

# Forest Ranch Charter School

## December 2013



December 3 – 5K Run Field Trip (5, 6)

December 3 – PTP Meeting, 3PM

December 3-5 – Reindeer Lane Open

December 6 – Assembly at 8:30AM

December 7 – Reindeer Lane Breakfast, 8-Noon

December 10 – Gateway Field Trip (3, 4)

December 13 – Electives Day

December 13, 14 – Fall Musical

December 17 – Super Hero Day

December 17 – PBS Meeting at 3PM

December 19 – Winter Concert

December 20 – Fall Electives Wrap Up

December 23 – Winter Break Begins

January 6 – Back to School

January 9 – School Advisory Council Mtg, 6PM

January 10 – Assembly at 8:30AM

January 16 – Laxson Field Trip (5, 6)

January 17 – Second Semester Electives Begin

January 20 – MLK Day, No School

January 21 – FRCS Board Meeting, 6PM

### From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

News of CUSD's move towards middle school prompted a thorough look at our junior high options. Last night it was decided that we would have a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and a 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade class for the 2014/15 school year to start us on our journey towards junior high. The following year (2015/16) we will offer a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade option. We take all of your concerns and interests seriously and have spent much time planning and looking at practices that would support everyone's needs in our growing school. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Our School Advisory Council will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6PM and will be discussing Junior High. These meetings are open to the public and all new ideas are welcome.

We are also in the process of implementing California's new Common Core state standards. While teachers have designed their curriculum around the new standards our math books and a few of our assessments tools have not yet been aligned. As a result, we are using them flexibly to support what we are actually teaching. In addition, we are in a state of transition with our report cards. We chose not to change our report cards until we purchased our new student data system, as this would mean two changes instead of one. What this means is you will receive "old" style report cards with the prior state standards printed on them. There is a great deal of overlap between the old and new so this should not be a problem. Standards on the report card that are no longer relevant will receive an N/A (not applicable). We are hoping to transition to the new data system and design new Common Core based report cards in time for the next trimester. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to Common Core.

*Christia*

## LifeSkill Heroes

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

The LifeSkill for October was Patience. Teachers nominated the following students from each class that they felt best represent this skill:

Kindergarten – Dominick D  
1st Grade – Makenna W, Jori G  
2nd Grade – Madyson D, Autumn S  
3rd Grade – Emma R, Sabrina H, Charlie D  
4th Grade – Niya P  
5th Grade – Abigail O  
6th Grade – Sofia B

The LifeSkill for December is Initiative. How do you show initiative at school or home? What can you do to take the initiative more often?

## Reindeer Lane

Reindeer Lane is a new PTP fundraising event that promises to be tons of fun. Students may purchase inexpensive gifts or choose to make their own gifts in the crafts area. Reindeer Lane will be located in Room 8 and open for shopping on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 12:00-1:00 and 2:30-3:30. The store will be closed on Friday for relocation into the MPR for the Saturday main event. On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 8AM until noon, PTP will host a pancake breakfast. The Reindeer Lane Store will be open along with a Community Store hosted by the Forest Ranch Women's Club. There will be raffles, a photo booth, and a gift wrap station. Hope to see you there!



Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: *Frosted Flakes!*

## After School Sports – Grab Bag

After School Sports through the end of the calendar year is grab bag time. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we have disc golf, on December 5<sup>th</sup> we have hockey, on December 10<sup>th</sup> we have volleyball, and on December 12<sup>th</sup> we have Badminton. Come join us for some grab bag fun.

## Student Council News

Student Council is hosting Super Hero Day on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Come dressed as your favorite super hero – Batman, your favorite aunt or uncle, whomever you most admire. Be creative.

## Fall Musical

Come join us for “A Year of Frog and Toad”. Our Musical Elective students have worked hard to bring this delightful children’s book to life. This play is sure to bring fun, laughs, and adventure! Performances will be held at the Forest Ranch Community Center on Friday and Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. There will also be a special performance during the school day on Friday for the whole school to enjoy.

## Multi-Cultural Night and Winter Concert

The Multi-Cultural Night and Winter Concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. From 5:45PM until 6:45PM we will have our Multi-Cultural Night. Kindergarten and GATE have partnered up to represent Sweden, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades are presenting China, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grades have chosen England, and the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade has Egypt. Classrooms will have appetizers and activities from their countries in their classrooms. If you have knowledge you can share about these cultures and their holiday traditions, please contact the school.

The Winter Concert portion of the evening will be from 7PM until 8PM. PTP will host a dessert table after the concert.

## Lost and Found Being Donated

Somehow we have once again achieved a huge pile of lost and found. This will be donated over Winter Break. If you are missing a favorite sweater or jacket, please make sure to look for it before you leave for break or you may need to buy it back from the Salvation Army Store.

## Common Core – What does it mean?

There has been a lot of talk about Common Core State Standards and Common Core Curriculum over the last year or so. What does that mean for our families and students?

The Common Core Standards have currently been adopted by forty-five states. These standards help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents, and teachers, regardless of where students may live. FRCS families will see some changes this year and next in response to our implementation of the new standards. The changes will not be dramatic as much of our curriculum was designed using materials and resources from states at the forefront of this change in education.

In a nutshell, the focus on the new standards is to increase the depth of student learning. Rather than rote learning or memorization, students will learn, and teach to others, the how and why behind the concepts through exploration and hands-on opportunities. This depth of knowledge will then be tested by the new computer-based, adaptive CalMapp standardized test rather than the old, fill-in-the-bubble STAR standardized test.

For more information on Common Core, check out these useful links:

- <http://www.bcoe.org/cms/one.aspx?objectId=1011864>
- <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>
- <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-standards.cfm>

## Ron's Reptiles Comes to Discovery Day

November 14<sup>th</sup> was Science Discovery Day at Forest Ranch Charter School. Among the many exciting activities available for exploration was a display of reptiles from Ron's Reptiles. Jacob really appreciated this albino Burmese Python. Sam really enjoyed shepherding the tortoise around our garden as it mowed the lawn.



## Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners have had a busy week of learning and fun with a mini-unit all about apples. For math, we had a taste test comparing different varieties of apples. Then we made a bar graph showing which apples were most liked. A wormy apple math book helped us learn ordinal numbers and write sight words. Finally, we used our senses and juicy adjectives as we tasted more apples and wrote poems that described them. We also made some cute turkey art for Thanksgiving and had our own little classroom feast as we made stone soup.

E Pluribus Unum! The 1st and 2nd graders made it through immigration at Ellis Island and came to America to wrap up their history unit! However, they won't stay long because they are now headed even further back in time to Ancient China for a mini unit in social studies. They will compare and contrast ancient Chinese culture to their own and explore their events and traditions.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have donned their sailing gear and are setting sail in order to learn about explorer's discoveries along the California coast. They are working on reports which include timelines, maps, and a written paper telling about their chosen explorer's major accomplishments.

Get in your reed boat and come join the fun as we walk, read, research, build, sing and eat like Egyptians during the fun filled month of

December. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be expanding their research of Ancient Egypt into Modern Day Egypt, which will be displayed at Multicultural Night on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We will also be reading historical fiction on Egypt's ancient civilization in Literature Circle. The holidays? We will try to squeeze in some fun amidst our journey between past and present.

Q: What did one snowman say to the other snowman?  
A: *Do you smell carrot?*



Q: Where do snowmen go to dance?  
A: *The snow ball!*

Q: When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?  
A: *In the dictionary!*



Q: What do you have in December that is not in any other month?  
A: *The letter D!*

Q: What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?  
A: *Tinselitus!*

