

Forest Ranch Charter School

November 2015



November 2 – CUSD Turkey Feast
November 4 – Field Trip, Hands on Lab (DJ)
November 6 – No School, Staff Development
November 10 – PTP Meeting, 3PM
November 11 – No School, Veteran’s Day
November 13 – Assembly at 8:30AM
November 13 – Electives Day
November 13 – Chico Bag and See’s kickoff
November 17 – FRCS Board Meeting, 5PM
November 18 – Picture Make Up Day
November 19 – Stone Soup Day
November 20 – Electives Day
November 23-29 – No School, Thanksgiving
November 30 – Chico Bag and See’s ends
December 4 – Assembly at 8:30AM
December 8 – PTP Meeting at 3PM
December 11 – Electives Day
December 17 – Winter Concert and Multi-Cultural Night

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

STEM day was a great success thanks to our three STEM leaders (Mrs. McNulty, Mrs. Sellu, and Mrs. DJ). Teachers have been working hard to bring new Science, Engineering, and Technology activities into their classrooms. Please help us to encourage curiosity and innovation by helping your child to figure out how things work and to solve household problems at home and in the world around you.

This month we will be sharing soup at our Stone Soup Day. Next we move into an additional mini-unit exploring a foreign country to present at our Multi-Cultural Festival in December. Many of our elective and performance groups will be preparing this month for a Dinner Showcase on December 5th. Our Dance, Show Choir electives, members of Intermediate Band, a few individual students, and possibly teachers will be performing. Student art will be sold at the accompanying mini-auction.

On another note, the weather is changing. Please send your student with warm clothes. It has been very chilly and sometimes the weather is significantly different in Forest Ranch compared to Chico.

Christia Marasco

LifeSkill Heroes

The following students were recognized in October for their outstanding use of LifeSkills:



Anjelli D, Taran V, Elyjah K, Emma R, McKenna L, Quentin C, Maddy H, Ashley B, Empress V, Avery H, Adam W, Siena B, Sybil H, Lauren H, Gwen H, and Grace A.

Great Job! You folks are super stars!

After School Sports

Try out Fitness and Strength Conditioning! New to our sports program this year, Fitness begins on November 10 and runs through December 3.



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.

Election Day – We have our new student leadership team in place and taking action. They are Sarah S, School President; Sara W, School Secretary; Aliyah B, Elementary President; Kyra Koehler, Elementary Treasurer; Emilee B, Student Store Coordinator; Sabrina H, Publicity/Activities Director; Empress V, Elementary Secretary



Community News

Operation Christmas Child – This program, sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse, collects and delivers shoe boxes filled with fun things to children around the world. This is a great opportunity to “pay it forward”, bringing the spirit of the season to our children in a very real way. For participation rules and cost information please contact Dorothy and Gene Rolls at 899-6944. They will be collecting the finished boxes here at the school the week of November 16th.

Student Council Events

Unicorn Day – Mr. Connor’s class won the Unicorn Trophy for most participation. There were some very interesting and creative unicorns on campus in October.

Character Day – November 20th is Character Day. Dress as your favorite character from a book or a movie.

Canned Food Drive – student government is hosting a canned food drive for the Jesus Center from November 2nd through November 16th. The class that brings in the most cans will receive a stuffed Oscar the Grouch trophy.

Student Store – the student store is once again selling healthy snacks before and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Charter Myths Dispelled

It is surprising how many people still have misconceptions about charter schools. Last month the California Charter School Association began a series called the “Truth about Charter Schools.” Truth #2 in the series is that charter schools serve all students. A common myth persists that charter schools skim or cherry-pick the best students from traditional public schools. Not only is this false, it is illegal. The truth is that charter schools are public

schools and serve all students who want to attend. According to the California Department of Education (CDE), during the 2014-15 school year 56% of charter school students qualified for free or reduced lunch, 49% were Hispanic/Latino, 30% were White, 17% were English Language Learners, and because charters are designed to have more flexibility than traditional schools they are frequently uniquely able to provide innovative, high-quality services to student with exceptional learning needs. Support for charter schools continues to grow across the country – spread the news!

Fundraising News

See's Candy Fundraiser – This popular holiday season fundraiser is back again this year. Sales information will come home on November 13 and the fundraiser ends on November 30.

Chico Bag Sales – Once again our students will be selling Chico Bags. Sales information will come home on November 13 and the fundraiser ends on November 30. Please visit our website at www.forestranchcharter.org for an online catalog.

Nature's Vision – Thank you to all those who sold items or bought items during the Nature's Vision fundraiser. The event was very successful, raising over \$1,400 for the school. Top selling students were Kaylee T, Lucas F, and Lilly N – nice job folks!

Annie B's Fundraiser – Annie B's 2015 was a great success. Forty-six individuals and business donated in support of FRCS, raising over \$8,000 for the school. For a complete list of donors, please visit our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/annie-bs-campaign.html>. We are so grateful for all the support of our families and community members. Thank you!

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners had fun in the classroom these past several weeks. After our field trip to TJ Farms, we spent two days exploring pumpkins. Students made observations about their pumpkins; ordered them from smallest to largest; learned about estimation as they made educated guesses on how many seeds were in one of our pumpkins; and made a cute pumpkin lifecycle model. Students also conducted a sink or float experiment with their pumpkins after making predictions and creating 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. Students were very curious as each pumpkin was dropped in the water and tried to explain why all the pumpkins floated. With this experiment, students learned about density, water pressure and observed how water is displaced as objects are placed in it.



The 1st and 2nd graders wrapped up our Immigration unit with an Ellis Island simulation. Many students were welcomed to America and sadly, an unfortunate few were sent back to the boat. Next we are studying Brazil. The school has been hosting an Olympic Games and we are taking a closer look at the host country of the 2016 Summer Olympics. We will be virtual-touring Rio de Janeiro, learning about Brazilian culture, and exploring the Amazon Rain Forest. Our unit will culminate with Multi-Cultural Night on Thursday, Dec. 17 with a taste of Brazilian cuisine. If anyone has anything to share on, about, or from Brazil we would love to be part of it.

Spooktacular writing was happening in the 3rd and 4th grade classes as they practiced writing descriptive paragraphs about haunted houses, and Friday the 30th was a perfect day to share their creativity following the Halloween parade. Our current study of folktales is continuing in a WebQuest about Fables. Students are learning how to read information from several links, navigate two pages on their Chromebook screens at once, record information and save it to Google Docs, and print. Next they will be writing their own scripts and performing a fable for the class. In social studies, we are learning about the geography of California through mapping skills and projects. This knowledge will help students connect the great diversity of climate in our regions with their study of the first settlers to our great state.

Fifth graders finished the novel, Pay it Forward and are working on response to literature essays. As Trevor was in the book, they are inspired to make a positive impact on their world. We are forming Literature Circle groups to read historical fiction books related to our Native American Unit, Island of the Blue Dolphins and Sign of the Beaver. A highlight of our history unit will be students creating collaborative presentations on their Google Drive accounts, focusing on a specific region in the United States, the Native Americans that lived in that region, and how they lived based on the resources available to them. We will be building a native shelter for the school to use as well as a garden of native plants that other classes can learn from. After attending our Photosynthesis Hands on Lab at Chico State, we are learning more about plants and how plants, animals, and our environment are all interconnected in the Web of Life. Through songs, hands on activities, and art students will learn about the concept of interdependence. The fifth graders enjoyed being teachers to the first and second graders during the school's first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Day. We look forward to finding more ways to make a positive impact at our school.



Sixth grade is heating up! We are learning about the three forms of heat transfer and the effect that convection, conduction and radiation have on our weather patterns. As part of the Chico State STEM Program we are participating in, students enjoyed a lesson on wind power. Students created their own blade shape and placing it on a hub to test for maximum output of milliamps and to see whether their design could create enough kinetic energy to power a light bulb. History has us in the Middle East coming out of Mesopotamia and into the continent of Africa landing in Egypt. We are studying the development of early civilizations and how geography effected their development.



In 7th and 8th grade, time flies when you are having fun! By the time we arrive at Thanksgiving break we will have successfully accomplished an assembly skit with the theme "Initiative". We will have also had a school-wide game day based on the book A Wrinkle in Time. We will also have had a great debate about the differences between two worlds; a world of free choice and a world where all of your needs are met. Scientifically speaking, we will have figured out the differences between elastic and inelastic forces.