

Forest Ranch Charter School

December 2014



December 5 – Electives Day

December 9 – PTP Meeting at 3PM

December 12 – Assembly at 8:30AM

December 18 – Winter Concert and
Multi-Cultural Night, 6PM

December 19 – Electives Day

December 19 – Skittles Spirit Day

December 19 – Meals From the Heart
FR Community Center
Hosted by Lions Club
From 5:30 to 7PM, no cost

December 20 – Children’s Christmas Party
At FR Community Center
Hosted by Lions Club
From 1 to 3PM, no cost

December 22 through Jan 2 – Winter Break

January 9 – Assembly at 8:30AM

January 15 – Safety Committee meeting, 3PM

January 16 – Electives Day

January 19 – MLK Day, No School

January 23 – Laxson field trip (Matoes)

January 30 – Electives Day

January 30 – Sparkle Spirit Day

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

Happy Holidays. The next three weeks will fly by with wrapping up units and preparing for Multicultural Night and the Winter Concert. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

We have started our Reading Log program and will have our first Reading Log Party in early January. Please read with your child and encourage them to read as much as possible. Strong reading skills combined with a healthy interest in reading are associated with greater achievement in many areas. While it is wonderful to encourage higher level reading and share the classics it is also important to look to your child’s interests. Magazines, short chapter books, comics, and newspaper articles are all a great way to just get them reading. Limiting television to weekends often helps in this endeavor. Talking about books, playing word games, and having short sentence hunts for younger students are some ways to get your student more involved with word play. Please feel free to call if you want book or activity suggestions. We would be excited to help you make your household more reader friendly. We also love to hear suggestions. I look forward to sharing my love of books with your children at our first Reading Party.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

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

Cali B, Sebastian P, Emma R, Ashton B, Tyler P, April G, Sammy H, Morgan P, Kaleb A, Gavin F, Cassidy G, Jacob S, Bella V, Lydia B

Great Job! You are stars!



The December lifeskill is Caring. Webster's Dictionary defines caring as feeling and exhibiting concern and empathy for others. Can you think of a time you were caring? Are there times you wish you were more caring?

Help with Goals

There will be a stakeholder meeting at the school on Thursday, December 9th at 3PM regarding short term and long term educational goals for our school. Both parents and students are valued stakeholders. We need your help and input. Please join us for a lively discussion.

Volunteer Appreciation

We want to thank our families who have been diligent about logging their volunteer hours and making the effort to help on or off campus. Participation is not only important as it demonstrates to students the value of education but it also helps our school when we apply for grants and for rechartering efforts. So far this year 47% of our families have logged a total of 660 volunteer hours. Don't forget to log hours volunteered at home, when driving on field trips, or attending meetings. If you are not sure how to track your time, please do not hesitate to ask in the office for help.

Student Council News

Spirit Days – On Friday, December 19th it is Skittles Spirit Day. Wear your classroom color to show your FRCS Fox Pride! The colors are Mrs. DJ – blue; Ms. Matoes – red; Mrs. Copp – purple; Mr. Ball – green; Mrs. Stearns – pink; Mrs. Palmarini – orange; and Mrs. McNulty – yellow. What a colorful day it will be.

Student Store – The student store is up and running and turning a profit for the benefit of the school. We are having a great time selling healthy snacks and novelties.

Canned Food Drive – Our canned food drive for the Jesus Center was a hit, thank you! Mr. Ball's class gets a special mention for having the most donations.

Pi Club – Student council is starting a "Pi (3.14) Club." Our first action is to sell whole pies at the upcoming Multicultural Night/Winter Concert with proceeds going to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. We will also be sponsoring a child in need from the local Forest Ranch Post Office giving tree.

Community Events

Children's Christmas Party – Join the fun at the Children's Christmas Party held at the Forest Ranch Community Center on Saturday, December 20th from 1 to 3PM. There will be games, crafts, cookie decorating and an opportunity for photos with Santa. This is a free, community event hosted by the Forest Ranch Lions.

Meals From the Heart – Come enjoy good food and a friendly atmosphere on Friday, December 19th from 5:30 to 7:00PM at the FR Community Association. The Forest Ranch Lions host this free meal for the community. Donations are never expected, but always appreciated. For info call 345-5399.

When you shop – think of us!

Shopping Rewards – During the holidays please remember to think of Forest Ranch Charter School. We are signed up for shopping rewards programs through eScrip, Target Red Card, SaveMart SHARES card, Raley's Something Extra, and most recently Amazon Smile. If you need help getting signed up for any of these programs, visit our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/shopping-programs.html> or contact the office for help.

Klean Kanteens – Don't forget to check out the vibrantly colored Klean Kanteens which PTP is selling in our office. They have a beautiful FRCS logo sticker and room for your child's name to be printed on them for loss prevention. Great stocking stuffers!

Chico Bags – Chico Bags are coming! We will be selling Chico Bags beginning February 6th. Not only will we have beautiful bags with our logo on them, but we will be selling from the Chico Bag catalog. This fundraiser will support field trip expenses and is aligned with our environmentally-friendly philosophy. These washable, reusable bags are made and printed right here in Chico. Look for them coming soon.

Rechartering Update

We had an enthusiastic turnout of parents, students, and employees at the Chico Unified Board Meeting in November, during which we made our public presentation regarding our Petition for Charter Renewal. The presentation consisted of a video produced by our leadership students with the help of parent Alisa Duenas. It turned out beautifully – thank you all!

December 17th is the next Chico Unified Meeting where their Board will actually vote on our renewal. We would love to once again have your support on that important evening. Their meetings are held in the City Council Chambers and start at 6PM.

PTP News

Holiday Baskets – PTP is collecting items for holiday baskets to be raffled during the Winter Concert on December 18th. Funds raised go right back into the classrooms and support our students. The baskets are collected by classroom as follows:

Mrs. Palmarini – Baking Basket
Mrs. Stearns – Cozy by the Fire basket
Mr. Ball – Art Basket
Mrs. McNulty – Game Night Basket
Mrs. Copp – Campfire Basket
Ms. Matoes – Movie Night Basket
Mrs. DJ – Book Basket

Please drop off any donations by December 15th, either in the classroom or in the office.

Box Tops – Great job Forest Ranch! The Box Tops continue to keep rolling in! Remember to save them up, put them in a baggie marked with your name, and give them to Mrs. Stearns or put them in the Box Tops basket in the office.

The Top Box Top winner for the month of November was...Emma R!

Book Fair – We want to thank everyone who purchased books or donated money during the book fair. We earned over \$1600 to spend on classroom books!



Winter Concert and Multi-Cultural Night

Please join us on Thursday, December 18th from 6 to 7PM for Multi-Cultural Night and from 7:15 to 8:15PM for the Winter Concert. The various classrooms will host a country from around the world for our multi-cultural night. They will have snacks, music and cultural information for your entertainment. Then the Winter Concert will make you laugh, smile and tear up as our students sing and play music of the season. Come join the fun.

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners have landed on the continent of Europe where we will be studying fairytales and folktales as well as exploring European culture. We are learning about Germany and hope to share some interesting foods and facts with you at Multi-Cultural Night.

It's a blast from the past for the 1st and 2nd graders as they continue their history/social science unit about Ancient Maya and Romans! Over the next few weeks, the students will start to compare ways of life between the Mayans and the Romans. They will compare architecture by making temples and aqueducts, clothing by being ancient fashion designers, protection by constructing real rock walls, and many other comparison activities. This unit will culminate on multicultural night with a taste of Rome, Italy! The 1st and 2nd graders will also be continuing their science unit on the solar system when they look at gravity and phases of the moon using Oreos! Their science labs will be "out of this world"!

Have you ever dreamed of having your own special room, decorated just the way you want? Well, third and fourth graders are becoming architects and engineers designing their special place including an electric light with a switch and magnetized doors. Christmas bells have also been ringing in the classrooms as students prepare for the Winter Concert and Multicultural Night. They have been researching the culture and lifestyle found on the island of Jamaica, and hopefully will get to sample many delectable foods from the island.

The fifth graders are so happy to have rain to start our weather unit. Maybe we'll even get some snow. In math we are taking notes in our flip books to learn about statistics. It is a perfect real world connection to create surveys, collect data, analyze it, and make graphs. For our Native American unit we will be building a cedar bark house and planting a native garden.

The class has been excited to watch videos about the Native American regional groups to help visualize how they used to live and have been finding connections in our book clubs. For multicultural night we are learning about France. Students are creating research projects and bringing in tasty treats to share with everyone, so be sure to stop in and let us teach you about France!

December is already flying in 6/7th grade. 6th graders are focused on U.S. colonization as 7th graders are working through the Mayans, Incas and Aztecs. 6th Grade began solar system in science and 7th grade is finishing up its in depth study of cells. We are all excited to show the school community the results of the projects we are working on in response to our study of the country of Ireland at Multicultural Night.

Hands on Science at FRCS

