

Forest Ranch Charter School

May 2015



May 5 – After School Sports, basketball begins

May 8 – Electives Day

May 12 – Butte Humane Society field trip

May 12 – PTP Meeting, 3PM

May 14 – Open House/Spring Concert

May 22 – Electives Day

May 22 – Board of Directors ballots go home

May 25 – Memorial Day Observed, No School

May 28 – CUSD Nutrition Services BBQ

May 29 – Board of Directors Election Day

May 30 – Mountain Music Festival

June 4 – Last Day of School, dismissal at 12PM

SUMMER VACATION

August 19 – First Day of School

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

We are right in the thick of state testing. I have been very proud of students and teachers for being flexible with the challenges of the new test and scheduling around our limited bandwidth. Students have been doing their personal best and teachers have been very patient with the scheduling challenges. We will not receive whole school data (API; Academic Performance Indicators) but will receive data showing how individual students perform. We will use this data to help guide instructional decisions but recognize that the test is very new and students are not yet comfortable with the tools or the complexities of the material. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

On a positive note, we have received a High Speed Internet Grant and will have more than adequate bandwidth next year to implement a much more flexible testing schedule. We will be testing again next week and running make up tests the week of May 18th through the 22nd. Please help out by making sure your child is at school every day. With our internet challenges, make-ups are more difficult than they were with the paper-pencil test.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

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

Dane M, Charlie D, Emmalee A, Clarisse B, Nathan W, Aurora C, Zane A, Emma A, Emilee B, Jesse T, Lilly N, Kaden M, Aurora D, Avery H, Ember R, Sincere V, Leif H, Helena C



Great Job! You are stars!

The May lifeskill is Integrity. Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Is acting with integrity always easy? Can you give examples of times that you acted with integrity or maybe times that you did not? How did that make you feel?

Nutrition Services Annual Spring BBQ

Chico Unified Nutrition Services is once again hosting their annual spring BBQ for our students and their families. Lunch will include hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, salad, watermelon, cookies and milk. Regular lunch pricing applies. Come join us for a fun end of the year lunch on Thursday, May 28th.

Wood Chips Found!

We want to send out a great big thank you to FRCS parent John Alden and Rawe Tree Care for the two wonderful loads of wood chips donated to our garden so far. With the help of our Outdoor Ed Teacher and our students, we have wood chips laid down in about half the garden so far. This is really helping with weed control and looks very nice. Keep them coming!

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. Congrats to Carmen Mae P, the top Box Tops winner for March!

Student Council News

The Jump and Jog-a-Thon was a tremendous success. We raised over \$3,000 toward our running track and had a great time doing it. The



top jumpers were Ashley B, Sarah S, Emily W, and Jori G. The top joggers were Dane M, Charlie D, Gabe S, and Adam H.

Tdap Booster Required for 7th Grade

Sixth grade parents – don't forget that to enter 7th grade your students will need a Tdap booster. You will be turned away from school on the very first day without this on file with the school. Check with your doctor or the Butte County Department of Public Health to make sure your student is ready for 7th grade.



Facebook for FRCS

After a long wait, our Facebook page is actively working and being updated regularly. If this is something that you do, consider "liking" Forest Ranch Charter School and keeping up with things as they happen. The link is on our website homepage or you can search on Forest Ranch Charter School Facebook to find us.

Meet the Candidates

We have four strong candidates going on the ballot for the one open Parent Representative position on our Board of Directors. Those candidates are LaDawn Hall, Dana Thomas, Heather Hastain, and Julie Nilsson. Look for ballots coming home on May 22nd.

LaDawn Hall is the parent of one FRCS alumnus and one current FRCS student. She is also the incumbent, having been on the board for the last three years. LaDawn is a teacher at CORE Butte Charter.

Dana Thomas is the parent of one current FRCS student, is a CSU, Chico grad in Anthropology, was active in student leadership in school, and was the driving force behind our recent Chico Bags fundraiser.

Heather Hastain is the parent of two current FRCS students, an active volunteer on campus, and was a driving force in bringing the Home Schooling option to FRCS this year.

Julie Nilsson is the parent of one current FRCS student, a teacher for over 25 years between four different Chico elementary schools and two years teaching overseas, and has held various leadership positions in other schools.

Consumer Confidence Report

Our campus drinking water supply comes from a well located on our campus. The quality of this water is highly monitored. We have a water system operator who takes monthly samples and issues a Consumer Confidence Report regarding the quality and constituents of our water annually. If you are interested in reading this report, please visit our facilities page on our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/facility-information.html>.

PTP News

Wow, time flies when you are having fun! This school year has certainly flown by! As we celebrate the end of another successful school year the Parent Teacher Partnership Group is helping with a couple of last events.

Open House/Spring Concert Dinner - Join us for a pizza dinner in the multipurpose room on, Thursday, May 15th from 5:30 to 6:45, just before the Spring Concert. We will have pizza, a fruit or veggie, and water available for purchase as you peruse your child's classroom during open house which is held from 6 to 7 pm. The Spring Concert will then begin at 7:15 that evening.

Games Day - On Wednesday, June 3rd, we will be having an Outdoor Games and Water Melon Party! Please join us Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm as we celebrate our last week of school. Kids are encouraged to wear fast drying clothing but not swimsuits.

Last Day of School Schedule

Good news – the Boys and Girls Club will be open at noon on the last day of school this year. That means we will be able to drop off students after school that day. The bus will leave FRCS at 12:15 on Thursday, June 4th, arriving at La Castana at 12:30, Marsh at 12:40, and Boys and Girls Club at 12:50. Explorer's Club (after school care) will not be available on the last day of school.

May 30th – Mountain Music Festival

Saturday, May 30th we will celebrate our 7th Annual Mountain Music Festival event. This important FUN-raiser supports many school programs, such as our arts and music program. Check out the music festival website for details <http://www.forestranchmountainmusicfestival.com/>.

Your Fundraising Dollars at Work

Two more classrooms and a bathroom are coming to FRCS. Construction crews are working on the site preparation and buildings will arrive soon. We are very excited to have this additional space, ensuring classroom space for our middle school as well as specialty subjects such as art and music. This is your fundraising dollars at work – thank you!

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners have had a lot of fun learning all about metamorphosis and the life cycle of the butterfly. We began by reading The Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle, which students got to reenact with puppets. Students learned a new song about the stages of development from egg to butterfly and another fun caterpillar song that we may sing at our spring concert. The butterfly art that the kindergarteners made turned out beautiful! They will put it all in their theme books next week along with the two songs we've learned.

The 1st and 2nd Graders are continuing to learn about animals, plants, and the environments they live in. Students are working in groups on projects describing the 7 different biomes that are part of our world. We will culminate the unit with a Wildlife Experience in the cafeteria on Friday, May 29 from 1-2:40. Students are collecting money for the Butte Humane Society and they are very excited for the field trip on Tuesday, May 12. We are presenting the Humane Society with a check and learning about training and handling dogs.

Creative juices are flowing in the 3rd and 4th grade classes. They are writing and illustrating original stories which will become very special hard cover books. Their hand sewn bindings and custom covers make them look quite professional. Thanks to Quadco Printing for donating all the necessary paper! In math, students have been delving into the exciting world of geometry. Mastering the challenging

vocabulary and concepts through engaging hands-on activities will round out this unit.

Fifth graders had an amazing adventure on the Balclutha. We were impressed with student's ability to problem-solve, improve on skills that were very new to them, and figure out how to communicate with each other effectively. In history, we are learning about the people and events of the Revolutionary War that set the foundations for the country where we have the privilege to live. All people having liberty, opportunity, and a voice in their government was something radical, not too long ago. The students point out that we still have problems with our government and people being treated fairly, but it's a great platform for discussions about the importance of people being educated and speaking up for what they believe.

6th/7th grade is diving deep into the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) in the component of "Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems" with a study of how energy flows through the food chain to sustain life. After building glucose molecules and



discovering how they store and share energy, we built desk-top ponds. Seventh grade History finds them in an in depth study of Medieval Times with a feast coming this month. 6th Grade History will be traveling from the Constitution to the Civil war in our study of U.S. History.