

Forest Ranch Charter School

March 2015



March 10 – Laxson field trip (Matoes and DJ)
March 10 – PTP meeting at 3PM
March 13 – Second Trimester Reports Cards
March 13 – Electives Day
March 13 – Pi Day
March 16-20 – Spring Break, No School
March 24 – Soccer starts in afterschool sports
March 27 – Electives Day
March 27 – Hands on Lab field trip
(McNulty and Copp)
March 27, 28 – Aladdin Jr at 7PM
(FR Community Center)
March 30 – The Great Egg Drop
April 2 – Balclutha field trip (Matoes)
April 3 – Staff Development Day, No School
April 6 – Travel Day, No School
April 7-10 – 7th grade San Francisco trip
April 7-10 – 6th grade Outdoor Ed Camp
April 9 – Laxson field trip (Stears/Ball)
April 10 – Assembly at 8:30AM

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

Spring is quickly approaching! Spring Break is a good time to catch up on some extra reading time with your child or explore classroom themes in greater detail. Students learn much more when families get involved with what they are learning. Please let us know if you need reading ideas or materials to use at home.

We have a busy end of the year filled with active learning experiences. We kick off spring with our musical Aladdin! Join us, March 27th and 28th, in supporting our young performers. This week, some of our Aladdin cast will be visiting Inspire High School to gain direction from Inspire's Musical Theater Troupe. A few weeks ago our young performing elective visited with and performed for residents at Riverside Seniors Home. We had a great time and hope to visit another Senior Center near the end of April.

We are preparing for upcoming overnight fieldtrips in the upper grades. Fifth graders will embark on Age of Sail, an interactive, maritime adventure in early April. Our 6th graders will head off to environmental education camp, Shady Creek, in Nevada City while our seventh graders will take in San Francisco and the Bay Area Coast. The seventh graders have worked hard to plan the itinerary, including the budget, menu, and best route for their assigned portions of the trip. These are just a few of the many activities filling the school calendar and we look forward to sharing these enriching activities with you and your child.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

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



Avari A, Jake W, Laura W, Cason P, Aby R, Lillian L, Dominick D, Sammy H, Sara W, Stella B, Emmaline D, Madeline D, Braydin M, Ellie W, Ashley S

Great Job! You are stars!

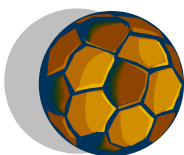
The March lifeskill is Curiosity. Do you wonder about how things work or why things are the way they are? Do you ask good questions? Curiosity is vital to learning – what do you want to know about?

FRCS Spelling Bee



The FRCS Spelling Bee was held on February 18th. We had two winners and two runners up. In the K-6 division, Zeb R came in first and Jesse T was runner up. For junior high, Gwen H came in first and Victoria L was runner up. They will move on to compete at the county level on March 6th – we wish them good luck!

Spring After School Sports



Our soccer rotation begins March 24th. We still have room for you! Signup 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

By Emma D

Foxes in Action – This month student leaders at FRCS got involved in our community’s recycling meeting. When student council heard about the changes in trash/recycling services for Forest Ranch we were concerned that we might lose recycling services. We held a meeting to discuss the problem and called Waste Management to confirm whether or not we would still get recycling. Their office was unsure what services we would end up with. We then decided to go to the recycling meeting to find out how they could help us make recycling happen for our homes and our school. At the meeting we met community leaders and the Waste Management representative, Ryan West. They gave a presentation and told us they weren’t required to have recycling, however, they were planning to recycle because so many people wanted it. Our Sustainability leader, Cali B, asked when this would start. Ryan said that recycling could happen as soon as they start new services on March 1. We learned that many people like having choices about the services they receive, but like Cali said, “If we all work together we can keep recycling happening!”

Mountain Music Festival Planning Time

It is that time of year again – Marlene and her Fabulous Fundraisers are beginning to plan the Mountain Music Festival. The festival, scheduled for May 30th this year, pays for our Arts and Music Program and is vital to our annual fundraising budget. It is a huge effort, which is made less stressful by many helping hands. Look for information coming home about how you can help with gathering donations and/or volunteering. Join us!

Aladdin Jr

Join us at the FR Community Center on March 27th or 28th, 7PM for our production of Aladdin Junior. Tickets \$7 adults \$5 for 12 and under.

Chico Bags Sales

The Chico Bag fundraiser was lots of fun and a great success. Thank you to all who helped sell



and who purchased bags. We raised \$1,138! The top three sellers were Trinity K, Liberty M, and Kaylee T

– they will be specially recognized at an upcoming assembly. Nicely done!

Community News

Kite Day – Sunday, March 29 is Chico Kite Day in Community Park from noon until 4PM. Bring your kite and hope for a breeze.

Monte Carlo Night – Saturday, March 21 is Monte Carlo Night at the FR Community Center. This adults-only night goes from 7PM until 10PM and is a FUN-raiser for the FR Community Association.

Pancake Breakfast/Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 28th join the FR Lions Club for breakfast and an egg hunt with the Easter Bunny. Breakfast begins at 8AM and the egg hunt is at 11AM. Wear your Easter bonnet for the parade!

Art Electives



Art is not limited to paper or canvas. It can be food or rocks in the dirt – just ask Makena W and Kyra K who

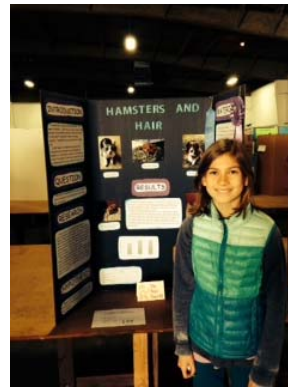
had fun making alternative art during electives this last week.



PTP News

Box Tops – Get those Box Tops in! We are slowly getting closer to our end of the school year goal so keep clipping, saving, and turning them in to the school office or Mrs. Stearns. We had \$43.00 worth of Box Tops turned in for the month of February. Congrats to Gabe S. the top Box Tops winner for February!

Science Fair Participation



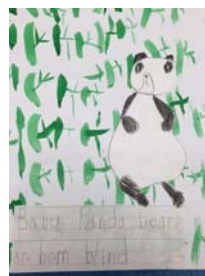
Once again we have a Best of Show winner among us! Niya P earned a Best of Show at the Chico Science Fair for her project called Hamsters and Hair. Overall we had twice the number of entries from FRCS this year than last, many of

which earned high placement. We are very proud of all our students. Way to go Foxes!

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners are putting two and two together as they learn about addition. We are adding everything from hearts for Valentine's Day to buttons, beads, and fish counters in a pond. They are making leaps in their reading skills as they become more proficient in blending sounds to read words and in recognizing more and more sight words.

Kindergarteners are learning about the continent of Asia. They enjoyed making their



own panda drawing along with a bamboo watercolor. Students worked on their writing skills while they wrote sentences about panda bear facts they learned.

The 1st and 2nd graders are getting some "rich" hands on experience in the world of economics. As they wrap up this unit, they will visit Safeway to experience interdependence of goods, services, producing and consuming and learn budgeting by buying something for only \$1. They are learning the benefits and obstacles of working in cooperative groups to create a business and film a commercial. The kids are excited to host the "Foxes Bazaar" where they will produce goods to sell to other students.

Third and fourth grade students continue to explore the usefulness of literature, for learning and enjoyment. Mrs. McNulty's class celebrated



Dr. Seuss Day and teamed with Mr. Ball's class to engineer and test race cars and read *Go Dog, Go!*;

while Mrs. Copp's class paired up with Mrs. Stearns' class to read *The Butter Battle Book* and enact a "silent ball" battle to decide how to eat their freshly made butter (bread with the butter side up... or down!).

Fifth graders enjoyed kicking off the month with Dr. Seuss. We enjoyed learning science by cooking and we're inspired by his books to do some of our own creative writing. Hands on Math had students figuring out how division of fractions works through hands on experiences, and discovering algorithms through these experiences. Next, we will be seeing how geometry is all around us. We are most excited about preparing for our overnight Age of Sail trip on the Balclutha. Our read aloud, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* and the game *Shipwrecked* have been engaging ways for us to learn what life at sea was like.



The last part of February in Mrs. D.J.'s 6/7 was a blast! We placed our solar system to scale in the field after a long wait due to rain

and we completed our annual D.J.'s Dash 5K in Bidwell Park. Our Science Projects are complete and will be on display March 3rd through 5th at the Silver Dollar Fair Grounds. Dr. Seuss Day is March 2nd, we will be having fun eating Green Eggs and Ham, making marshmallow and strawberry Cat in the Hats and creating a foldable that displays figurative language Seuss style.



The 7th Grade Science kids just completed a study of genes and heredity. In their online lab, 'Genes Make the Rabbit', they attempted to create white, floppy-eared rabbits from an initial pair of brown, straight-eared rabbits. Back to paper and pencil, the next challenge was to create a dog with particular, random genetic traits and conduct a DNA Extraction lab. In March they will work on how to identify organs and their functions and then it is frog dissection time! In seventh grade history, students completed a primary-source research project, 'Democratic Ideals of Ancient Rome', where they picked a side supporting or denying the existence of democratic practices, and either wrote a speech or a newspaper article. Finally, seventh graders are preparing for their April 7-10 expedition to San Francisco. Each student will be 'tour guide' for a day, during which they'll be responsible for routing, a destination, a formal learning activity, and meals. More on that later but it will be fun - and exhausting!