

# Forest Ranch Charter School

October 2011



October 4 – PTP mtg at 2:45PM  
October 5 – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> field trip, Into the Woods  
October 5 – Science Discovery Day  
October 7 – Assembly at 8:30AM  
October 7 – Elective Day  
October 8 – Fall Festival / Downtown  
October 10 – Picture Day  
October 13 – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> field trip, Wind Chime  
October 13 – FRCS Board Meeting, 6PM  
October 14 – Staff Development, No School  
October 15 – Mother/Son Sports Day  
1-3PM at Wildwood Park  
October 18 – PTP meeting at 2:45PM  
October 19 – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> field trip, Hands on Lab  
October 21 – Assembly at 8:30 AM  
October 27 – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> field trip, Patrick Ranch  
October 28 – Elective Day  
October 31 – Costume Parade / Pumpkin Drop  
November 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> field trip  
Gold Nugget Museum  
November 5 – Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser, 5-7PM

## Director's Report

Fall is here and we have many events coming up. Don't miss the Mother/Son Sports Day on October 15 and the Full Moon Festival on October 22. We could still use help with Full Moon Festival events (set up, manning stations, and clean up). There are many other fall festivals coming up. This Saturday, downtown Forest Ranch will hold their annual Fall Festival. PTP will be selling burritos as a school fundraiser. Come join us for lunch. Another opportunity this weekend is Nord Country School's Harvest Festival. They will have wheat grinding, rope making, blacksmithing and more. The Library in Chico holds their Fall Festival on October 15. There will be local authors/illustrators, live music, fun children's games and a great book swap!

Students and staff have been working hard on a positive campus atmosphere using LifeSkills. The August LifeSkill was Friendship. See article below for the class heroes. The LifeSkill for October is Patience. Please talk to your child about what this means and model patience at home. Have your child look for examples in the world around them, and in story and movie characters. I usually prefer books to movies, but saw a heartwarming film last weekend that ties in nicely with our school theme of self-reliance. The film, "Dolphin Tale," is based on a true story about two kids who were able to make a difference.

Finally, we are investigating school team sports. We are looking at soccer and basketball options. Some interest has been expressed in getting a basketball team together for 4-6 grade boys or girls. These team sports are offered for all grades. If you have an interest in having your child play, coaching a team or helping with financial support please let us know. We are assessing interest and would like to help make these things happen for our students.

*Christia*

## Dutch Garden Fundraiser

The PTP Bulb Fundraiser ends on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure your orders are turned in right away so that our PTP volunteers can process them and get the bulbs on their way to our supporters. Thank you!

## FRCS Thanks Love Chico

Sunday September 25 was Love Chico Day at FRCS. It was a perfect day for working hard outside, cool and cloudy with rain threatening. Approximately twenty-five enthusiastic volunteers from the Love Chico group showed up around 8:30AM. By noon, when the rain began to drizzle down on us, we had repainted the lines on the blacktop, removed some fencing in the garden area, removed several patches of vinca and blackberry in various areas of campus, and prepared the picnic table area for a layer of decomposed granite to keep little shoes cleaner during lunch time. Our students were so surprised to see these changes Monday morning. We are very grateful for this wonderful organization and are looking forward to next year already. Thank You Love Chico!



## FRCS T-shirts

School t-shirts went home in September for all new students. These t-shirts are for wearing during school field trips to help chaperones keep track of our students. If your child does not have a t-shirt please ask the office or your child's teacher for a shirt. If your child has outgrown, ruined or lost their shirt please ask for another. We also have these shirts in adult sizes for purchase at any time. More colorful shirts are in the process of being designed. If you have suggestions pass them on soon.

## Heard Around Campus

Mrs. Palmarini's class is focused on community and citizenship. The downtown Forest Ranch field trip is always a big hit. The students visit the Post Office, the Store, and have lunch at The Ranch Grill. They are also learning about what it means to be a hero and how little things can make a big difference in their community and the world.

Mrs. Stearns and Mrs. Bodney are a great team. This year we are excited to have our first pair of multi-grade classes working together as a learning unit. This configuration will grow over the years until we have a kindergarten, two 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, two 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and two 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. It is rewarding to see these teachers discovering the advantages of being a team: sharing resources; planning together; trading students for special projects and subjects; and helping each other with challenges.

Ms. Matoes reports that her 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class is off to an exciting start. Highlights are ice balloon exploration followed by student chosen investigations, iris planting with local volunteers, and magnetism labs. We enjoyed the kid power themed book, Frindle by Andrew Clements and are starting fairy tales, myths, and fables to go

along with our upcoming field trip to see "Into the Woods" at Laxson.

Mrs. Jimmerson's class just returned from a 3-mile hike to Bumpass Hell in Lassen Volcanic Park. We observed boiling mud pots, boiling pools, fumaroles, steaming vents, and more. Teambuilding and Earth science combined! For Punctuation Day we made group punctuation posters, and practiced our "punctuation sound effects!" Students are writing persuasive essays about "what is the perfect class pet". Look for the results soon as we introduce our new addition. In social studies we are beginning a unit about early humans and will have a museum box of early human skulls from Chico State in our classroom!

### **The Attendance Race Kindergarteners Take an Early Lead**

Hourly employees understand that if they don't come to work they don't get paid. Just like hourly employees, if students don't come to school then the school doesn't get paid. It does not matter if the absence is excused - no attendance, no money. Attendance has never been more critical than in this time of budget cuts. Our attendance goal is 96%. The Kindergarteners have taken an early lead in the race this school year. See chart below.

### **LifeSkill Heroes – Friendship**

The LifeSkill for September was Friendship. Teachers nominated students from each class that they felt best represented this lifeskill during the month. The heroes for Friendship are:

Kindergarten – Ashley S., Coleman B.

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> (Bodney) – Sierra B., Elijah J.

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> (Stearns) – Hayden B., Skyler W.

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> – Josette T., Zane A.

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> – Avia B., Makenzi W.

### **Wellness Policy Committee**

In the news lately has been the Wellness Policy for CUSD. Booster clubs are upset at the dictate that they cannot sell sodas, cookie dough, and other unhealthy foods in support of CUSD schools. The Wellness Policy is a new federal mandate for anyone who receives funding for the National School Lunch Program. FRCS is forming a committee to assist with framing our Wellness Policy in compliance with our lunch program funding. We need parents, community members, students and staff to join the committee and determine guidelines for school policy relating to food on campus. Please contact the office if you are willing to help or have input on this subject.

