

Forest Ranch Charter School

February 2015



February 6 – Assembly at 8:30AM
February 6 – Re-Enrollment Ends
February 7 – Music Festival Meeting, 6PM
February 9 – Open Enrollment Begins
February 10 – Laxson field trip (Palmarini)
February 10 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
February 13 – Staff Day, No School
February 16 – Holiday, No School
February 17 – DJ's Dash field trip
February 18 – FRCS Spelling Bee
February 20 – Electives Day
February 23 – Open Enrollment Ends
February 24 – Football Rotation Begins
February 27 – Electives Day
February 27 – Twin Day
March 2 – Dr. Seuss Day
March 4 – Chico Creek Nature Center field trip
March 4 – Chico Science Fair field trip
March 5 – Safeway field trip (Ball/Stearns)

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

We had a very productive School Advisory Council (Stakeholder's) meeting in January. The meeting was well attended with parents, faculty, staff, and board members all coming together to discuss Middle School options. Since the meeting, small group planning and discussion have continued. At this time we have a loose plan for the next three years. I feel confident we can further develop a challenging, yet supportive Middle School for Forest Ranch Charter and appreciate the support and commitment shown by families and the Forest Ranch Community. Our first year of seventh grade has been moving along smoothly. We are very proud of this year's seventh graders. They are a very committed and hard working group. They have had exemplary behavior and have been positive role models for other students on campus. Next year we will offer a full K – 8th grade program. Please let me know if you have any questions. I am always happy to discuss program options with you.

On another note, at our daughter's request, a small group of faculty and staff are reviving the Father/Daughter Dance. It will be held February 20th at 6:30. It will be a low key event with dancing, pictures and "potluck" snacks. We could use some help with decorations, refreshments and photography. Please let me know ASAP if you can lend a hand.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

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



Niya P, Zeb R, Olyvia G, Gwen H, Elissa A, Alex D, Erik R, Sydney H, Paige P, Jackson R, Taran V, Leif H, Xander B, Cason P, Noah A, Harrison B, Orion P

Great Job! You are stars!

The February lifeskill is Organization. Are you an organized person or are you disorganized? Do you lose things and take forever to get things done or do you always know where your things are and work efficiently? Can you improve?

Mountain Music Festival Planning Time

It is that time of year again – Marlene and her Fabulous Fundraisers are beginning to plan the Mountain Music Festival. The festival, scheduled for May 30th this year, pays for our Arts and Music Program and is vital to our annual fundraising budget. It is a huge effort, which is made less stressful by many helping hands. Please join the team. The first meeting will be held at the school on Saturday, February 7th at 6PM. If you let us know you are coming we will save you a slice of pizza!

Emergency Phone Tree Practice Call

Look for one of those annoying automated calls from us on Tuesday (2/10) evening. To be better prepared for emergencies such as bus breakdowns, snow days, and the occasional necessary group reminder, we have purchased a subscription to One Call Now. We will test this system next Tuesday. If you do not get a call, let us know as we may not have your correct contact information. If you do get a call, let us know that it is working.

Spring After School Sports

Our flag football sports rotation begins February 24th. We still have room for you! Signup sheets are available in the office or on our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/after-school-sports.html>. As always, scholarships are available; check with the office for eligibility.

Student Council News

Spirit Days – Sparkle Day was a lot of fun in January. Our next spirit day is Twin Day on February 27th; remember to plan ahead and coordinate your outfit with your buddy!

Chico Bags Sales

Our school logo Chico Bags have been selling very well. Thank you for your support of our school and the environment. This week kicks off a fundraiser selling all the other wonderful products that Chico Bag has to offer. Visit our website at www.forestranchcharter.org to see the digital catalog and place an order. Students will be coming home with order forms for canvassing friends and family. Ask your child about the BAG MONSTER and an explanation of the benefits of reusable materials. All Chico Bag profits go directly toward school field trips.

Enrollment News

Friday, February 6th was the end of our Re Enrollment period. Re Enrollment forms hold a place for your child for the next school year. If you did not get yours in, do it right away so that your spot is not given to someone else.

Monday, February 9th begins our Open Enrollment period. Applications for all grades will be accepted until Monday, February 23rd, at which time grade placements will be allocated and lottery needs determined. If you know someone looking for a school for next year, please encourage them to come for a visit or a tour during our Open Enrollment period.

PTP News

Box Tops – Let's get those Box Tops rolling in for the month of February. We saw a slight dip in Box Tops last month, so make sure to look for those Box Tops labels and don't forget to ask your family and friends also! Just collect as many as you can and turn them into the Box Tops basket in the office or mark a baggie with your name and turn into Mrs. Stearns.

Congratulations to Anna P. who was the top Box Tops winner for January!

Community News

FR Lions Club Valentine's Dinner – join the Lions for a wonderful evening of fine food, friends, and fun with games and prizes. Come to the FR Community Association on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 6PM for a delicious dinner. The cost of \$18 per person includes your meal and one glass of red or white wine. Reservations may be mailed to PO Box 93, Forest Ranch, CA 95942.

Butte Humane Heroes – Join the Butte Humane Society at 2156 Pillsbury Road, Suite B on Saturday, February 7th from 1PM until 3PM for a free, educational program for children 6 to 12 years old. Participants will learn to be advocates for animals through fun and interactive workshops.

Bus Safety

We just had our annual bus safety training. Topics covered included proper loading and unloading procedures, proper passenger conduct, bus evacuation, and location of emergency equipment. Please look for information coming home to families supporting this training. Go over the information again with your child to reinforce the importance of transportation safety and good bus behavior.



Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners had a fun time celebrating the 100th day of school on February 4th. They got a lot of practice writing numbers and counting to 100 by ones, fives and tens as they participated in a variety of activities. After sharing their collection of 100 things that they each brought from home, they glued their items to a one hundred chart. Kindergarteners were gluing everything from jelly beans and mini pine cones, to soda can tabs and bits of colorful wire. They also made a necklace of 100 fruit loops. This was a treat well deserved as it took a lot of counting and perseverance to complete the project. Another fun activity was to test their engineering skills as they attempted to build a structure out of 100 cups. They were given different goals such as to build the tallest, sturdiest or most interesting looking structure. Regardless of the type of structure, our kindergarteners seemed to most enjoy knocking them down!



The 1st and 2nd graders are still exploring the world of economics and loving every penny of it! This month they will be looking at how we use natural resources for goods and services, will learn how to interview for popular jobs by doing a real life job simulation and will take a historic look at how our currency evolved through history by doing a barter faire at school! They are also continuing their scientific investigations in the world of weather! They will dive deeper this month into learning about

precipitation, storms and rainbows and will begin suiting up for the weather play!

Third and fourth grade students have been quite busy this month. They have been learning about how the Native Americans in our region used natural resources to provide all of their needs. Thanks to our special guest, Don Hankins, they have sampled acorn mush, sour berries, smoked salmon, elk meat and manzanita tea. Although the acorn mush was not the most popular, students learned what an important resource this was for the Native Americans. Students are also gearing up for a trip to Laxson Auditorium for an inspiring production of "La Malesta" (The Suitcase). In science, Mrs. McNulty's class teamed up with Mrs. Palmarini's kindergarten class to engineer a house strong enough to keep the Big Bad Wolf from blowing it down (the wolf was played by a fan!). Great teamwork and problem solving helped student teams achieve success. Mrs. Copp's class learned more about the environment by venturing to the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve for an informative nature walk. Next month brings many challenging activities: Biography reports to learn how the accomplishments of one can impact many, and a life science unit focusing on animals and their adaptations.

Ms. Matoes fifth grade class was excited to put on Math Day for the school. It was fun to come up with activities for the younger grades. We hope the students of FRCS came away with an excitement for math and play the games they learned with their families. Now, it's time for our class to focus on multiplication and division of fractions. Although, this can be tricky we will use real world, hands on activities, to help students understand the concept. In history we have mapped and learned about the voyages of explorers who came to North America. We will now dive into life in the 13 English colonies. Through literature, video, plays, and simulations students will grasp what life was life in Colonial America. In science we will explore the great

unknown of our Solar System. It is exciting to start such fascinating units!

Mrs. D.J's 6th & 7th grade is keeping their interest and love for learning alive through hands on experiences in science, math and history. They are learning about our solar system by building a scale model in our field next Friday. Our lab on "currents" showed us about the transcontinental drift, wind and ocean currents of the North Atlantic and how they affected trade and natural resources in the colonies of the Eastern Seaboard. The 6th graders continue their study of weather with hands on labs that address concepts such as air pressure. The 7th graders are engulfed in their studies of Ancient Rome and Genetics. My recent experience at a CPM Mathematics Conference was affirming; both 6th and 7th grade classes are on track, if not ahead of the curve. CPM is proving itself to be a thorough curriculum that teaches concepts to mastery.

Exploring Nature in After School Care

Orion P recently discovered that playing with millipedes is fascinating. Outdoor exploration during after school care uncovers unexpected fun on a daily basis.

