

Forest Ranch Charter School

March 2014



March 3 – Dr. Seuss Day
March 6, 7 – Sutter’s Fort field trip (3, 4)
March 7 – Assembly at 8:30AM
March 7 – Keeping Dance Alive field trip (1, 2)
March 11 – Reading Log Party
March 13 – The Great Egg Drop
March 14 – Electives Day
March 17 – 21 – Spring Break, No School
March 24 – Chico Science Fair
March 25 – Laxson field trip (3, 4)
March 25 – BCCER field trip (5, 6)
March 25 – PBS Meeting, 3PM
March 25 – FRCS Board Meeting, 6PM
March 28 – Assembly at 8:30AM
March 28 – Electives Day
March 28 – Skittles Day
April 1 – Bidwell Mansion field trip (Matoes)
April 4 – Assembly at 8:30AM
April 8 – Bidwell Mansion field trip (McNulty)

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

This year is rolling by so quickly! We continue to work toward implementing new programs and preparing for changes brought about by new state testing, new state standards, and our junior high expansion. Teachers have been involved in many professional development activities. Some are embarking on a multi-year journey with a recently funded STEM (Science, Technology, Math and Engineering) program put on by BCOE (Butte County Office of Education) and CSU Chico. This program will allow collaboration with others while learning exciting new ways of implementing Common Core and STEM.

March is filled with engaging learning opportunities. We start with my favorite special event, Dr. Seuss Day on March 3. Special Dr. Seuss Day activities will happen on between 1:30 – 2:30 that day. This is a fun afternoon filled with creative Seussical adventures. We could always use an extra set of hands if you are free.

Another exciting event we will start preparing for in March is our first school Talent Show. The students have been after me to start one for quite some time. I will be working together with fifth and sixth graders to get this event up and running. It will be held in April but students will need to have their acts ready to go when they return from Spring Break. They can sing, dance, play music, recite poetry or stand-up comedy. They can create skits, or do a skills demonstration. The sky is the limit. Keep your eyes open for the informational flyer that will be sent out early next week.

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

Kindergarten – Sammy H, Orion P
First Grade – Gabe S, Landon S
Second Grade – Kaleb A, Delainey L
Third Grade – Ashley B, Jamie F
Fourth Grade – McKenna L, Zeb R
Sixth Grade – Knox H, Kayla C

The LifeSkill for March is Perseverance. Webster's Dictionary defines perseverance as the continued pursuit of anything undertaken. Do you give up too easily? Do you keep trying beyond the limits of patience? Bring an example of perseverance as a positive influence.

Community Events

Community Water Forum – Monday March 3rd from 6PM to 7:30PM is a Forest Ranch Community Water Forum hosted by the Dept. of Public Health and the Dept. of Water Resource and Conservation. Learn how you can help.

Spaghetti Feed – Friday March 7th from 5PM to 7PM is a Spaghetti Feed fundraiser for the Forest Ranch Community Association. Entry is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids.

Monte Carlo Night – Saturday March 15th from 7PM to 10PM is a Monte Carlo Night fundraiser for the Forest Ranch Community Association. A \$10 entry buys you \$50,000 in funny money to gamble away playing Poker, Roulette, and Bingo. Use your BIG winnings to buy donated white elephant items.

Student Council News by Kiya H

Skittles Day – This March we have Skittles Day on the 28th. So, remind your kids to wear their colors. The colors are: Mrs. Palmarini, purple; Mrs. Stearns, yellow; Mr. Ball, red; Mrs. McNulty, green; Ms. Matoes, orange; and Mrs. DJ, blue.

Jump Rope for Heart – February was a success! On the 13th we had Jump Rope for Heart. We raised \$1,250 for the American Heart Association. We raised \$50 more than last year. Hailey F won most jumps for 3rd through 6th grades and Kyra V won most jumps for K through 2nd. Also, Elijah J raised the most money. It was very rewarding to watch all the students of FRCS jump rope with great effort for a great cause.

This event was not just about raising money for the AHA, it was also about raising student awareness regarding fitness and



the functions of the heart and lungs. One of the highlights of the day was visiting the station with a calf heart and lungs available for close investigation.

The Great Egg Drop

Thursday, March 13th is the date for The Great Egg Drop. This annual event, hosted by Mrs. Stearn's class, is a lesson in practical engineering. Using recycled materials and a raw egg, build a contraption to protect your egg from a one-story fall. Hopefully our local fire volunteers will once again be on hand to drop the eggs from their engines. Hope your egg survives!

Balclutha Bound

The Balclutha is a 19th century sailing ship which helped rebuild San Francisco after the cataclysmic 1906 earthquake by hauling lumber from Oregon. This living history field trip gets mixed reviews from student, as revealed by the journal entries quoted below:

Student Journal Entry 1: This trip was one of the best field trips I have ever taken! You must prove to the captain that you are a real crew that can sail to Oregon. Being the mate is very fun, but be prepared to carry out orders as given! If I were you I would practice sea chanties to pass the time away. Night watch is very hard and tiring, but if you are the first crew for night watch then you get a full night's sleep. Also, there is no bathroom on the ship so make sure you make a head call before boarding.



Student Journal Entry 2: I think that this is my worst field trip ever! I got sick and I have to do things that make me sicker. We have to stay up until midnight and I am so tired. The food was terrible so I am hungry. We aren't allowed to talk, sit, or lean so my feet hurt. I haven't sat down since we got here. I wish I could go to bed now. I can't wait to get off. We have been on night watch for about an hour and we have 20 more minutes to go. I think I am just going to collapse. I can't wait for bed. We had to wash dishes and now my hands stink.

Science Fair Coming in March

March 24th through the 27th is the Chico Science Fair. Applications are available online at www.chicosciencefair.org or through the school office. The deadline for applications is March 14th. If you have an idea but no time to support your student's project, we have community members, staff and parent volunteers willing to help. This is a great event, generously supported by our larger science community.

Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to Kayla C and Sophie B – the winners of the FRCS Spelling Bee. They will go on to represent us at the Butte County Spelling Bee on March 14th.



Winter Gardening is Fun

We had the best salad ever on campus in February and we had more than enough for the whole school. The winter greens are growing very happily in this sunny weather. Thank you volunteer gardeners!



New Campus Art Work in Progress

As it turns out our custodian, Calvin Lindeman, is also an artist. He recently completed a mural on the shipping container next to our parking area, shown in progress below. We have really appreciated all his efforts at making our campus more beautiful over the last year and a half. Unfortunately, he recently left us for a job at a local bank. We wish you the best, Calvin!



Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners are leaving Antarctica and the Arctic, heading for Asia. Come check out our map of Asia decorated with tiger stripes and orange watercolor. A unit on measurement will focus on Mount Everest. If you have traveled to Asia or have a connection with this area, please come in and share stories, pictures, or cultural items such as textiles, food, or art.

Reading is the key to take you where you want to be! The 1st and 2nd graders will be diving into reading exploration during a language arts mini-unit. They will be reading many different stories that will help them master story sequencing, parts of speech, and comparing and contrasting. After spring break, they will learn about different inventors and their inventions. They will research how those people were smart in different ways and helped to create the world around them.

The 3rd and 4th graders are heading for Sutter's Fort. They have spun wool into yarn (see Katlyn C below), woven pouches and begun weaving reed baskets (see Austin, McKenna, and Sabrina below). These projects will be continued at Sutter's Fort in March. At the fort, there will be a live cannon demonstration, followed by students reenacting the Bear Flag Revolt.



Mrs. D.J.'s 5/6 class is headed west to swim amidst the Ancient Greeks. Students all have Greek names and are diving into the epic poetry of the Iliad and Odyssey, learning about the Greeks' myths and legends. Did you know that this ancient civilization is responsible for Democracy and the Olympics? The Greeks also made significant contributions to the arts, science, and philosophy. Get your swimsuit on and join us for this great adventure.