

Forest Ranch Charter School

November 2014



November 4 – Gold Nugget Museum field trip
(Matoes)

November 6 – School Advisory Council, 3PM

November 7 – Electives Day

November 7 – Gold Nugget Museum field trip
(Copp/McNulty)

November 11 – Veteran’s Day, No School

November 12 – Laxson field trip (Jimenez)

November 13, 14 – Book Fair on campus

November 13 – Downtown FR field trip
(Palmarini)

November 14 – Assembly at 8:30AM

November 18 – PTP Meeting, 3PM

November 18 – Board Meeting, 6PM

November 19 – Picture Retake Day

November 20 – Verbena Fields field trip
(Matoes)

November 21 – Electives Day

November 21 – Character Day

November 24 - 28 – Thanksgiving Week
No School

December 5 – Electives Day

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

I am enjoying autumn with our students. We have taken a few play trips to our nature area “behind the fence” and many of us have been busy working on our musical, Aladdin.

As most of you know we are in the process of renewing our school’s charter. We turned in our petition for charter renewal at CUSD’s meeting in October. We have an opportunity to present at November’s meeting on the 19th. The meeting is at 6:00PM at the downtown City offices. Please feel free to attend to support our school.

Our Safety and Wellness Committees held their first meetings of the year. We are very proud of the growth our school made in overall fitness on campus (Morning Movement, running, Afterschool Sports, more running..). Our Wellness Committee set goals for the 2014/2015 year. We continue to work on fitness, but our priority areas for the year are Healthy Eating and Health Education. Health Education is focused on healthy lifestyle and the prevention of illness. We will be learning about proper hand washing, the benefits of adequate sleep and proper nutrition, as well as the spread of germs. We hope to partner with families this year to improve the wellness of all of our children.

Our School Advisory Council still needs to meet. This Council helps work on our LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan), making educational and other program related decisions, and putting together proposals for the FRCS Board. Another Advisory Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 11th at 3:00. Please let us know if you are interested in being involved. We are in need of a few more parent participants.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

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

Rodney M, Evan T, Sybil H,
Madeline H, Siena B, Elyjah K,
Hayley J, Kylie M, Sabrina H,
Ashley B, Charlie D, Quinn A,
Lakai S, and Eunavae S.



The November lifeskill is responsibility. Webster's Dictionary defines responsibility as doing something because it is morally right. Can you think of a time you demonstrated responsibility? For what are you responsible?

Committee Meetings

School Advisory Council – The next School Advisory Council will be held on December 11th at 3PM. This vital group works closely with Ms. Marasco regarding the educational direction and vision of the school. Goals identified recently for both our accountability plan and our rechartering will be a focus for this group.

After School Sports



November brings flag football and hockey to after school sports.

These combined sports begins on November 13th. Families can sign up for Tuesdays, Thursdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program is fee-based but scholarships are available. Visit our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/after-school-sports.html> for the sign-up sheet or contact the office for scholarship information.

Water Conservation

The results are in and we had success! Our on campus water conservation efforts resulted in 20% less water used on campus from May through October 2014 than during the same time period in 2013. Irrigation water usage is down 18% and potable water usage is down 26%. Congrats to all who helped us achieve our goal.



Student Council News

Elections held in October resulted in Student Government Officers as follows:

President – Nathan W
Vice President – Rodney M
Co-Treasurers – Olyvia G and Kiya H
Secretary – Diego B-R
Community Liaison – Victoria L
Sustainability Coordinator – Calise B
Student Store Coordinator – Sara W
Sports Director – Austin M
Publicity Director – Aliyah B
Co-Activities Directors – Emma D & Carmen P
Class Reps – Katlyn Cruson & Sabrina Howell

Spirit Days - We decided upon our spirit days and had a successful "Super Hero Day" on October 24th. Our next Spirit Day is "Favorite Character from a Book, Movie, TV Show," and will be Friday, November 21st.

Student Store - The Student Government Store will be open for business November 13th, selling healthy food choices and Smens, which are scented pens. We will be open from 8:00-8:15 am and 2:35 to 2:55pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, located on the sidewalk in front of Lisa Speegle's office.

Canned Food Drive – Our canned food drive begins Monday, November 10th and ends Friday, November 21st. Please donate cans in your classroom. All canned food will be donated to the Jesus Center.

Faculty Fun at Halloween Parade



PTP News

Box Tops – Great job Forest Ranch! The Box Tops continue to keep rolling in! Remember to save them up, put them in a baggie marked with your name, and give them to Mrs. Stearns or put them in the Box Tops basket in the office.

The Top Box Top winner for the month of October was...Elyjah K!

Book Fair – Visit our Scholastic Book Fair in the library at Forest Ranch Charter School on November 13th and 14th, 2014. If you're an early riser, come at 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. and shop for books while kids enjoy supervised playtime before school. Free muffins, pumpkin bread and coffee will be available for grown-ups. You can also visit the book fair between 2:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the library. Bring your kids to Read Aloud Night from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. both Thursday and Friday nights. Kids can listen to stories and enjoy cocoa, popcorn and snacks in the cafeteria while parents shop at the Book Fair.



If you cannot make it to our in-school Book Fair, you can begin your book shopping during our Online Book Fair from November 5th – 25th. Featuring books for all ages, all online purchases benefit our school. Check out the *Book Fair online* link on the FRCS website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/>. All online orders will be delivered to Forest Ranch Charter School. For questions, call the school at 891-3154 or email Shannon Meyers at shanaugh@hotmail.com.

A History of Veteran's Day

On November 11, 1918 World War I officially ended. That day was declared a holiday named Armistice Day. In 1954, after experiencing both World War II and the Korean War, the holiday was renamed Veteran's Day as a day to honor US veterans of all wars. It is one of the few holidays that is not moved to a three-day weekend, but remains on November 11 regardless of the day of the week. This year we have school on Monday 11/10, but no school Tuesday 11/11. Remember to honor those who have served in our country's military service, especially on Veteran's Day.

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners have been having some autumnal fun! We took a trip to TJ Farms to search for the perfect pumpkin. Students also enjoyed feeding the animals and learning about farms and food while we were there. Back in class we spent one day exploring pumpkins and conducting a sink or float experiment with five pumpkins of varying sizes. Students were excited to make predictions and create a bar graph showing how many thought the pumpkins would sink and how many thought they would float when placed in a large tub of water. They cheered as each pumpkin was dropped in the water and tried to explain why all the pumpkins floated.

The 1st and 2nd graders have become time travelers! They started exploring the idea of past, present and future with their new social science unit. After discovering what archaeologists do through a fun excavation activity in the sandbox, they came across the Ancient Mayan culture. They will spend the next several weeks learning about the Mayans, and then they will travel further in time to learn about the Ancient Romans. They will do a cross cultural comparison of the two through many engaging hands on activities. The kids have also started their new science lab unit on the solar system and astronomy!

Sir Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion came into "force" when the 3rd and 4th graders completed a scientific inquiry on the playground. They are continuing to learn about his 3 laws and how they affect our daily lives. The students have also been writing very spooktacular narratives and enjoyed sharing them with other classes and little buddies. On Nov. 7th both classes are off to the Gold Nugget Museum in Paradise to experience firsthand the life of a Maidu Indian.

It's getting stormy in fifth grade as students fly into their weather unit. Hopefully, we'll get some rain storms so we can use our new rain gauge and enter the data on a global site! We'll also use our creative sides as we use our new weather knowledge to write stories and newscasts.



As we strive to understand our natural world we'll be guided by the Native Americans that lived in the various regions of the United States. We'll be making coil bowls, planting native

plants, and continuing to learn from our inspirational trip to the Gold Nugget Museum that was focused on the Maidu Native Americans. Through literature, we'll gain a better understanding of the relationships between Native Americans and new European Settlers. There is much to explore this time of year!



Mrs. DJ's class is very busy in November. The sixth graders will be studying the early explorers of the Americas, our Solar System, the different ways to mathematically display and translate proportions, and The Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell. Seventh graders are moving to Biochemistry, the Mayan, Incan and Aztec cultures, arithmetic properties to accurately simplify mathematical expressions, and Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. The whole class will be writing persuasive essays and attending the Pilobolus performance at Laxson Auditorium on November 12th.

Lost and Found Collection

We have once again accumulated a tremendous collection of lost and found. During the Thanksgiving Break this will be donated to Goodwill. Please make sure to collect things that belong to you before the break. Thank you.