

Forest Ranch Charter School

April 2014



April 1 – Bidwell Mansion field trip (Matoes)
April 4 – Assembly at 8:30AM
April 4 – FRCS Talent Show, 7PM
April 8 – Bidwell Mansion field trip (McNulty)
April 8 – PTP Meeting at 3PM
April 10 – Rockin’ Reading Night at 6PM
April 11 – Electives Day
April 11 – All School Skate, 3:30-5:30
April 14 – Young Author’s Day
April 16 – Reserve field trip (4th grade)
April 16 – LCAP Planning Mtg, 6:30PM
April 17 – School Advisory Council Meeting
April 18 – Staff Development Day, No School
April 21 – Holiday, No School
April 22 – Earth Day
April 25 – Backward Day and Electives Day
April 29 – Reading Log Party
April 29 – PBS Meeting, 3PM
April 30 – Hands on Lab field trip (Matoes)
May 2 – Sock Hop

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

As many of you already know, the State of California set in place a new funding formula (LCFF; Local Control Funding Formula) for K-12 education for this school year. In compliance with LCFF, by July 1, 2014, districts and charter schools that act as their own district (like us) are required to develop a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) that will set goals to meet state and local priorities. These need to have very specific actions to meet each specific goal, and a budget to fund those specific actions.

An exciting aspect of the LCAP is that emphasis is placed on the value of parent and other stakeholders (students, community, faculty, staff, etc.) input in making critical decisions surrounding funding and our children’s education! This is very much in line with our school/community vision and values. To achieve authentic stakeholder input we will have multiple opportunities throughout the next couple months for all of you to be involved. We want to hear from you!

Very soon you will receive a brief, online Family Satisfaction Survey as well as an informative hand-out outlining the LCAP process and areas we need to discuss and gain feedback on. School and Community Feedback meetings are scheduled for April 8th at 3PM and April 16th at 6:30PM for further group discussion and input. In addition, we will be integrating LCAP discussion and data collection through regularly held meetings (PTP, PBS, School Advisory Council, Faculty meetings, etc.) and individual conversation and check in calls. As the opportunity arises please help by letting us know what you think.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

At FRCS, we encourage our students to model and emulate positive traits. These LifeSkills are rewarded during our monthly assemblies and the winning students are displayed on the Heroes wall in the school office.

The LifeSkill for February was Caring. The Caring winners will be reported along with the March winners as we did not have an assembly in March to present the February prizes.

The LifeSkill for April is Sense of Humor. How do you use humor in your life? Is it a constructive force or does it get you into trouble? Do you need more humor or less?

Community Events

Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt – The Lions Club is hosting the 16th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt at the Forest Ranch Community Center on Saturday, April 19th. Breakfast is served between 8AM and 10:30AM. Carnival games begin at 9AM and the Egg Hunt is at 11AM. New this year – an Easter Bonnet Parade with prizes for the best bonnet. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Lions Meals from the Heart – Come to the Forest Ranch Community Center on Saturday April 26th from 5PM to 6:30PM. This is the venue and date for the Meals from the Heart dinner hosted by the Lions Club. Join the Lions for good company and a free, hot meal. All are welcome! For more information, call 345-5399.

Walk4Water – Saturday, April 5th is the 6th Annual Walk4Water. The walk starts at 8:30AM at One Mile Dam in Bidwell Park. Adults are \$15 and children under 12 are \$5. All funds raised will support global water projects.

After School Sports

Spring after school sports starts April 8th. Sports will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:40 until 4:30PM. Soccer is available for all grades and will run from April 8th through April 24th at a cost of \$60 with a 50% discount for siblings. Baseball is available for all grades and will run from April 29th through May 15th at a cost of \$60 with a 50% discount for siblings. Basketball is available for 2nd through 6th grades only and will run from May 20th through May 29th at a cost of \$40 with a 50% discount for siblings. Scholarships are available through the office. Get a sign up sheet from our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/after-school-sports.html> or from the school office.

Drought News – How Can You Help?

The State of California is experiencing record dry conditions, with 2014 projected to become the driest year on record. Snow pack surveys report water content at about 20 percent of average for this time of year. Water is a finite resource that we all share; conservation benefits everyone.



Conservation is very close to the hearts of those of us located in Forest Ranch. The school, just like all Forest Ranch residents, is on a well. We are preparing contingency plans in case our well stops producing. If we all conserve, hopefully we won't have to face that challenge.

What can we do at home? Check for and fix leaks and drips, install low flow toilets and showerheads, use a shower timer, make sure automatic sprinklers only run when conditions warrant, wash your car on the lawn, use mulch around plantings and leave lawn extra long, plant drought-tolerant landscaping. For more ideas or for technical assistance, contact Butte County Public Health at 538-7281. They are there to help.

Chico Science Fair Results

The science fair was a ton of fun. We had several wonderful entries from FRCS. Hopefully you had an opportunity to view the entries with all their lovely awards last week.



Parent Representative Election

Elections for parent representatives for the FRCS Board of Directors will be held in May. One seat, currently filled by Lisa Speegle, is up for re-election. Parents interested in participating need to return a completed a Statement of Interest to the school office by April 18th. Forms may be found online at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/board-of-directors.html> or in the school office.

Reading Rocks! Family Fun Night



Join us Thursday, April 10th at 6PM for a Rockin' Reading Night adventure. There will be fun things to do such as a Book Walk, great book recommendations from your favorite teachers, snacks and a book fair.

All School Skate

The spring All School Skate is scheduled for April 11th from 3:30 – 5:30. Wear your school t-shirt and tell everyone you are from FOREST RANCH CHARTER SCHOOL!

Music Festival 2014

The Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 31st this year. Scaled back to a one-day event, it will be more fun-filled than ever. This fundraiser makes it possible for us to have arts and music on campus each year. Please join us in making this a success.

The Bands – the line up so far includes The Jeff Pershing Band, Dylan's Dharma, The Alice Peak Experience, and Mossy Creek.

Spread the word – our best advertising is word of mouth. So mark your calendars and those of your friends. Look for discount passes to come home to share with friends and family.

Volunteers – this event cannot happen without your help. Look for information coming home over the next few weeks about ways to help before, during and after the event. Volunteers get to attend the Friday evening set up party!

Raffle items – please help solicit raffle items using the solicitation letter coming home soon. It is a great way for businesses to help us and get some free advertising at the same time. Just make sure everything donated is family-friendly. Big ticket items such as a BMX bike, iPad, Kindle, an autographed guitar and an autographed drum will have raffle ticket pre-sales at various events leading up to the Music Festival. Inquire if this is something you can do.

Silent Auction items – our classrooms have been busy creating precious treasures for our families, friends, and neighbors to bid on. Look for these items displayed at upcoming events.

Sponsors – if you know someone who would like to advertise on our Music Festival t-shirts, event brochure, or website have them get in touch soon as we go to print in early May.

Contact – events@forestranchcharter.org or Marlene Fune at 891-3154 or 592-6613

School Advisory Committee

The School Advisory Committee will be meeting again on April 17th. If you can, please join us for at least this one meeting. We will be brainstorming goals and improvements for our Local Control Accountability Plan. This is a three-year plan which directly affects the education of your child. We need you here! Contact the office for more information on meeting time and informational materials.

The Egg Drop

Thanks to the Company 24 Fire Volunteers and Mrs. Stearns 1st/2nd grade class, we had a fabulous afternoon at The Great Egg Drop. Some lived and some died, all to many cheers of support. Looking forward to next year already!



Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners are finishing up their unit on Asia and will be moving on to South America. We will be studying the amazing animals and plants of the Amazon rain forest as well as the butterfly life cycle.

The 1st and 2nd graders are starting their unit on Exceptional People. They will explore the amazing world of inventors, musicians, artists, athletes, and many others with *exceptional*

talents. Students will choose an individual to report on and perform in our Famous Persons Wax Museum. Remember to keep practicing reading at home. In math, we will be delving into the world of money \$\$\$\$. So hold on to your wallets!!!

The 3rd and 4th graders had a great stay at Sutter's Fort. Just as they left the fort they heard that gold had been discovered by James Marshall. They are heading off to strike it rich! A field trip to Bidwell Mansion will kick off the unit about the Gold Rush. Students will be publishing a favorite writing piece in a hard cover book. Look for invitations coming home so that families may hear students share their special stories.

Mrs. D.J.'s 5/6 class remains assail in the Aegean Sea as we continue our study of Ancient Greece. Classroom student desks are placed according to the map of Ancient Greece with students sitting in Sparta, Macedonia, Crete, etc. There is quite a lot to learn from the Ancient Greeks, such as aspects of culture, their contributions to today's society, democracy, their Golden Rules and Epic Poetry. We will end with the Persian Empire and the conquests of Alexander. Our culminating event will be a Greek play and feast the afternoon of Thursday, April 24th.

CAASPP? What is that?

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. This is the new computer-based online standardized assessment students will be taking during April and May. The CAASPP test replaces the paper and pencil STAR tests we all grew up with. The STAR test will not be given this year and the CAASP test will not produce individual test results this year. For individual growth and assessment we will be relying on our internal measures. If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christia or your student's teacher(s).