



Welcome to California Gold Rush Day!

Dear Parents,

The 4th graders will be participating in a California Gold Rush day on May 4th in order to understand more about this extremely important event in California history. This day will help them to better understand what life was like back then, how much goods cost, what games people played to pass the time and will learn about counties with the most gold in California. Below is some information about the day and what the kids can expect. Feel free to drop in at any point during the day to watch or help out!

Morning Drop Off

If students would like to walk to school, we will be meeting at Salada Beach Café at 7:45am on Friday to walk to school. This is not mandatory, but would help the students get a better idea of what it was like without cars back then. We will be leaving right at 7:45am since we need to get to school on time. Parents are welcome to join on the walk as well.

Clothing

Students are welcome to wear “miner clothing” to school that day. This would include jeans, t-shirts, suspenders, bandanas, boots, vests, hats, etc. I would suggest Googling “gold miner clothing” to get a better idea what to wear. The students will be panning for gold (in a bucket filled with sand and water) so make sure the clothes they are wearing can get a little wet.

Lunches

Students are asked to bring a lunch that would have been typical at that time (1849-1850s). This means that lunch boxes, Ziploc bags and other modern materials would not be used. Pillow cases or other cloth items would be good to carry your items in. If you want to bring a regular lunch that is fine, but some students may want to get fully into character. Some examples of typical food would be beans, dried fruit, sourdough bread, bacon, and jerky. Once again, you may come with a normal lunch, if you prefer.

Schedule for the Day

7:45am-8:05am: Meet at Salada café and walk to school. We have to leave right at 7:45 in order to get to school in time.

8:15-8:45: Students will have P.E. to get warmed up for the day of activities.

8:45-9:45: Read about history of sourdough bread in S.F and make our own butter. We will try the butter on some sourdough bread. We will also try sarsaparilla (a drink from around that time)

9:15-10:30: Gold Rush games: Students will participate in a game in which they pick different counties in CA and see how much gold they receive. There will be some “fate” cards as well because panning for gold came with a price. Also, we will play the card game monte if we have time.

10:45-11:30: Continue games. Discuss prices of items from that time and how that compares to what they would cost today.

11:30-12:15: Students will go to science

12:15-1:00: Lunch

1:00-2:00: Panning for gold: Students will use pie pans to pan for as much gold as they can in a certain amount of time. We will weigh the gold nuggets and see how much they would have received in the 1850's.

2:00-2:45: Shopping at the General Store: Students will be given a budget and prices of items during the Gold Rush. They will have to budget and pick which items they believe are the most important to have. If we have time, we will continue games and pack up

Thank you to everyone who donated items. I greatly appreciate it and I know the kids will too. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the day!

Let's hope we STRIKE IT RICH!

