

Forest Ranch Charter School

February 2014



February 5 – Town Hall Meeting, 6:30PM

February 7 – Assembly at 8:30 AM

February 7 – **Half Day, Release at Noon**

February 7 – 2014/15 Open Enrollment ends

February 10 – Lottery Day

February 13 – Jump Rope for Heart

February 14 – No School, Staff Development

February 17 – No School, President's Day

February 21 – Electives Day

February 24 – Rancho Esquon field trip (5, 6)

February 24 – All School Skate, 3:30 – 5:30

February 25 – PBS Meeting, 3PM

February 28 – Twin Day

February 28 – Electives Day

March 3 – Dr. Seuss Day

March 6, 7 – Sutter's Fort field trip (3, 4)

March 7 – Assembly at 8:30AM

March 7 – Keeping Dance Alive field trip (1, 2)

March 11 – Reading Log Party

March 14 – The Great Egg Drop

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

I want to send out a big thank you to our School Advisory Council members. The Council is actively working on options for implementation of our new Junior High and Common Core curriculum framework. We are in the midst of exciting changes, both in curriculum and school growth. Next school year we begin implementing Junior High by offering a 7th grade option. We will also be fully implementing the new Common Core curriculum and testing using the new state standardized test in both Language Arts and Math.

Please join us for a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 to discuss possible configuration changes and answer questions surrounding new Common Core curriculum. The new curriculum better lends itself to a K-5 and 6-8 model. Some of the proposals we are considering would divide our grades into slightly different combinations which more smoothly accommodate this elementary/middle school model. As has happened in the past, next school year would be a transitional plan to bridge the gap.

If you can't make the meeting please e-mail any questions, concerns or input you may have. We are anxious to hear from as many people as possible.

Christia Marasco

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 Initiative. Teachers nominated the following students from each class that they felt best represent this skill:

Mrs. Palmarini – Kaylee T, Cole F
Mr. Ball – Sybil H, Clarisse B
Mrs. Stearns – Elissa A, Sienna B
Ms. Matoes – Emilee B, Elyjah J
Mrs. McNulty – Austin M, Trinity M
Mrs. DJ – Kiya H, Hailey F

The LifeSkill for February is Caring. What do you do at school that is caring? What do you do in your family? In your community? Maybe even for the whole country or the earth? Bring examples to share with us.

PTP News

Box Tops for Education – FRCS has Box Tops fever! Our end of the year goal is \$375. This money will go right back to the students by purchasing some P.E. and cardio equipment for the next school year. Many students and their parents have already turned in Box Tops to raise our current amount to \$144.40! But we need more help toward our goal. So each month, keep an eye out for Box Tops brands while shopping, such as General Mills, Ziploc, and Betty Crocker. Each month your child will come home with a new Box Tops collection sheet as a reminder. So catch our Box Tops fever!

All School Skate – February 24th from 3:30 until 5:30 join us at Cal Skate, wearing your school t-shirt, for a FUN-raiser all-school skate.



Open Enrollment Ends Soon

Open enrollment for new students began on January 24th and ends on February 7th. If you have friends or neighbors with school age children please pass the news that FRCS is a great place to learn. We still have room in a few grades at the moment.

Minimum Day on February 7th

We have a minimum day scheduled for February 7th so that teachers can begin preparing for the end of the second trimester and do some training to prepare for the beginning of the third trimester. Students will be released at noon. We will be serving breakfast, but we will not be serving lunch. The bus will leave the school at 12:05, arriving at La Castana at 12:20 and at Marsh at 12:30. Boys and Girls Club does not open until 3PM, so the bus will not stop there on minimum days.

Our regular paid after school care program, The Explorer's Club, will be available on that day should your family need child care. Our extended hours for that day will be noon until 6PM. While we will have a snack for Explorer's, we will not have lunch. Please make sure to send lunch for students staying in after school care. If this is not a program your family normally utilizes, please make sure the proper enrollment forms are complete before your child attends.

Spring 2014 Electives

Emma says, "My elective is sewing and it is awesome. In sewing we are making bags for Sutter's Fort and our main project is for the boys, pants, and for the girls, skirts. I think sewing is cool because you get to learn how to use a sewing machine. Also, how to make clothes, bags, and more. Sewing is awesome."

Katlyn says, "My elective is dance. It is cool because my teacher, Ms. Matoes, is the dance

teacher. We practiced dancing to Treasure and we wobbled to Dynamite. We also did swing dancing with a partner. My last elective was camp crafts. It was cool too.”

Ellie says, “I love my new elective, Dance, because I am really passionate about Dance and I stay on track. It is fun!”

Emilee says, “In my school we have electives. My elective is Dance. The first day was fun. We learned how to do the Treasure Dance. At first it was hard and then it got easier and easier. There are only two boys, named Cole and Addison. I feel proud of them for stepping up and being proud to be a boy in Dance. We worked up a sweat but at the end of the day I felt good to be in Dance.”

Mason says, “My new elective is Acting. I like it because we get to do funny stuff, like being a stranger. All the people in the elective love it. There is weird stuff that you can do and there is funny stuff. It is really, really, really fun!”

Student Council News

Jump Rope for Heart – In January we had an amazing kick off for our Jump-Rope-for-Heart-a-thon. The actual event will be held the morning of February 13th. Join us for some heart-healthy fun.

Twin Day – Find a friend and dress in a matching outfit for Twin Day on February 28th.

FRCS Board Approves Social Media Page

During their January board meeting, the FRCS Board of Directors discussed the advantages and challenges of having a more widely used Facebook page for the school. The advantages for advertising and increased communication with families were clear. We are excited to get started soon. If you have concerns or advice, as always we welcome input from families.

Reading Log Party

According to British author George Orwell, “If people cannot write well, they cannot think well; and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them.” Training great thinkers begins here and now – and reading is the foundation. The rest of this school year, students consistently returning their reading logs will be rewarded during a Reading Log Party. The next party is scheduled for March 11th. Please encourage diligence with reading logs. If your children lack interesting material for home reading, we have books to share and give here at the school. Contact the office for more information.

Sourdough Bread

Chidike says, “We have been learning about sourdough bread. It is so fun. We get to eat it and make it. You can make it with a type of batter and yeast. I don’t like how sourdough tastes, but I do like science.”

Sarehnee says, “I would like to share with my family about something we did in class. I loved the sourdough bread making.”

Zeb says, “In Ms. Matoes’ class we made and studied sourdough bread and microorganisms. We all got to eat some of the bread that we made. Each of the four groups used different ingredients to make the sourdough bread. We got homemade jam from Alaskan blue berries.”



Free Dyslexia Seminar

Are you curious about the causes and warning signs of dyslexia? Attend a free seminar given by leading expert, Susan Barton, on Friday, February 21st from 6 to 9PM at Chico Christian School at 2801Notre Dame Blvd in Chico.

Science Fair Coming in March

March 24th through the 27th is the Chico Science Fair. Applications are available online at www.chicosciencefair.org or through the school office. Each entrant will receive a ticket to the Gateway Science Museum! The deadline for applications is March 14th. We have had some impressive entries from FRCS in the past. We look forward to see what this year brings.

Heard About Campus

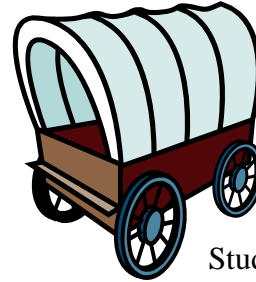
Our Kindergarteners are having fun learning about Antarctica and the Arctic region. Why do polar bears and penguins never mix? Next week they will be treated to a movie featuring the amazing northern lights. They are also working hard on learning to read. Super silly sentences such as “The big pig sat on a pink wig” are good practice and can bring on the giggles as well.

During their unit on apples and the short “a” sound, Kindergarteners made homemade apple sauce. As shown below, this was tasty fun!



The 1st and 2nd graders have rocks in their heads! They are busy learning all about earthquakes, volcanoes, the rock cycle and the 3 main rock types for their earth science unit. They are also trying to find their Professor Rock in their thematic class play. They're on the case to solve the geologic mystery! Next up...inventors and inventions and how those people helped to "create the world around us".

Wagons ho! Third and fourth graders are



gearing up for their trip to Sutter's Fort in March. Students are learning about the times, gathering costumes, and discovering facts. In science, micro-organisms are the focus.

Students learned how to use natural yeast bacteria (in sour dough starter) to create delicious sour dough bread, just like the pioneers.

The fifth and sixth graders are finishing a Science unit on weather and are heading toward Ancient Greece. A field trip to Rancho Esquon, a 10,000 acre wetland ranch, may actually be wet when we get there (go rain!). We will learn about migration, soils and wetland research.

2014 Music Festival – Back on Track

Save the date – May 31st will be a one-day event not to be missed. The Music Festival is back and it will be better than ever! Our fundraiser extraordinaire, Marlene Fune, will be looking for sponsors, donors, bands, and volunteers. Expect to hear from her soon.

