

# Forest Ranch Charter School

February 2012



February 7, 8 – Sutter's Fort field trip, Matoes

February 9 – Board meeting at 6PM

February 10 – Electives Day

February 10 – Open Enrollment ends

February 10 – Father/Daughter Dance

February 14 – Lottery for 2012-13 placements

February 14 – Laxson field trip, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade

February 17 – Staff Development, No School

ENJOY YOUR FOUR DAY WEEKEND!

February 20 – Washington's B-Day, No School

February 24 – Assembly, 8:30AM

February 24 – Crazy Sock Day

March 2 – Dr. Seuss Day

March 5-9 – Shady Creek trip for 6<sup>th</sup> graders

March 9 – Electives Day

## Director's Report

Wellness and courtesy were the focus of our day today. Our Cardio Faire and Jump Rope for Heart-a-thon was a great time for all. We got in shape while having fun and enjoyed some healthy treats. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event successful for the students.

In addition, we have spent the week talking about courtesy and how we could make campus and our classrooms better places for all, by remembering our manners at school. All of us on campus are committed to working hard through the rest of the year to improve courtesy at school but we need everyone's help to really make this happen! You can help by reminding students in a positive manner while working on campus, talking with your child about good manners (please/thank you, excuse me, talking nice, taking turns, etc.) at home, and letting us know if you have any suggestions.

On another note, we continue to work on self reliance in various ways across campus. This year, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will choose and carry out a special project to give back in some way. Current ideas include: school newsletter, outdoor improvement, fund raising for social/environmental concerns, and campus beautification.

*Christia*

## **LifeSkill Heroes – Caring**

The LifeSkill for December was Caring. Teachers nominated students from each class that they felt best represented this LifeSkill during the month. Congratulations to our heroes for Caring:

Kindergarten – Dane M, Calia C

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> (Bodney) – Keeli C, Sarah C

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> (Stearns) – Kaylee M, Hayley J

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> – Kiya H, Grace S

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> – Mohave T, Josh M

## **Funding Inequity Grows**

The much-anticipated mid-year cuts have arrived. State funding was not reduced as much as expected as transportation funding was to be eliminated for the remainder of the current year. Understandably, districts with substantial transportation budgets rebelled.

In an effort to be fair, the legislature decided this week to reduce instructional funds to all schools equally as an equitable reduction in transportation funds. What they forgot about is that charter schools are not eligible to apply for or receive transportation funds! Our bus is paid for by fundraising, donations from families, and instructional funds.

In January, the Legislative Analyst Office released a report about the funding inequity existing between charter schools and district schools. They found that charters receive at least 7% less than their district peers, varying from \$395 to \$1,068 per student less in general revenue alone. That figure got a little bigger this week when they cut transportation funding that we don't even receive. (to read the LAO report in full, visit <http://lao.ca.gov/laoapp/PubDetails.aspx?id=2554>)

## **Open Enrollment Ending February 10th**

Enrollment for the 2012-13 school year began January 30. All Re-Enrollment forms for continuing students should already be turned in to the office. If you have a continuing student and have not turned in your form, contact the office immediately.

We still have a little room in kindergarten as of today. We will also have room for a few 4<sup>th</sup> graders because we will have two 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> classes next year as we continue to grow. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors about our wonderful educational opportunity.

## **Student Council News**

**February Spirit Day** - The Spirit Day for February will be Crazy Sock Day. On Friday Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, don't forget to show off your most fantastic footwear to show your spirit.

**Father/Daughter Dance** – The second annual Father/Daughter Dance is scheduled for Friday February 10<sup>th</sup>. Get gussied up and treat your daughter to a formal night of fun.

## **Heard Around Campus**

Kindergarteners are beginning a unit on Antarctica and the Arctic region. They will learn about cultures of the arctic north and how people survived living in cold climates long ago. Students will discover about polar bears and penguins and why the two never cross paths. We will also learn about the beautiful northern lights and how people of long ago used to explain this phenomenon.

First and second graders - on your marks, get set, go! We are wrapping up our ancient Greek unit with the first and second grade Olympic Games! Students will compete in the relay, sprints, chariot race, discus, shot-

put, and hurdles. We will then transition into our unit on rocks and minerals.

The third and fourth graders are very excited about the upcoming Sutter's Fort Trip! Students brought in their costumes to take pictures for the introduction board. They have written biographies on their characters for their journals. And they are earning Sutter Bucks to spend at the Trade Store. Parents have been working so hard to help their children prepare! Thank you!

The fifth and sixth graders are preparing science biome murals of rainforests, tundra, deciduous forests, and more. An Assembly Day soon may feature the Play of the Legend of Osiris and Isis. Have your student demonstrate how to write their name in hieroglyphics or draw themselves in the Egyptian style. Math is a blast when you mix in M.C. Escher inspired tessellations and art.

### Ms. Matoes' Class Still in First

We had a rash of illness in Month 6. Everyone seems to have lost a little ground together. Ms. Matoes is still holding a strong lead but Ms. Jimmerson's class is very competitive. See chart below.

### Practically Perfect People

Mid-year perfect attendance awards were given out in January. High rates of attendance are important for continuity in classroom lessons and for funding during this budget crisis. To all those kids and parents who kept healthy and made the effort to get here every day we say THANK YOU!

Students attending every day the first half of the year are: Emmalee A, Kaleb A, Zane A, Hayden B, Calise B, Ethan B, Landon C, Hailey F, Kiya H, Sydney H, Breonna H, Caleb H, Padric K, Delainey L, Austin M, Finn M, Zariah P, Abigail R, Sarah S, Jacob S, Elisia T, Mackenzi W, and Skyler W.

