



# ROOM 36 NEWS

Ms. York

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## Parent Conferences

Our first trimester ends on **November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Parent conferences will be held the following week between **November 17<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>**. Due to conference scheduling, this whole week will consist of a minimum day schedule. Conference times will be given soon.

## Field Trip!

Fourth grade students will have their first chance to attend CSU, Chico's Hands-On Lab during the month of November. Our classroom will explore the science of rocks and minerals on **Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will leave first thing in the morning and will return at approximately 1:30 PM. I'm sorry to report that there is no room for parent volunteers during trips to the Hands-On Lab.

## Thanksgiving Break

Don't forget! Thanksgiving break will take place **November 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>**! Have a wonderful holiday!



**REMINDER:** NO SCHOOL on **November 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>** due to Veterans Day.

## California's Native Americans

Our current chapter of social science discusses California's Native Americans. Specifically, how the first Californians arrived in the area, and how they adapted to their specific locations. Much support is being given in class to differentiate amongst the tribes and regions. As always, vocabulary is essential. It is expected that when social science and science vocabulary are introduced, the words be practiced at home when homework is sent. For our social science curriculum, please visit <http://www.msyorksclass.com/games> to use a more interactive approach to vocabulary practice.

## Rocks and Minerals

Beginning the second week of November, our class will study the science of rocks and minerals. As stated, this will also be the topic for our first Hands-On Lab. As we will begin with minerals, here are some important topics for at-home review:

*Mineral:* A solid material with particles arranged in a repeating pattern. This pattern is called a crystal.

*Three Properties of Minerals:*

*Streak* – The color of the powder left behind when you rub a mineral against a streak plate (white tile).

*Luster* – The way the surface of a mineral reflects light (three types: metallic, nonmetallic, and brilliant).

*Hardness* – A mineral's ability to resist being scratched. Measured by Mohs' Hardness Scale.