

Forest Ranch Charter School

January 2016



January 7 – Safety Committee Meeting, 3PM

January 8 – Assembly at 8:30AM

January 12 – PTP Meeting at 3PM

January 14 – School Advisory Council, 3PM

January 15 – Electives Day

January 18 – MLK Day, No School

January 19 – FRCS Board Meeting, 5PM

January 20 – Bricks for Kids field trip (3rd/4th)

January 22 – Reenrollment forms go home

January 27 – Laxson Field Trip (6th grade)

January 29 – Electives Day

February 5 – Assembly at 8:30AM

February 8 – Open Enrollment begins

February 9 – PTP Meeting at 3PM

February 12 – Staff Day, No School

February 15 – President's Day, No School

February 17 – Laxson Field Trip (5th grade)

February 19 – Electives Day

February 22 – Open Enrollment ends

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends over the holidays. Faculty, support staff and students have returned rejuvenated and ready to work. I expected a crazy, rainy return to school yesterday and was pleasantly surprised by very focused, helpful students.

As we move into winter we start mid-year assessments of both student and teacher progress. We also continue to develop our Middle School model. Currently we are working on the configuration of teachers and rooms for next year. We have many exciting ideas and will be holding parent, staff and student meetings over the next couple of months to brainstorm. We will be conducting student, staff and family surveys over the next couple of weeks to assess strengths and weaknesses and make improvements for the remainder of the year. We will also use this survey data to help design our Middle School based on feedback and anticipated number of students. Please take the time to give us as much information as possible so we can do our best job serving your students. Our next School Advisory Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14 at 3:00. On our agenda will be Middle School configuration, curriculum and procedures; LCAP progress/goals; and enrollment/recruitment for next year.

In order to meet our growth goals for K-8 it is critical that we bring in new students. Please help us to meet these goals by plugging our school with family and friends and liking us on Facebook. We also need people to distribute fliers and help host outreach events. Let us know if you are able to lend a hand.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

The following students were recognized for their outstanding use of LifeSkills:



Paige P, Jori G, Tyra G, Sabrina H, Tyler P, Aliyah B, Maddy H, Orion P, Claire B, Anna P, Sebastian P, Sara W, Holadae G, Harrison B, Lia B

Great Job! You folks are super stars!

PTP News

The Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) wishes to thank our school families for sending in so many wonderful items for the Winter Concert raffles. All funds raised by PTP go right back to the students. Please join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 12th in the school library at 3PM. PTP meetings are a great way to be connected to the school and other parents.



Student Council Events

Bake Sale – The Student Council Bake Sale during Multi-Cultural Night was a huge success. Thanks to all your sweet teeth we raised \$92 to donate to the Butte Humane Society.

Crazy Hair Day – Friday, January 29th is Crazy Hair Day. Put together your best “worst” style to show your Fox Pride!

Community News

Chili Cook Off – Saturday, January 16th is the Forest Ranch Community Association Chili Cook Off. This free event starts at 6PM, come early if you want good seats as this is a popular one. For more information, call Lorraine at 891-3623 or Jeanne at 898-0802.

Reenrollment and Open Enrollment Begins

January and February are the months that we collect information about students for next year. This allows us to plan staffing and make budgeting decisions. Your timely reenrollment form ensures a spot for your student next year. Look for that coming home on January 22nd. It is due back to us by February 8th.

Open enrollment for new students begins on February 8th and ends on February 22nd. Please let friends and neighbors who might be considering our school know about these important dates. Tours are available upon request. Check with the office at 891-3154.

Charter Myths Dispelled

It is surprising how many people still have misconceptions about charter schools. Last month the California Charter School Association (CCSA) began a series called the “Truth about Charter Schools.” Truth #4 is that charter schools are excelling academically. Urban areas are a particularly fertile ground for charter schools. The Center for Research on Educational Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University recently released the results of a national study, finding that students in urban charter schools gain more knowledge than students in urban traditional schools. Visit <http://urbancharters.stanford.edu/index.php> for the report and more detailed information.

Heard About Campus

This past week kindergarteners enjoyed learning the months of the year with a catchy little tune. They also thought about what they would like to learn this year as they made New Year's Resolution hats. Not surprisingly, more than a few want to learn how to bake sweets such as cookies, cupcakes, and "chocolate frosting cakes!" We also have several aspiring musicians who want to learn to play instruments such as the piano, drums, and trumpet. Our upcoming theme for January is Antarctica and the Arctic region. Students will learn about the animals and environment of these regions, as well as the cultures of the native people of the region. We will end this unit with a pastel northern lights art project for which students will learn native stories which explain the phenomenon.

Here's a look at today's forecast: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs! The 1st and 2nd graders will be "pouring" into their new science unit on weather. They will investigate how weather is created, look at cloud formations, make types of precipitation, test wind with homemade anemometers, delve into storms by making tornadoes in a bottle and end the unit with rainbows. They will become mini meteorologists as they learn about the wacky world of weather!

Third and fourth grade students are beginning a new technology WebQuest and accessing some art appreciation in Language Arts while reading the book *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Students are studying simple machines and how they improve our lives through various K'nex engineering tasks in Science. Taking a step back in time, Social Studies brings research into the explorers of California and the early Spanish settlers. Third grade math finds students working toward mastery of multiplication, while fourth grade students will begin to look at division and its relationship to multiplication.

Fifth graders are kicking off the New Year by reflecting on 2015 and looking at goals for the New Year. We are learning about Martin Luther King Junior, and creating activities related to appreciating differences, diversity, fighting against stereotypes, and how to make our world a better place. Students will write essays about their heroes to wrap up the unit. Afterwards, we will be starting to read The BFG by Roald Dahl, so we can compare the book and the play that we will see at Laxson in February. We'll be learning about explorers in history and getting a little messy in science as we learn about matter and chemical changes.

Mrs. DJ's 6th grade class is sailing into the Aegean Sea to learn as much as we can about the ancient civilization of Greece. We will begin with obtaining Greek names and turning our classroom into Greece by arranging our desks in correspondence to the geography of this amazing civilization. We will debate, compare and contrast the subject of Athens vs. Sparta. Comparison will be interesting as one is a culture that values arts and philosophy and the other makes war their priority. This unit will take us through February so stay tuned for more to come.

Greetings and Happy New Year from the 7th and 8th grade classroom. Our students have had a wonderful break and are ready to return to their studies. We are going to be wrapping up The Old Man and The Sea. The students have chosen an individual book of interest as the focus for their next novel reading. We are having great success in Math and Science. The 8th grade is working on circles, angles and their relationship to percentages. The 7th grade is continuing to identify proportional relationships and their characteristics. Our science for the rest of the month will answer the questions of density and buoyancy – "will this thing sink or float?"