must be submitted at least 2 weeks before the days requested.** This gives the classroom teachers enough time to prepare the work and the contract.

Our independent study program is for students who extend the Thanksgiving or Winter break more than 5 to 20 days. Work must be returned on the first day back at school for credit to be given.

Out of town trips without an independent study contract are unexcused.

*Thanksgiving Break is November 20-24, 2023

*Winter break is December 25, 2023 through January 5, 2024

Lost and Found

Please remind your child to check the "lost and found" outside the MPR building primary playground side as soon as possible for lost items.

For smaller items (jewelry, glasses, keys and wallets) please come to the office to describe your lost item. All items not claimed by the end of the month will be graciously donated to a local charity.



Principal's Letter

11/2/2023

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

This school year is flying by!!!! Thanksgiving Break is fast approaching, November 20th-24th, we will have a chance to rest and rejuvenate. Cold weather and rain (yay) are forecasted to make their appearance starting this weekend and going into next week. I am very excited to sit by a comfy wood fire and listen to my homemade soup bubbling away on the stove top. Students continue to show enthusiasm for being at school and learning as we head toward 2024. The first quarter for grades 6-8th ended October 20th and report cards were sent home and parent conferences were conducted. Grades TK/Kindergarten through 5th will see their first trimester end Friday, November 17th. There has been so much progress made both academically and socially.

We had our annual Costume Parade, it took place on October 31st and the students spent the day smiling, laughing and enjoying the fun day at school. Additionally, some of the classrooms participated in a door decorating contest. EVERY classroom won!!!! Each door was uniquely decorated by the students and it added a little cheer to our campus. The students will be rewarded with hot chocolate during their chilly morning recess on Wednesday, November 8th. Finally, the 5th grade will journey to the Sonoma Challenge Ropes Course on Monday, November 6th, where they will learn about teamwork and facing their fear of heights.

As the days get shorter, children will start spending even more time on their phones or gaming with friends. We are all concerned about the powerful hold that social networking has on our children. With that being said, I would like to remind parents and guardians about how distracting and problematic the world of social media is to young children. While many apps are used for positive interactions, the world of social media can be a very toxic place, especially for young children. Some of the biggest threats to children from social media include cyber bullying, mean and hurtful posts, invasion of privacy and personal insults. Remind your children to **Be Nice**. Mean behavior is not OK. Make it clear that you expect your kids to treat others with respect, and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages. Please make sure to ask them to always tell you about any harassing or bullying messages that others post. Pay attention to their social media interactions. They have caused much disruption to school activities.

Take care of yourselves, be kind, be patient and be well.

Michelle Egger
Principal
Arena Elementary



Student of the Week Recognition

These students are being recognized for showing great respect, responsibility, and safety at school during the month of October 2023. Congratulations! A Round of Applause for the following students:

TK & Kindergarten: Hellen Reyes, Jaxon Kirby, Hudson Jones, Echo Momeni, Eliam Marquez, Hilda Bernal Coria, Kasen Merbs, Manuel Rodriguez

First Grade: Gabby Friebe, Peyton Nichols, Antonio Reyes Morazan, Sofia Suarez Martinez, Emmanuel Rodriguez, Brody Frey, Shania Norton, Phoenix McFarland

Second Grade: Ashley Cervantes, Alain Bernal Coria, Sofia Gonzalez, Seneca Friebe

Third Grade: Tiana Aguilar Villagomez, Alex Villagomez Arellano, Scarlett See

Fourth Grade: Naya Rodriguez, Violet Kirby, Adrian Villagomez, Zoey Dixon

Fifth Grade: Milan Gomez Avalos, Giovanni Vargas, Kamilla Carbajal, Angelica Zelaya

Sixth Grade: Alex Fuentes Aguirre, Janitsa Ramirez, Jacob Stornetta, Leon Avalos

Seventh Grade: Shayla Carrillo Marquez, Makenzie Seefeldt, Kayley Medina Gaona, Lucas Owens.

Eighth Grade: Cesar Diaz Vargas, Aiyana Medina Gaona, Jasmine Pittman

Yearbooks On Sale! Two Options to Buy

We are currently making our 2023/2024 Arena Elementary yearbook.

Students and families now have two options for ordering their yearbooks: Cash or Check at the front office OR buy online with credit/debit card at the following link:

https://link.entourageyearbooks.com/YBStore/YearbookStoreMain.asp?yearbook_id=57844

Early Bird price until February 2, 2024

- \$27.00 Online purchase
- \$27.00 with student ID at school
- \$30.00 without a Student ID Card at school purchase office only)

Price will increase February 3- May 24, 2024

- \$35.00 Online and at school purchase
- No other discount will apply.

