

Forest Ranch Charter School

April 2016



April 11 – Table Mountain field trip (DJ)
April 12 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
April 13 – Laxson field trip (Palmarini)
April 14 – Safety Committee meeting, 3PM
April 15 – Jump-and-Jog-a-Thon
April 15 – Electives Day
April 22 – Earth Day
April 22 – Sacramento Zoo field trip
April 29 – The Great Egg Drop
April 29, 30 – Alice in Wonderland, 7PM
May 2 thru 6 – Shady Creek field trip (DJ)
May 6 – Assembly at 8:30AM
May 6 – Sock Hop
May 10 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
May 13 – Electives Day
May 17 – FRCS Board Meeting, 5PM
May 19 – Open House and Spring Concert
May 26 – Shasta Caverns field trip (3rd/4th)
May 27 – Electives Day
May 30 – No School, Memorial Day

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

Spring is here and students (teachers too) are a little restless. Talking to your child about what they are learning and creating real world opportunities for learning as you go through your week can make learning more meaningful and make it easier for your child to keep motivated until summer. April is a busy month for us. Students have been working very hard on our spring musical, Alice in Wonderland, and will be performing the last weekend in April. We will also be celebrating Earth Day, diving into Outdoor Education assignments, and starting new Middle School electives.

As many of you know we had a group of Forest Ranch students move out of area this year. Due to this, our enrollment for next year continues to be lower than expected. Please help us get the word out there by talking to family, friends, and neighbors. Word of mouth has been the most successful recruitment tool for our school!

Many families are asking about when the track might be finished, or even started. While we still have the \$4000 raised toward the track that is not enough to do the job. We thought we might be getting a grant but it fell through. Now we are working on another strong possibility for some funds to build a really great track. Thank you for your patience with our slow, steady progress. Help is always appreciated if anyone has any ideas or contacts. Otherwise we hope to have the track in place by summer 2017.

Thank you,
Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

The following students were recognized for their outstanding use of LifeSkills:



Yasmine H, Anjelli D, Lia B, Allie W, Orion P,
Stella B, Rodney M, Jesse H, Roxy M,
Hayden B, Zeb R, Landon C, Greta
D, Caden S, Tenley L, Jamie F,
Karlee O, Sophie H, Grayson C.

Great Job! You folks are super stars!

Little Green Men Invade FRCS

We have a little green man standing guard over our bus zone these days. We think his name is Bill McTurtle. When you see our little guy out front he is signaling the arrival of the school bus. Please stay well behind him so that the bus will be able to safely maneuver into and out of the bus zone area.



2016-2017 Calendar

The school calendar for next year is now available on our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/calendars.html>. Please remember to consult this calendar before scheduling family trips and vacations. Every day at FRCS is a precious event!

Student Government News

Backward Day – March 24th was Backward Day. Mrs. Copp's class won.

Sports Jersey Day – Friday, April 29th is Sports Jersey Day.

Jump and Jog-a-Thon – come ready to get sweaty on April 15th. Pledge sheets coming home soon.

Community News

Community Recycling Day – Bring your recyclables to downtown Forest Ranch on Saturday, April 16th from 9AM to 11AM. Funds received support the Lions Club community projects.

Meals from the Heart – Come to the Forest Ranch Community Center on Friday, April 22nd for Meals from the Heart dinner. Event from 5:30 to 7PM.

Healthy Forest Forum – Come to the Forest Ranch Community Center on Saturday, April 30th from 10AM to 2PM to learn what you can do to keep our forest healthy and safe. Free lunch included thanks to your local Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council folks.

Transportation Manager / Bus Driver

We are considering bringing our transportation services in-house IF we can find the right person to manage the transportation program and drive the bus. Please visit our employment page at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/employment-volunteering.html> for a complete job description.

SHARES Card Changes

Starting on April 1, the SaveMart SHARES card will become Shares powered by eScrip. To continue supporting FRCS with your SaveMart purchases, it is necessary to enroll in eScrip by visiting <http://escrip.com/> and signing up to support our school. This program contributes up to 3% of purchases to the school and it can really add up. Happy shopping.

Running Club Off to a Great Start

FRCS's Running Club found great times at their first race of the 2016 season. Runners of all ages met to compete in Fleet Feet Sport's annual Downtown Mile. The race course consisted of two loops totaling half a mile each in Chico's Downtown area. It was a beautiful day for racing, and the energy brought by the spectators was tremendous. All of our Running Club competitors hit seasonal best marks, beating their previous mile times from our early season time trial that was held on the second day of practice. Forest F was first to come in clocking a time of 6:29. Next was Quinn A finishing in 7:30, beating his old personal best by over 3 minutes. Cole B also saw a huge personal record (PR) by over 3 minutes, running an 8:48 mile. Jori G would have been right there with the rest of our runners, but unfortunately she took a wrong turn on the course and was unable to finish. We are positive she will see some big marks in the mile later this season.



State Testing – CAASPP

Towards the end of the month we will start state testing, now called CAASPP. This year we have continued to modify curriculum to meet Common Core and Next Generation Science standards; encouraging students to dig deeper, create connections across curriculum and working to prepare them for real world challenges. The new CAASPP tests require students to demonstrate the kinds of abilities they will need to do well in college and the workplace. They also require a fairly high degree of technological sophistication. As we are still waiting for our high speed internet, we will need to be creative in meeting our testing goals this year. We will keep you posted as our plan further develops. Our primary goal is to allow students to test in a low stress setting in a time frame that best meets the developmental needs of the students at each grade level. As always students do better on tests when they are well rested, well fed, and have adequate support. We will have a guest speaker that will discuss positive thinking and cognitive rehearsal as a means to decrease test anxiety. Students in 3rd – 8th grade will participate in state tests. Further information will be sent in the next couple of weeks. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners went for a short walk around campus this week looking for signs of spring after reading the book, It's Spring! by Linda Glaser. On our walk, we observed flowers and identified the parts of a plant. We dug up a tulip to check out what was going on under the soil's surface, and we investigated blossoms growing on a fruit tree as we briefly talked about pollination. We attempted to sit very still and quiet to catch some bird calls, but the birds were a little wary of all the playground noise. We'll try again during a more peaceful time of day! After our walk, students made beautiful acrostic poems with the word 'spring.' We also had a

kindergarten parent come in this week to do a special flower art project that will be auctioned during our music festival at the end of the school year. It turned out beautifully, so don't miss it at the auction!

The 1st/2nd Graders have a very busy month of April ahead. We have a field trip to Laxson Auditorium on April 13, the Forest Ranch Wax Museum on April 14, and our big class field trip to the Sacramento Zoo on April 22. And don't forget the Jog-A-Thon on April 15 and the Egg Drop on April 29.

Third and fourth grade students will be getting "all charged up" as they learn about series and parallel circuits in Science. Their creativity will "flow" as they create Squishy Circuits with conductor and insulator dough. In order to gain perspective on environmental issues, students will begin reading *The Owl in the Shower* by Jean Craighead George. Through study of this book, students will understand point of view with respect to environmentalists and loggers. Additionally, both third and fourth grade students are investigating fractions in Math.

Fifth graders are back from the SS Balclutha. This was a one in a lifetime experience for most of the students. They coiled ropes, swabbed decks, lowered and rowed small boats, and stayed up in the middle of the night doing night watch. A wonderful time was had by all. The next morning we went to Ghirardelli for hot cocoa. The students are now working with elements, chemical reactions, and the early colonies.

April finds the 6th graders in ancient China learning about philosophers, religion, geography, Haiku poetry, and enjoying a thematic "Dragon" day. Students are writing expository papers on an ancient Chinese inventions and having fun creating video presentations with the use of green screen technology, placing students inside their videos of the Great Wall or the Silk Road. We are

hiking Table Mountain, which includes a picnic amidst the wild flowers, visiting the Chinese Temple later in the month, and gearing up for environmental camp the first week of May.

Amazing April is upon us! The 7th and 8th grades are continuing our year-long independent research projects that will be due in mid-May. Mathematically speaking, section 2 is learning the reason why interest is so important in any major purchase. Section 3 is finishing learning about 3 dimensional figures and beginning to create independent student-taught lessons to review the year's contents. Social studies is going to war, the Civil War. We are also looking forward to our visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium next month.

Late Breaking Science Fair News

Great news came to us too late to include in the March newsletter. FRCS student Lucy B was awarded the CSU, Chico College of Natural Sciences Dean's Award for her Chico Science Fair project entitled "Absorption of Sea Sponges vs Artificial." Each year one student each from the categories of Elementary, Middle School, and High School receive this award, which is accompanied by a \$100 check for her class to spend as they choose. Way to go Lucy!

