

Forest Ranch Charter School

February 2013



February 1 – Assembly at 8:30AM
February 5 – 100th Day of School
February 6 – Family Math Night
February 7 – Field Trip, 5/6 to Laxson
February 8 – Electives Day
February 8 – Open Enrollment Ends
February 11 – Lottery Held for 13/14 Placements
February 11 – Woodstock’s Pizza Fundraiser
February 12 – PTP Meeting 3PM
February 14 – Jump-Rope-for-Heart-a-Thon
February 15 – Staff Development Day, No School
February 18 – President’s Day, No School
February 22 – Electives Day
February 22 – Neon Day
February 22 – Field Trip, 3/4 Hands on Lab
February 26 – PBS Meeting, 3PM
March 1 – Assembly at 8:30AM
March 2 – Dr. Seuss Day
March 8 – Electives Day
March 12 – PTP Meeting

Director’s Report

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

This is the time to recruit new families to join our community for next year. Our Open Enrollment ends on February 8th, and if necessary we will hold a public lottery on February 11th. As we continue to expand it is very important that we fill any extra spaces. We have reduced class sizes in all grades, and keeping classes filled helps us to be able to afford to do this. Please help us by spreading word about our school.

Some of us recently attended a wonderful workshop on integrating the visual and performing arts into our curriculum. One of our goals in the new year will be to improve our visual and performing arts offerings and increase student's engagement and mastery of content by using more visual and performing arts in our curriculum. In addition we will be working this summer to revamp our program so that it meets the new Common Core State Standards. These standards were developed at the national level and have been adopted by most of the states. For the 2013/2014 school year our curriculum will be developed around these standards. They are available at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>.

We will host a few open meetings in the late spring/early summer to discuss the visual and performing arts framework, common core, and science/environmental studies. Parents who are interested in attending or providing input please let us know and we will put you on the list. We look forward to continuing to enrich and expand our curriculum.

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

Kindergarten – Hannah R, Lief H

Grade 1 – Arik R, Liberty M

Grade 2 – Jessilyn S, Sarehnee B,
Emmalee A

Grade 3 – Macie Z, Hayley J,
Carmen Mae P, Avari A

Grades 5 & 6 – Madeline S, Zane A

Family Math Night

February 6th is Family Math Night at FRCS. This is a very fun event with math games and puzzles for all ages. Save the date and join us, either helping out with the various tables or bringing your whole family to play.

Chico Science Fair in March

The Science Fair is quickly approaching. We have lots of very strong science students at FRCS. We encourage our families to support their student's science interests with a project entered in the fair. For more information or applications ask in the office or visit <http://www.ecst.csuchico.edu/csf/>.

Spring Musical

The Spring Musical this year will be Sleeping Beauty. The performance dates are Friday May 17 at 7PM and Saturday May 18 at 2PM and 7PM. Performances will be held

at the Forest Ranch Community Center. Get these dates on your calendar and come enjoy the show!

Student Council News

Neon Day – The next spirit day on campus is Neon Day. Neon Day is on Friday February 22. Wear your brightest, most awful neon clothing and accessories. You may need to wear sunglasses just to be in Forest Ranch this day!

Movie Night – Thanks to everyone who came and who helped, Movie Night was a great success. Everyone had a wonderful time and Student Council raised almost \$250 towards some playground equipment.

Jump Rope for Heart a Thon – This event was so much fun last year we are doing it again this year on Valentine's Day. Let us know right away if you can help.

Crazy Hair Day – Crazy Hair Day was a ton of fun. Some really spirited hair styles were spotted on campus. Ms. Matoes' and Ms. Jimmerson's classes had the highest percentage of crazy hair. See more crazy hair on page 4.



Community News

The Forest Ranch Women's Club is hosting a talk and book signing even with local historian Andy Marks. Andy's new book is called *The West Branch Mill of the Sierra Lumber Company: Early Logging in Northeastern California*. The event is scheduled for Wednesday February 6 at 7PM and will be held at the Forest Ranch Community Center.

Weather Station is Back

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our Forest Ranch community members and volunteers, our weather station is once again alive and well. We missed knowing all about our weather here on campus and we know you did too. Check our website once again for the current conditions here at the school. <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/weather.html>.

PTP News

Woodstock's Night – The PTP is hosting another fun Woodstock's Pizza Fundraiser Night. These events are an easy way to enjoy an evening with friends and earn money for the school at the same time. Whether you get take out or join us for an evening of live music and camaraderie, save the date of Monday February 11 from 5-8PM for this event. Be sure to mention FRCS when you pay so that we get our cut!

Boxtops and Labels – Don't forget to keep saving Boxtops and Labels for Education for our school. The PTP collects these and sends them in for us, exchanging these items for play equipment and/or cash for the school. Labels and boxtops can be turned into the school office or dropped in the box at The Store in Forest Ranch.

The Crayfish Are Here, The Crayfish Are Here, The Crayfish Are Here

Life cycle studies involve crayfish here at FRCS. The 3rd/4th classrooms have been invaded by crayfish. After creating interesting habitats for them, the students began a very scientific identification and tracking system to study their individual habits and movements each day.



Heard Around Campus

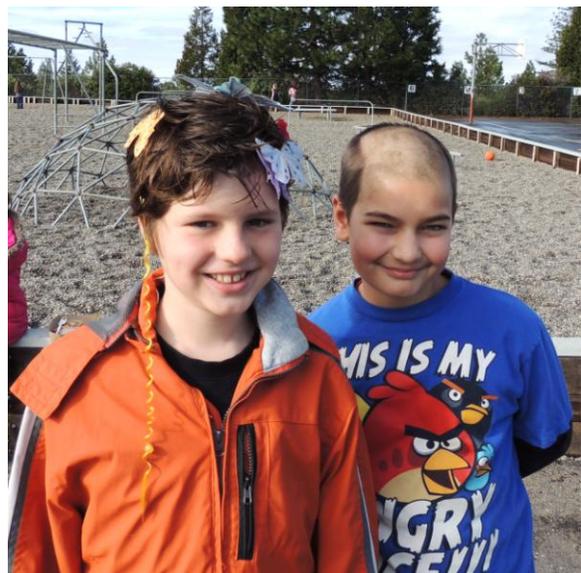
Kindergarteners are learning about Antarctica and the Arctic region. We will soon be learning a fun and catchy song called *Baby Beluga*, which I'm sure will be performed so many times at home that the whole family will be able to sing along whether they want to or not! This is also an exciting time in our kindergarten class because students are beginning to write more independently and read decodable and sight word books!

If you hear thunder and lightning coming from the 1st and 2nd grade classrooms this month, don't be concerned. Hands on learning about weather includes creating clouds in a jar, making their own storms, tracking weather, identifying clouds, types of precipitation, and learning about different types of storms that occur on Earth. Other fun is expected with water cycle portraits, interpretive dance, homemade weather

vanes, and many other hands on experiments with tools such as barometers and thermometers.

The 3rd and 4th graders brought their favorite stuffed animals from home to kick off our measurement unit. The story, Measuring Penny, engaged students in wanting to learn more about all types of measurement, including height, width, length, volume, weight, time, and temperature. They worked in partners to measure their stuffed-friends and compare their sizes. Standard and non-standard measurement tools were used to accurately measure. Students will soon become chefs to experiment and understand capacity. Cooking at school and home is always a fun and educational experience!

The fifth and sixth grade class is working on persuasion. They just finished their persuasive letters to The Ellen Show regarding our needs for newer playground equipment. Now they are working on a Power Point presentation to convince the Queen of England that she should settle in the New England, Middle, or Southern Colonies! Also, be sure to ask your student which of the elements they have adopted – the baby books for their "little bundles of joy" are coming along nicely.



Fun Fact of the Month – According to the most recent data submitted to the California Department of Education, approximately 18% or almost 1 out of every 5 of the elementary (K-8) students in Chico attends a charter school. When you include high school students in the calculation, over 15% of Chico students is a charter school student.