

Forest Ranch Charter School

April 2015



April 2 – Balclutha field trip (Matoes)
April 3 – Staff Development Day, No School
April 6 – Travel Day, No School
April 7-10 – 7th grade San Francisco trip
April 7-10 – 6th grade Outdoor Ed Camp
April 9 – Laxson field trip (Stears/Ball)
April 10 – Assembly at 8:30AM
April 14 – After School Sports, baseball begins
April 14 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
April 15 – Hands on Lab field trip (Matoes)
April 16 – Safety Committee Meeting, 3PM
April 17 – Jump and Jog-a-Thon
April 20 – Earth Day / Discovery Day
April 24 – Electives Day
April 24 – 80's Spirit Day
April 27 – Parent Education Night, 6:30PM
May 1 – Assembly at 8:30AM
May 5 – After School Sports, basketball begins
May 8 – Electives Day

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring weather as much as we are. Please remember that sometimes the mornings up here are more brisk than in town, light jackets are still needed most days. The garden is beginning to thrive and the flowers are blooming. If anyone wants to volunteer pulling weeds, we have a bucket you can borrow...

Students continue to adjust and move toward meeting new Common Core State Standards. We will begin the new Smarter Balanced testing in late April/early May. Last year the tests were administered as practice only and for developmental purposes. The intention this year was to provide both student results and a school-level API score. However, in March, the California Board of Education decided to suspend the state's accountability system for the year. Unlike last year, we will receive individual student-level results, but our school will not receive an API score or be ranked in relation to other schools. Join us for a Parent Education night on April 27 at 6:30PM to provide more information about Common Core developments and Smarter Balanced Testing.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

Each month classrooms designate LifeSkill winners. These are students that demonstrate mastery of the specific skill awarded. In March the following students were recognized for their behavior:

Adam H, Noah A, Allie W, Lauren H, Cole B, Hayden B, Landon C, Kierra H, Charlie S, Zareen D, Diego B-R, Victoria L, Harrison B, Jori G, Gavin D, Jessilyn S

Great Job! You are stars!



The April lifeskill is Common Sense. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines this as the ability to think and behave in a reasonable way and to make good decisions. Can you think of some examples when you made a good decision? How about when you made a bad one? What could you have changed to make a better one?

Attendance and Funding

Most people realize that schools are paid based on daily attendance. Not all people realize that schools are **not** paid for **excused** absences. When a student is here, even for a small part of the day, we receive about \$40 for that day. When a student is absent, for any reason at all, we receive nothing. So far this year we have lost more than \$32,000 in funding due to excused and unexcused absences.

What can we do to prevent these losses? Short-term independent study is the answer. This option is available for illnesses or planned absences, such as trips out of town. When you are arranging for make up work for your child, please discuss short-term independent study with your child's teacher. Not only will it keep students caught up on school work, it will also keep school funding maximized.

2015-16 Calendar

The school calendar for next year is now posted on our website homepage. Check it out and plan your vacation times accordingly.

Wanted, But Can't Find!

Do you know how we could get loads of wood chips for our school garden pathways? We are trying to find some free chips to keep down weeds in the orchard and make pathways between the boxes in our main garden area. Please let the office know if you can help.

Spring After School Sports



Our baseball rotation begins April 14th. We still have room for you! Signup sheets are available in the office or on our website at

<http://www.forestranchcharter.org/after-school-sports.html>. As always, scholarships are available; check with the office for eligibility.

Aladdin Jr



Students were thrilled to see the full house at the Community Center both nights for the FRCS production of Aladdin Jr. The whole crew did a marvelous job and put on a very entertaining program for their audiences. Over \$1,100 was raised to keep these special programs available for our school. We want to extend a great big thank you to all the students, parents, and staff members who made these nights possible.

Election Time – Board Members Needed

The FRCS Governing Board is comprised of four Parent Representatives, three Community Representatives, one Teacher Representative, and one Educational Representative. The four Parent Representative positions are elected by our parents. In April we will be looking for candidates to run for one parent position which is ending this May. Board terms are for three years. Visit our Board of Directors page (<http://www.forestranchcharter.org/board-of-directors.html>) to learn about board responsibilities and duties and find a Statement of Interest form. Statements of Interest should be turned in to the school office no later than April 30th to be included on the ballot.

The Great Egg Drop 2015

Ingenuity ruled the day on March 30th for the Great Egg Drop, hosted by Mrs. Stearns 1st and 2nd grade class. Many marvelously over-engineered contraptions were on hand to test their success as our CalFire personnel tossed them from trucks. Some survived and some went splat!



PTP News

Box Tops – Get those Box Tops in! We are slowly getting closer to our end of the school year goal so keep clipping, saving, and turning them in to the school office or Mrs. Stearns. Congrats to Carmen Mae P, the top Box Tops winner for March!

Student Council News

In March, Student Council hosted Pi Day to celebrate 3/14/15. They kicked off the multiday event with an assembly to educate third through seventh grade students about pi and how mathematicians use it to find the circumference of a circle. Challenges were issued during the assembly, then on Friday we had a digits of pi contest, a pi walk, a pie eating contest, and many other fun, pi-oriented events. Paige P won a pie for knowing 42 digits of pi!

Community News

Childflower – Sunday, April 26th is the Chico Velo Wildflower bicycle race. There is a child's event called the Childflower which is 12 miles long and costs \$15 for registration. This is a fun way to get some fresh air and spend some time as a family on bicycles. Visit <https://www.chicovelo.org/registration2.html> for more information and registration.

State Standardized Testing News

California State Standardized Testing will be happening at FRCS starting late April. These tests are important gauges for students and for the school. They measure student progress and school effectiveness. Please talk with your student about the importance of doing well on these tests. Additionally, please make sure they come to school on testing days well-rested and well-fed. If your student seems unusually stressed or concerned about testing, please make sure you let the office know right away. Test anxiety is not usual, but needs to be alleviated.

Puppetry Elective is Tons of Fun!



Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners will be exploring insects and butterfly metamorphosis, as well as the diversity of life in the rain forests of South America. We will make some beautiful butterfly art and learn about their life cycle through a fun song. Our study of butterflies will also include a math lesson as we explore the concept of symmetry.

Kindergarteners will also learn about symbiotic relationships and the importance of protecting nature as we celebrate Earth Day.

The 1st and 2nd grade just finished a wonderful, fun, and successful Economics Unit. Thank you to all that participated in the Foxes Bazaar and the Barter Fair. The kids really learned a lot about money, economics, and business. We are now starting our final unit of the year: Animals. Topics include food webs, life cycles, habitats, biomes, adaptations, and many more interesting things about the animals in our world. This month, we will be going to Laxson Auditorium on Thursday, April 9 to see a performance of *Ivy and Bean*. The students are working on their first book reports, which they will present at the end of the month. It looks like it will be a busy, fun, and exciting final two months of the year.

To conclude our insect/life science unit, 3rd and 4th graders dissected California Black Grasshoppers to learn and identify body parts. They also learned about the life cycle of insects and compared complete and incomplete metamorphosis. The larval state was explored and mealworm races were held. Both classes attended a Hands on Lab on math at Chico State and explored relationships in body measurements. Our next social studies unit is on the US Government and how it works. A mock trial will be held to see who prevails: BB Wolf or Curly Pig.



The fifth graders are preparing for their overnight Age of Sail trip in San Francisco. Hard-working crews are designing our class flag,

learning knot tying, singing sea chanteys, keeping time using bells, and learning the history of the Balclutha. We hope they come back realizing how much they can achieve through hard work, perseverance, and team work. Upon our return, we will dive back into our solar system and colonial units. We are also looking forward to our Hands on Lab math field trip to kick off our measurement unit and our Hands on Lab digestion field trip to start our life science unit.

Mrs. D.J.'s 6th and 7th graders are excited about our upcoming field trips starting on April 7th. The 6th grade is heading to environmental camp at Shady Creek and the 7th grade is going to experience art, culture, history and the outdoors in San Francisco. Science finds both grades studying biochemistry at differing levels. Westward expansion is the subject in 6th grade American History. The 7th grade is enjoying their guest teacher, Mrs. Marasco educating them in Medieval Times.

Mountain Music Festival Planning Continues

Efforts continue toward Music Fest 2015. Saturday, May 30th will celebrate our 7th Annual Mountain Music Festival event. The band line-up is coming together, the raffle prizes are piling up, the food vendors are planning their menus, and the crafts people are stocking up their wares. Check with the office soon about how you can sign up to help with the event. If helping is not in your cards, we hope you will save the date, invite your family and friends, and join us for a great day in the sun with good friends, good music, and good FUN-raising.