

Forest Ranch Charter School

January 2014



January 6 – Back to School
January 9 – School Advisory Council Mtg, 6PM
January 10 – Assembly at 8:30AM
January 10 – Intent to ReEnroll forms go home
January 15 – Healthy Behavior Info Night, 7PM
January 16 – Laxson Field Trip (5, 6)
January 17 – Second Semester Electives Begin
January 20 – MLK Day, No School
January 21 – FRCS Board Meeting, 6PM
January 24 – 2014/15 Open Enrollment begins
January 28 – PBS Meeting, 3PM
January 31 – Age of Sail Field Trip (5, 6)
January 31 – Electives Day
January 31 – Nerd Day
February 7 – Assembly at 8:30 AM
February 7 – Half Day, Release at Noon
February 7 – 2014/15 Open Enrollment ends
February 13 – Jump Rope for Heart
February 14 – No School, Staff Development
February 17 – No School, President's Day

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

The last few weeks have been filled with creative fun and learning as we wrapped up our Fall Musical and 1st semester electives. We had fun preparing for our Multicultural Festival/Winter Concert. Students were immersed in learning about other cultures and getting messy with art and cooking projects. We are in a positive mode and working hard to get ready for the holiday break.

We have a problem that could use some parent support. We are experiencing an increase in bad language and inappropriate behavior on campus. This behavior has been on a gradual increase over the last couple of years and in a few instances has spread to the lower grades. The faculty, Board and I are concerned as it is our intention to provide a healthy and emotionally safe campus where students are not unduly exposed to adult themes or foul language. Our School Advisory Council has identified various areas for improvement and strategies to keep our campus healthy. Please work with us by talking to your child about appropriate school language, behavior, and by minimizing negative media exposure. Children imitate what they see and hear.

We will be having a parent night on January 15th at 7:00PM to provide education surrounding social skills and media, as well as to discuss positive strategies for maintaining a healthy and respectful campus. We will also have a Parent Night in February (TBA) for parents of 5/6th graders to discuss use of social media. Happy Holidays and I look forward to learning with you in the New Year!

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

Kindergarten – Evan W-T

1st Grade – Jori G

2nd Grade – Paige P, Autumn S, Jackson K

3rd Grade – Emmalee A, Abigail R

4th Grade – Emma D, Aliyah B

5th Grade – Nathan W

6th Grade – Mason W

The LifeSkill for January is Resourcefulness. Are you a resourceful person or do you rely on others too much? Do you have an example of a time you felt very resourceful?

Attendance and Funding

Most people realize that schools are paid based on daily attendance. Not all people realize that schools are not paid for excused absences. When a student is here, even for a small part of the day, we receive about \$40 for that day. When a student is absent, for any reason at all, we receive nothing. So far this year we have lost almost \$14,000 in funding due to absences. With 60% of the year remaining, that puts us on track to lose \$35,000.

With this in mind, please remember to schedule vacations or planned absences during vacation times. If you must miss school for a planned absence, please discuss short-term independent study with your child(ren)'s teacher. Think what we could do with an extra \$35,000!

The DJ Dash

Mrs. DJ's fifth and sixth graders started their running training in August. At first they were very impressed that they could run a mile without stopping. Then they decided to kick it up a notch and train to run a 5k, which is three miles. On a bitterly cold day in December they all gathered in Bidwell Park, taking off like rockets.



All the runners crossed the finish line, many without ever stopping and quite a few in less than 30 minutes. The fastest five runners brought tears to our eyes as they joined hands to cross the finish line as a team. Pictured left to right are Sam D, Knox H, Jacob S, Hailey F, and Mason W. Way to go Foxes!



Open Enrollment Here Again

This is the time of year we start planning for next year's enrollment. Intent-to-reenroll forms go home on January 10th. To ensure your student has a place at FRCS again next year, please make sure this form gets back to us by January 24th.

Open enrollment for new students begins on January 24th and ends on February 7th. Should we have more enrollment than we have space, a lottery will be held on February 10th.

School Advisory Committee

January 9th at 6PM is our next School Advisory Committee meeting. All school community members are encouraged to participate in this committee. Participants will aid in the determination of school goals to improve student outcomes and the identification of metrics to measure progress toward meeting those goals. This is your chance to be directly involved in a very meaningful way in the education of our future leaders.

Snow Fun

The snowfall in December brought smiles to our kiddos. The low temperatures made the snow very dry and fun to play with. We frequently have snow as late as April. Don't forget to send students to school with warm clothes so they can get out and enjoy what winter brings.



Charitable Contributions

When doing your taxes in the next couple months (oh yuck!) if you find that you need more charitable contributions, don't forget that donations to the school are tax deductible. The Fox Fund is a really easy way to get those deductions to add up painlessly and effortlessly. Letters will go out this month to our Fox Fund donors with the total given in 2013, our tax id, and our enthusiastic thanks. For more information about donations or the Fox Fund, contact the office or visit our donations page at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/donations.html>

Student Council News by Kiya H

Last month we held a wonderful canned food drive for the Jesus Center. Every class got at least a box [of donations].

We had an awesome time doing Super Hero Day. The next Spirit Day will be Nerd Day on January 31st.

Jump Rope for Heart is going to be held February 13th. Please save that day. Jump Rope for Heart kick off will be on January 24th. If you can volunteer to help with Jump Rope for Heart, please contact Christy or Chantel in the office or the student government advisor, Michele Dwyer, as soon as possible.

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners are wrapping up their unit on the folktales of Europe. They had fun listening to stories such as Strega Nona by Tomie de Poala and The Tomten (The Gnome) by Astrid Lindgren. Students did a great job re-telling and sequencing the events in Strega Nona and making beautiful pastel drawings of a forested scene with a gnome.

The 1st and 2nd graders will be "Rockin' in the U.S.A." for the next 6 weeks as they begin their

new earth science unit! They will discover all about volcanoes, the main types of rock, and how mountains turn into sand. Along the way, they will receive some help from a real life geologist, take a rockin' trip to Bidwell Park and even perform a class play, "*Geology Rocks*"!

The 3rd and 4th graders got ready for the holidays with string art, gingerbread houses, and England projects. After winter break we are looking forward to beginning our study of the Pioneers and preparing for our big trip to Sutter's Fort. In science we will be discovering what makes sourdough bread so special by looking at microorganisms in our world. Are you afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? Well, we aren't! Students will be continuing to learn about Fairy Tales and Fables and their story structure. This unit culminates with students writing their own tale.

January will come in like lightning for the 5th and 6th graders as we begin our unit on weather. Our year-long theme, "Back to the Future" continues in January as we finish up our study of ancient Egypt and head into Greece. We have a field trip to Laxson Auditorium on January 16th to see the Golden Dragon Acrobats perform.

Why Join PTP?

Our Parent-Teacher-Partnership (PTP) is a critical organization supporting FRCS. The families who participate in PTP make the extras happen for our kids. Teachers and administration are busy with the day to day business of education. It is the PTP that puts the icing on the cake. They support the school through various fundraising activities, they give discretionary funds to the teachers to spend on classroom supplies, they provide dinner for the teachers when we have evening events, and they are crazy good at decorating as we all saw at the Winter Concert in December. Look for those notices about volunteering or requests for donations; support our PTP!

Fall Musical, a Great Event

The Fall Musical elective group did a great job with their presentation of "A Year of Frog and Toad." The show filled the Forest Ranch Community Center seats for all three shows. As always, casting was marvelous, costumes were inventive (case in point being the turkey pan for the turtle's shell!), scenery was beautifully done, and the parent helpers were superb. Thank you to all who participated in the production and to those who supported our students by attending.



Pictured above are Emilee B as Frog, Emma A as Toad, Abby R, McKenna L, and Emma R as Animals, Sophie H as Turtle and Kyra V as Mouse. Below are the hysterical Snails.



Stray Cat Strut Dancers Prepare for Concert

