

Forest Ranch Charter School

March 4, 2011

EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

* These events occur at school unless otherwise noted.

- 3/7/2011: Woodstock's Pizza Fundraiser
5:30-8:30 at Woodstock's Pizza
- 3/11/2011: Report cards sent home
- 3/14-3/18/2011: Spring Break
- 3/25/2011: Movie Night 6pm at the School
Showing Toy Story 3
- 3/31/2011: 4th-6th Grade Snow Shoe Field Trip

Director's Report

We had a wild time with weather. Students enjoyed playing in the snow and we are working out a few kinks with the snow day call lists. If you have any input to increase our efficiency please let us know.

Next year we are leaning towards the continuation of multi-age configurations for our long range growth plan. We will still be holding a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the merits of various growth options and possible fiscal constraints. This meeting will be held sometime in April.

Most of our teachers originally felt that single grade classrooms were a better option, however, after experiencing multi-age classrooms and reviewing the pros and cons they unanimously voted in favor of multi-age classes for our small school setting (with the exception of kindergarten). Some advantages to the multi-age class are: collaboration for faculty teaching the same grades, more flexible grouping, opportunity for second year with the same teacher, ability to more effectively match teacher/student temperament, greater social opportunities across grades, and better girl to boy ratios in each class.

We are working on the LifeLong Guideline, Trustworthiness. Please talk to your child about what this means and help them to come up with special people who exhibit this characteristic!

School Accountability Report Card

Each February we are required to post our School Accountability Report Card (SARC). This report details information from the prior school year regarding our school, the Chico Unified School District, and the State of California. To read the report please visit

<http://www.forestranchcharter.org/accountability-record.html>.

Famous Fox

Forest Ranch Charter sixth grader, Hannah Buckley was chosen as one of the finalists for the Chico News and Review's Fiction 59 contest. Her short story will be printed in next week's edition. Congratulations Hannah! Keep up the good writing!

Heard Around Campus

Mrs. Palmarini (K) – It is all about snow; snow stories, snow poems and snow crafts. Students are working hard memorizing a funny little snow poem and a short song for the next assembly. Moving from word families with the vowels “a” and “e”, next we meet Mig the Pig and the short “i” sound. Ask your student about counting by 10's and 5's. Counting lessons are fun with fuzzy five sticks with little pom poms!

Mrs. Stearns (1st/2nd) – Physical Science full speed ahead! Look for lots of hands-on experiments investigating force, motion, gravity, volume and pitch, using magnets, playing tug of war, a festival of bubbles, acoustical science, and ramp building for race cars among other things.

Ms. Lyons (2nd/3rd) – We can do PowerPoint! A slide show to teach others about the various Native American tribes from Northern California is in progress. Anticipation is growing as we look forward to a trip to Turtle Bay on March 3 to learn more about the Wintu tribe. Mad Libs bring fun and laughter to learning parts of speech and grammar.

Ms. Matoes (4th/5th) – Exploring Geometry is fun with the help of art, inspired by modern artist Piet Mondrian using primary colors and perpendicular lines, and karate movement, to get the feel of the area of a triangle. Don't forget to take half! After reading Sign of the Beaver the class will watch the movie Keeping the Promise, which is based on the book. Then compare and contrast essays are next. Science grossed out everyone as they watched what happens to food in the small intestines, learned the effects of smoking on the lungs, and how poor eating habits affect the heart and arteries.

Mrs. Jimmerson (5th/6th) - Is it a narwhal, sea monster, or submarine? Your student will soon know the answer as they finish 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Look for "adopted" elements as the class makes unique element cards to be featured in the Science Lab. PowerPoint presentations on important figures from US History are in the works. Ask about the recipe for "6th grade Lemonade," made from local fresh lemons. And for a real challenge, "roommates" are creating a real-world budget with income, housing, food, and utilities.

The Fox Fund – A New Way to Give

We are headed for more desperate times in education funding. To offset budget concerns, FRCS implemented a planned giving program called the Fox Fund. Donation will help keep our class-sizes and teacher-student ratios as small as possible, retain band and classroom music along with other valued electives, and continue the many other special opportunities offered to our students. To make donations to the Fox Fund as painless as possible we have arranged for electronic transfer capability with our bank. Even \$5 or \$10 per month adds up when lots of families and community members are doing the same. Ask Terry to mail or send the enrollment form home with your student or look for it on the Fox Fund link at www.forestranchcharter.org/donations.html.

Rainy Day Recess

I was standing at one end of a Chinese jump rope during rainy day recess the other day. The room was filled with students ranging from Kindergarten through 6th grade. Most of them were playing jump rope but a few younger ones were quietly watching Charlotte's Web in the corner. Suddenly every kid in the room spontaneously burst into song along with the movie. No one in particular began singing first; there was no break in the jump rope game. The joyous moment ended as quickly as it began with the only difference in the room being my misty eyes.