

Forest Ranch Charter School

November 2013



November 1 – Assembly at 8:30AM
November 1 – Laxson Field Trip (3, 4, K)
November 2 – Sutter’s Fort Parent Training
November 6 – Family Math Night at 6PM
November 6 – Gateway Field Trip (5, 6)
November 7 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
November 8 – Electives Day
November 11 – Veteran’s Day, No School
November 19 – PBS Meeting, 3PM
November 19 – FRCS Board Meeting, 6PM
November 20 – Picture Make Up Day
November 21 – Hands on Lab Field Trip (5, 6)
November 22 – Electives Day
November 22 – report cards go home
November 25-29 – THANKSGIVING BREAK
December 3 – 5K Run Field Trip (5, 6)
December 3 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
December 6 – Assembly at 8:30AM
December 10 – Gateway Field Trip (3, 4)
December 13, 14 – Fall Musical

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

As much as we love spending time with our 6th graders, it is time to begin preparing them for their big transition to junior high. We will be discussing our growth plan and the implementation of an FRCS junior high at our next Board Meeting on November 19th. Please feel free to join us. Our Board meetings are open to the public and families are encouraged to be involved.

Last year, the FRCS Board voted to implement a junior high should we get enough students committed to enrolling. We did not move forward at that time due to the small number of interested students. This year, discussion will once again center on the fiscal and educational soundness of implementing a 7th grade when considering numbers of interested students and curriculum coordination.

Additionally, we will hold a Junior High Information evening on November 21 to apprise families of the various local junior high options. Some important dates to remember: Chico Unified School District’s registration starts December 1 (you need to go in and register even if Hank Marsh is your neighborhood school), Sherwood Montessori’s open enrollment period starts on December 1, Chico Country Day’s open enrollment starts November 1, and Wildflower Open Classroom’s open enrollment starts on January 27. Please call if you have any questions prior to the meeting.

Christia

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

Kindergarten – Harrison B, Quentin C
1st Grade – Hannah R
2nd Grade – Annekah R, Gavin D, Emerson S
3rd Grade – Alexander D, Kaylee M
4th Grade – Tyler P, Hayley J
5th Grade – Finn M
6th Grade – Sarah S



The LifeSkill for November is Cooperation. What techniques do you use to encourage cooperation with your friends? Your family members? What works? What does not work? Why?

Run to New York Anyone?

Join the fifth and sixth graders each Tuesday and Thursday as they run laps around the big field on their way to New York. So far they have run 533 miles toward their hypothetical target. They are training for a 5K field trip in Bidwell Park on December 3rd.



Family Math Night

Join us on Wednesday November 6th for Family Math Night. The fun will begin at 6PM and should be wrapped up by 8PM. Donations and volunteers are still needed – check with the office for information. There will be lots of fun and challenging math-oriented activities and games. Come play with us!

Joke of the Month

Q: What do you get with a box of ducks?
A: Quackers



Common Core and STAR Testing Update

Every kid's dream has come true – testing is cancelled. Did we get your attention? That statement is partially true. The language art and math portions of the STAR test, usually given in the spring to second grade and above, have been cancelled. The science STAR test will be given.

In place of the language arts and math STAR tests, students will be taking a field test of the new Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress (MAPP) test. This will not be a test of our students but rather a test of the new test. No individual or school level results will be shared with the school or families. For this year only, measurement of school achievement and our student's growth will be based on internal assessments alone.

The MAPP test is a computer-based adaptive test design to measure a student's understanding of common core standards-based skills. In preparation, FRCS purchased 25 new laptop computers and doubled the internet bandwidth available at the school for increased connectivity. More technology upgrades are planned. Together we look forward to mastering the MAPP. For more information on MAPP and Common Core, visit the CDE at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp>.

Holidays Are Coming to Forest Ranch

Children love to give gifts to family members and each other. Since none of our students can legally drive, the challenge for them is secrecy. Reindeer Lane will be here in early December with very affordable gifts and do-it-yourself gift wrapping. Look for more information soon about shopping dates and volunteer opportunities.

Keeping Kids Healthy

Healthy kids are better learners. If your family does not have health insurance, we encourage you to investigate the new, low-cost coverage available since October 1, 2013 as part of the Affordable Care Act. For more information or to apply online, visit www.coveredca.com. Ask in the office if you need help applying or want more information about available coverage.



Edible Art Anyone?

One of the many fall elective choices is Art & Movement with Mrs. Stearns. In October they made edible art with healthy food choices. Love that carrot!

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners are learning about North America, including the Pledge of Allegiance, the history of the American flag, and other national and state symbols. While studying communities, we are reading books, watching videos, and talking about different types of houses from around the world. As a math/ art

project, students are making beautiful houses from a selection of shapes.

"It's a bird, it's a plane, it's the 1st and 2nd graders! Both classes are wrapping up their physical science unit with a hands on trip to The Gateway Science museum to explore forces and motion. They were introduced to the first "creative thinker" of the year, Sir Isaac Newton, and will continue to experiment with his 3 Laws of Motion. Up next they are headed to America as European immigrants for their new history/social science unit!"



Third and fourth graders are having a hauntingly good time building light-up haunted houses using their new knowledge of electricity. They are also writing ghoulish descriptions of their haunted houses and what lurks inside. We are excited about our upcoming field trip to Laxson on November 1st to see Jack Hanna's "Into the Wild."

Shake, rattle, and roll with the fifth/sixth grade as they explore plate tectonics. My recent honeymoon trip to the Grand Canyon will provide some personal perspective on the effects of plate tectonics, erosion, and uplift. It will be wonderful to use my "being there" experience to immerse the kids in this area of science. A Gateway Science Museum trip on November 6th, which has a display on Plate Tectonics and a Hands on Lab at Chico State about Plate Tectonics on November 21st will complete our geological adventures.

Farewell to a Friend

Terry Sheffield, our Office Manager and friend, is moving on to another job. November 8 will be her last official day here at the school. While we are trying to be very happy for her, we will all miss her very much – best of luck Terry!



Student Council News

The new student government representatives have announced their first event – the canned food drive, benefiting the Jesus Center, will run from November 4th through November 22nd. Please send canned or non-perishable food items with your students toward the drive. Student government will be charting the donations as they arrive, tracking progress toward their goal.

Attendance Race

The attendance race is a continuous event throughout the school year. Each week the classroom with the best attendance gets a little extra recess – they love that! Mrs. DJ and Mrs. McNulty are off like rockets this year.

Lost and Found Piles

With the weather change we have had some cold kids up here. If you are missing a sweater or a jacket it may be in our VERY LARGE PILE of lost and found. Please remember that our weather up here in Forest Ranch is cooler than down in the valley and dress accordingly.

Field Trip Fun



The Attendance Race - Months 1 - 2

