

Forest Ranch Charter School

January 2015



December 22 through Jan 2 – Winter Break
January 9 – Assembly at 8:30AM
January 13 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
January 13 – Parent Education Night at 7PM
January 15 – Safety Committee meeting, 3PM
January 16 – Electives Day
January 19 – MLK Day, No School
January 22 – Advisory Council Meeting at 3PM
January 23 – Re-Enrollment Forms go home
January 23 – Laxson field trip (Matoes)
January 27 – Schreder Planetarium trip (DJ)
January 30 – Electives Day
January 30 – Sparkle Spirit Day
February 6 – Assembly at 8:30AM
February 6 – Re-Enrollment Ends
February 9 – Open Enrollment Begins
February 10 – Laxson field trip (Palmarini)
February 10 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
February 13 – Staff Day, No School

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a wonderful break. We are re-energized and ready to roll into the second half of our school year.

We have an exciting new reading program for the remainder of the year called “Principal for the Day.” Beginning next week, students in 1st through 7th grades will get a raffle ticket for each hour of reading they complete at home or school. Every Friday morning a ticket will be chosen. The selected student will participate in a few activities with me that day. Students will be starting their second semester elective classes on January 16. We are looking for donations of thread, yarn and select materials (denim, canvas, thick material) for the sewing class. Musical students do not need to be enrolled in a Performing Arts elective. The musical is scheduled for late March and a final practice schedule will be sent home this week.

As flu season is upon us and we have multiple medically fragile students among us, we respectfully ask that families keep this in mind and take common protective actions to remain well and avoid the spread of germs. These protective actions include having your family avoid close contact with sick people and keeping your child or yourself home and away from school for at least 24 hours after having had a fever. They also include teaching your child to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue or using the inside of their arm when they cough or sneeze, proper hand washing behavior with soap and water, and to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

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

Katlyn C, Jesse H, Allie W, Evan W-T, Laura W, Roxy M, Wyatt M, Carmen Mae P, Kiya H, Sarah S, Kaden M, Kaylee T, Sarehnee B, Jessi W, Garrett H

Great Job! You are stars!



The January lifeskill is Effort. Webster's Dictionary defines effort as work done by the mind or the body. Are you better at working with your mind or your body? What types of effort are enjoyable for you? What types of effort do you find challenging?

Stakeholder Meetings

Throughout this school year there will be several stakeholder meetings. Most recently there was one on December 11th. Discussions centered on school philosophy, behavior expectations, parent support, and classroom configurations as they apply to Common Core curriculum as well as middle school implementation. These discussions will continue and expand at our next meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, January 22 at 3PM.

Spring After School Sports to Start Soon

This spring we are offering five sports. Hockey begins February 3rd. Flag football begins February 24th. Soccer begins March 24th. Baseball begins April 14th. Basketball begins May 5th. All rotations include 6 days of instruction and play. Sign up 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

Pi Club News – The student government inspired "Pi Club (3.14)," sold pies at the FRCS multicultural night/winter concert. We raised \$112 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, which is the chosen philanthropy of our student body president, Nathan Wallis.

Spirit Days – Skittles Day was a lot of fun in December. Our next spirit day is Sparkle Day on January 30th; plan to wear something that sparkles.

Student Leadership – Our leadership elective has come to an end, but student government will still be meeting every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:00 in Mrs. D.J.'s classroom. We will spend the second half of the year continuing the student store, raising money for our FRCS field trip fund with another pie sale before spring break, planning the Jump and Jog-a-thon in April, and various leadership activities including community outreach.

Mentor Time Snowman Art

Ms. Matoes' fifth graders got together with Mr. Ball's first and second graders to create snowmen. As we have not had any snow yet they had to settle for using construction paper. Their creations are currently decorating the office, keeping us cheerful.



Chico Bags are Here

Just in time for the bag ban at the grocery stores, we have locally-made, washable, very sturdy Chico Bags with our school logo for sale. Look for the order form attached to this newsletter. Support your school and the environment!

Rechartering Update

The Chico Unified Board of Trustees voted unanimously on December 17th to renew the Forest Ranch Charter School Petition for another five year term. We are grateful to all our families and community members who continue to make our school a dream come true.

Chico Science Fair Coming Soon

The theme for this year's Chico Science Fair is "Science Transforms Your World." It will be held at the Chico Fairgrounds during the week of March 2, 2015.

A free science fair workshop will be held on Thursday, January 15th at 7PM at the Chico Junior High School library, located at 280 Memorial Way. The workshop will help parents, students, and teachers with the scientific method as well as present strategies for a successful science project. The presentation will include a hands-on science activity.

Science Fair applications are due by February 20th. For an application inquire at the school office or visit www.chicosciencefair.org.

PTP News

Box Tops – Great job Forest Ranch! We're half way through the school year and half way to our goal of collecting \$500 for Box Tops for Education. Let's start the New Year off right and keep bringing those Box Tops in.

Congratulations to Makena W. for being the top Box Tops winner for the month of December!

Community News

Forest Ranch Chili Cook Off – Saturday, January 17th is the date for the famous, Forest Ranch Community Association Chili Cook Off. Bring your best chili or corn bread effort by 5PM as judging is at 5:30. First, second and third places win a cash prize! If you are just bringing your appetite (along with your own beverage of choice and a dessert or salad to share) the official event begins at 6PM, held at the Community Center.

Lions Club Citizen of the Year – our FRCS board chair and volunteer extraordinaire, Dave Foreman, was recently named the Forest Ranch Lions Club Citizen of the Year. Congratulations Dave and thank you for all you do for us and our community.



Meals From the Heart – Come enjoy good food and a friendly atmosphere on Friday, January 30th from 5:30 to 7:00PM at the FR Community Association. The Forest Ranch Lions host this free meal for the community. Donations are never expected, but always appreciated. For info call 345-5399.



Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?

A: In a snow bank, of course!

Parent Education Night

Tuesday, January 13th at 7PM we are holding a Parent Education Night – *an Introduction to Positive Behavior Support*. Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is a data-driven behavior program that focuses on logical consequences, teaching appropriate behaviors, and creating strong, healthy relationships and routines. We will discuss a continuum of strategies for effectively managing/redirecting unwanted child behavior and increasing positive skills. Topics will include homework procedures, social skills and general parenting questions. Please leave the kids at home and come enjoy some time and treats with fellow parents in the school library.

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners started the year off learning the months of the year with a catchy song. We will soon continue our thematic studies with a focus on Antarctica and the Arctic Region.

Do you hear the sound of money? The 1st and 2nd graders can! They are starting to dive deep into the world of economics. The kids will start learning about balancing money through our class economy and have their own money balance sheets. They will also learn about wants vs. needs, goods and services, consumers and producers, and having a business. Many fun, hands-on experiences are planned for these topics, including a barter faire, field trips showing farm to table, creating their own businesses and making commercials, apply for jobs, and making a simulation city where they will sell goods and/or services.

The third and fourth graders are "beefing-up" on their reading fluency. They are continuing to dig deeper into literature and seek answers through finding supporting details. Students in both classes enjoyed researching and exploring beneath the surface to learn about a different culture for multicultural night in December; they are planning to further develop these

research skills as they learn more about our local area. The students are moving their cultural focus from the island country of Jamaica, to our local Native American history. Everyone is excited to begin 2015 and continue to Dive Deep into our work!

Fifth graders are jumping right into the challenging concept of fractions. They are quickly realizing how necessary it is to have a strong foundation with their multiplication facts. As they simplify fractions and find common denominators they can understand how knowing their multiplication facts help with these more challenging concepts. The fifth graders will be hosting a school wide Math Day on February 6th. Students will participate in activities, which they can later use at home, that make practicing math facts and other concepts more engaging. Children greatly benefit when they practice math at home; many of the activities are games that can be played with the entire family. Hopefully you can join us on February 6th, but if you can't make it check with your child about what they enjoyed and make time for math games at home.

Mrs. D.J.'s 6/7th grades are going interstellar while we create the solar system on our campus. We will use the field and play ground to place a temporary solar system on our campus using scale for real world mathematics and our knowledge of the distance of each of 9 planets (including Pluto) from the sun. Students will begin new literature circles, reading The Island of the Blue Dolphins, The Trap, and Fahrenheit 451, culminating their comprehension with a response to literature.



Q: What kind of math does a Snowy Owl like best?

A: Owlgebra!