

Forest Ranch Charter School

May 3, 2011

EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

* These events occur at school unless otherwise noted.

- 5/3-5/6/2011: STAR Testing
- 5/6/2011: PTP Meeting 2:45pm
- 5/7 – 5/8/2011: Music Festival
- 5/10-5/12/2011: STAR Testing
- 5/12/11: Board Meeting 6pm
- 5/13/2011: NO SCHOOL
Staff Development Day
- 5/17/11: PTP Meeting 2:45pm
- 5/20/2011: Open House/Spring Concert
- 5/23/2011: Kindergarten Orientation 6:30pm
- 5/26/2011: Town Hall Meeting 6:30 PM
- 5/30/2011: NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
- 6/3/2011: PTP Meeting 2:45pm
- 6/9/2011: Half Day
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!
Have a great summer.

Director's Report

6th grade camp was a blast!! I was fortunate to be able to join the 6th graders for a couple of days at camp last week. A rocking, “environmentally focused” concert, a challenging, community building ropes course, and a Fun Night (the wild dance) were some of the events I was able to attend. The 6th graders had a great time and will hopefully be sharing some of their new songs with us at the next assembly.

We have finally set the date for the big Town Hall Meeting. This meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26 at 6:30PM. It is imperative that a member from each family attend to represent your interests as we move forward with planning for a fiscally tight year. Parents are encouraged to come without children. We will present current budget information and discuss solutions. This is an opportunity for all of us to pull together to support our children’s education. We are very committed to keeping a well rounded program that continues to provide differentiated learning goals and ample student support. Please attend and help us to make this happen! The orientation for incoming kindergarteners will be held on Monday, May 23. New kindergarten families do not need to attend both (of course, they are welcome if they want to attend). They will receive an abbreviated version of the discussion at their orientation.

We still have room for a few students for next year in K-2. Please help refer others so we can get those spaces filled. Less spent on advertising allows for more student services!

Families will receive an end of year survey. Please provide as much input as possible. This allows us to develop a more balanced and customized program.

Volunteers Needed

The Music Festival is this weekend. We still need multiple volunteers in many areas. This is a great way to rack up those volunteer hours and have fun at the same time. Contact Marlene at 894-6563 to find out what you can do to ensure we have funding for our music and arts programs next school year.

Class Projects Go To Support Music Program

Each classroom has been working very hard to create items for the Music Festival raffle/auction. Funds earned from these items go to support our music and fine arts program. Please come to the school on Friday to preview these fabulous creations. We have a mosaic birdbath, an ocean-theme quilt, an herb garden planter, a decorative antique milk can, and a surprise project from the kindergarteners. To bid on these priceless memories come to the Music Festival and support your school.

PTP Elections This Month

The PTP will be electing a new Vice President and Treasurer for the 2011-12 school year. If you would like to be considered for one of the positions, please contact Cheryl Marple or Melinda Boyd at the school. Elections will be held in May and the position will begin in June.

Board Elections This Month

The Board elections for the two open Parent Representative positions will be held in May. Candidate ballots will come home next week, to be returned before May 18 to be counted. If you don't receive your ballot, look for one on the website soon.

Lunch Program Update

Some of you who participated in our lunch program last school year had balances to apply to the new Healthy Lunch Program for this year. Those balances never transferred over and we finally tracked down why. The Healthy Lunch folks prefer that we refund those balances and not have them carry over. If you think you are owed some lunch money from last year please contact the school and we can arrange for a refund. Thank you for your patience with this transition.

CPR for FRCS Budget

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) breathes life into humans; Forest Ranch Charter School is hoping Community Partner Relationships (CPR) will breathe life into our upcoming budget. Public schools are facing yet another round of funding deferrals and reductions similar to those experienced in 2008 which resulted in the closure of Forest Ranch Elementary School.

The FRCS Board of Director's began discussions on how to handle the upcoming cuts at the March board meeting. While the extent and duration of the cuts are currently unknown, the results were still encouraging. Concerned community members attended and gave constructive input. The board, faculty and staff collaborated to identify cuts to our budget that will minimally affect classrooms. An optimistic plan for increasing fundraising was identified. If we can successfully implement the fundraising plan, harmful cuts to FRCS programs will not need to be made.

Success, defined as making further state funding cuts transparent to our students, will depend on family and community involvement. Families and community members will be encouraged to make

affordable, regular donations throughout the coming school year. Community partners will be asked to sponsor a budget line item. With your help, FRCS can continue to fulfill its purpose of providing an excellent community elementary school for Forest Ranch and an engaging alternative to CUSD for the Chico area.

Getting started:

- Download the Fox Fund form from the donations page on our website (www.forestranchcharter.org) to begin monthly automatic donations, or
- Commit to sending a monthly donation via cash or check, and
- Help us identify organizations, businesses or individuals interested in participating in the Community Partner Relationships (CPR) Program.

To learn more about how you can help and what challenges are facing FRCS over the next few years contact Christia Marasco or Lisa Speegle at 891-3178 (email lspeegle@forestranchcharter.org) or visit the Board of Director's table at the upcoming Mountain Music Festival.

Heard Around Campus

Ms. Palmarini (K) – The kindergarteners are learning about the animals found in the Arctic region and in Antarctica. They will be sure to tell you where the polar bears and penguins live if you ask them! They have also been doing a great job learning their sight words in fun ways such as 'sight word stomp' and throwing balls at 'wall words!'

Mrs. Stearns (1/2) – The first/second combo is continuing their discovery of the physical world. Experiments using foods and carbonated drinks are a frequently messy way to learn about solids, liquids, and gases.

Sound and vibration experiments include paper telephones, humming glasses, and shoebox guitars. Gravity studies will kick off with an egg drop event assisted by our friendly firefighters and their ladder truck. Check the website for photos of this one!

Ms. Lyons (2/3) – Can you really bend light? Why would you name a road 14-Mile House or Toll Gate? These questions and others will be answered by students. A wealth of information is waiting among several community volunteers who are joining us for presentations and a discovery field trip.

Ms. Matoes (4/5) – A visit to the Hands-On Lab at Chico State kicked off a unit on Matter. The whole school enjoyed watching the Jamestown play. The class is working on a water color map and students are taking turns teaching about the various states and regions in the US. Monet's water lilies in oil pastels are the subject of a new elective rotation and are beginning to brighten up the school office.

Mrs. Jimmerson (5/6) – Science, history, and geography combine for an adventure led by Lewis and Clark over the next few weeks. Plants and animal species will be discussed and mapped along the historic route. Sixth-graders are exhausted and exhilarated from their experiences at Shady Creek Outdoor Camp. New electives are starting and the multi-cultural cooking class is working on Thai coconut soup.