

# Forest Ranch Charter School

## October 2015



October 1 – Field Trip, Hand on Lab (McNulty)

October 1 – Safety Committee Meeting, 3PM

October 2 – Assembly at 8:30AM

October 2 – Student Government Elections

October 5 – Field Trip, Bidwell Park (Sellu)

October 9 – Conference Day, No School

October 12 – Picture Day

October 13 – PTP Meeting, 3PM

October 15 – Field Trip, Hands on Lab (Sellu)

October 16 – Electives Day

October 19 thru 23 – Book Faire

October 19 – Field Trip, Laxson (Jimenez)

October 21 – Field Trip, TJ Farms (Palmarini)

October 22 – STEM Day on campus

October 30 – Electives Day

October 30 – Middle School Dance, 6:30PM

November 2 – CUSD Turkey Feast

November 4 – Field Trip, Hands on Lab (DJ)

November 6 – No School, Staff Development

November 10 – PTP Meeting, 3PM

### From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

Everyone continues to work hard “impacting today”. Students have been doing a great job supporting one another across campus. I have been proud of our students working together to solve problems and make sure that everyone on campus feels safe and included. Parent Conferences are coming up. This is a good time to let your student’s teacher know more about your child’s learning needs and how they are feeling about school. It is also a time to work as a team to set yearly learning goals for your student and discuss their progress. On Conference Day, Positive Behavior Support and learning reference and resource materials will be available in the Science room. Please stop in to learn more about how you can support your child’s learning at home and school.

We have a few exciting events coming up! The Middle School students are gearing up for their first Social/Dance. This will be a laid back, low pressure opportunity for them to have some fun and get together without the younger students. While most of them are very gracious about including the younger students, they are getting older and at times want to embrace their new interests and have some time for themselves. The event will happen on Friday, October 30 from 6:30 – 9:30PM. Students are able to invite a 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade friend and non-hovering parents are welcome. You can expect a detailed event flyer in the next few weeks. In the meantime please let me know if you have any input.

*Christia Marasco*

## LifeSkill Heroes

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

Katelyn P, Ember R, Cason P, Abbigail M, Sincere V, Jessi W, Jori G, Lucas F, Hannah R, Abby R, Erik R, Emma D, Carmen Mae P, Niya P, Tyree G, Victoria L



Great Job! You folks are super stars!

## After School Sports

Baseball runs September 29 through October 15, and then soccer begins October 20 and ends November 5. 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.

## Attendance and Funding

Most people realize that schools are paid based on daily attendance. Not all people realize that schools are **not** paid for **excused** absences. When a student is here, even for a small part of the day, we receive about \$40 for that day. When a student is absent, for any reason at all, we receive nothing. Last year we lost more than \$30,000 in funding due to absences.

What can we do to prevent these losses? Short-term independent study is one answer. This option is available for illnesses or planned absences, such as trips out of town. When you are arranging for make-up work for your child, please discuss short-term independent study with your child's teacher. Not only will it keep students caught up on school work, it will also keep school funding maximized.

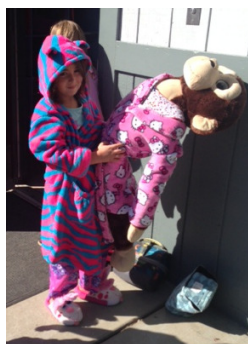
## 2015 Dinner/Auction

Thank you to all who attended our Dinner/Auction event on September 25<sup>th</sup>. We had a great crowd and lots of fun bidding on both silent and live auction items. The music before and after dinner was wonderful. We brought in over \$15,000 to be shared by Forest Ranch Charter School, BEEP, and the Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council.

## Scholastic Book Fair Coming

Volunteers are needed to staff the Book Fair! Schedule is for afternoons starting Monday 10/19 through Friday 10/23. Please sign up in the front office or contact Shannon Meyers at 893-8031 or [shanaugh@hotmail.com](mailto:shanaugh@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

## Student Council Events



**PJ Day** – Held in September, PD Day is always a favorite. We had lots of comfy kids and staff that day.

**Unicorn Day** – October 23 is Unicorn Day. Put on your best horn and show your Fox spirit.

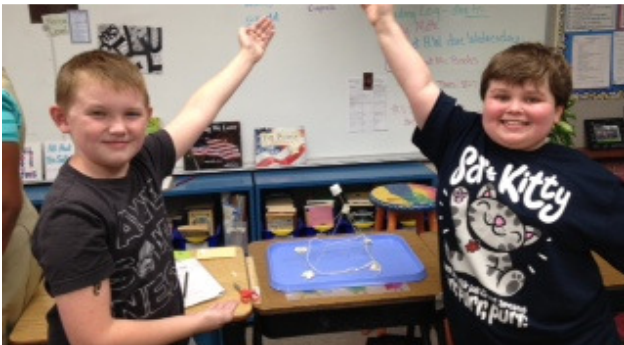
**Election Day** – October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the day for 2015-16 Student Government elections. All candidates interviewed a community member holding a similar position. Students used the interview material to write an essay, matching the characteristics of their interviewees to their own great leadership skills. Campaign materials and persuasive speeches given to the student body topped off the events.

Question: Why did the germ cross the microscope?

Answer: To get to the other slide!

## Charter Myths Dispelled

It is surprising how many people still have misconceptions about charter schools. The California Charter School Association is beginning a series called the "Truth about Charter Schools" this month. Truth #1 in the series is that charter schools are public schools. Subject to the same requirements and academic standards as traditional schools, charter schools are: tuition-free and open to all students; may not discriminate on any basis; are publicly funded based on attendance, just like traditional schools; are held accountable to state and federal academic standards; may not engage in selective admissions policies; must accept all students, including students with disabilities; and may use a process to randomly select students if there are more interested students than available seats. Almost 9% of California public school students attend charters (547,800 students attending 1,184 charter schools with 158,000 on waiting lists). Almost 18% of public school students in Chico attend charters. Support for charter schools continues to grow across the country – spread the news!



## Heard About Campus

Kindergarten students were introduced to our class theme "Communities All Around," getting a brief introduction to the continents and oceans using Google Earth. They were excited to learn that they will be "traveling" from continent to continent learning about people, animals and places. "Kindness Rocks!" was an introduction to our school's yearlong theme. We read a story called Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed, by Emily Pearson. This project's focus was the "ripple effect" our actions can have on the people around us. We tossed pebbles in water to watch the ripples and then attributed positive feelings to the pebbles and discussed how one kind gesture can spread to many individuals without us even knowing it. This project also included some watercolor art and our first kindness action project: "Kindness Rocks!" Students decorated rocks and will get help writing a kind word or phrase on their rock. With their families, students will find a public place to leave their rock for someone to see, with the hope that the rock's message will make someone's day. Keep an eye out, maybe you'll be lucky enough to spot one!

Everywhere around the world...they're coming to America! Grab those passports because the 1st and 2nd graders are about to experience a journey taking them from the present to the past when we start our Immigration Unit this month. They will first look at the past, present, and future by taking a field trip to The Chico Museum and comparing Chico in the present to Chico in the past. Then they will investigate all about their own family heritage, the reasons for immigration to the U.S., and have a culminating "real-life" experience as an immigrant. Their immigrant character will take the journey to America on a ship headed for Ellis Island. Who will lay down roots in the "Land of Gold" and who may be sent back to their countries?

Third and fourth graders have had an exciting, travel-filled month, visiting both the Oroville

Dam Visitor's Center and the Feather River Fish Hatchery. They learned about the lifecycle of salmon and how they are processed. Next month, we will be participating in an electricity hands-on science lab at Chico State. We are continuing our study of folktales and fables.

Fifth graders are studying water on Earth, including the importance of conservation to maintain the precious freshwater we have available to us. A hike in Upper Bidwell Park is a culminating field trip for this unit. Then we head to Chico State for a Hands on Lab about photosynthesis. Ask your student to name the 7 continents and 4 oceans of Earth and they will sing a great song to you. They have also been learning more about the 50 States and their regions. We are excited to begin writing scary stories, focusing on character development, descriptive language, and interesting dialogue. We continue to focus on kind acts while reading about the selfless acts of Trevor in Pay it Forward as he tries to make the world a better place. It is an idealistic, yet motivational example for us all.



The sixth grade is immersed in the study of Scientific Reasoning, watching the life of Jane Goodall and learning from her observation techniques. We have also began studying different types of energy: kinetic, elastic, potential and gravitational potential. Science and History are ridden with hands on activities and labs this year. History finds us finishing up

our study on Early Man heading into Mesopotamia, Egypt and Kush. You may find us "Walking like an Egyptian" sometime soon. Students have "My History" narratives due this Friday and are reading Touching Spirit Bear.



October is going to be outstanding for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders! Room 10 has some awesome plans for this month. We are reading one of the greatest science fiction novels for young readers; A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. We are studying character development and how descriptive language aids in developing a "mental movie" of the story. We will be comparing and contrasting at least two novels to their movie adaptations. Since this is the season for scary, we will also be reading some of the great works of Edgar Allen Poe. We are researching some of the founding documents of our country, such as the Bill of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, the Federalist Papers, and the Articles of Confederation. Discussions center around where these ideas came from and why they are the foundation of our nation. Staying in motion, science is all about inertia, mass, and weight and how they interact to make an object either move, not move, or stay moving (Newton's Laws).

Question: Why can't you hear a Pterodactyl go to the bathroom?

Answer: Because the "p" is silent!