

Forest Ranch Charter School

September 2012



September 3 – LABOR DAY, No School
September 5 – Women’s Club at 7PM
Forest Ranch Community Center
September 6 – Back to School Night
September 7 – Assembly at 8:30AM
September 12 – 3rd/4th field trip, Nature Center
September 14 – Electives Day
September 15 – Fireman’s BBQ in downtown FR
September 17 – Constitution Day
September 20 – FRCS at Farmer’s Mkt for Annie B
September 21 – CONFERENCES, No School
September 24 – Punctuation Day
September 25 – 5th/6th field trip, Nature Center
September 28 – Electives Day
October 3 – 3rd/4th field trip, Laxson Auditorium
October 5 – Assembly at 8:30AM
October 8 – Picture Day, look your best!
October 11 – Family Literacy Night
October 12 – STAFF DAY, No School

Director’s Report

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

We have had a smooth beginning to our school year. Everyone is excited and children and staff are hard at work. I have really been enjoying the students company. Children have been cooperating, getting along, and helping out. I am very proud of everyone.

We have quite a few new people on campus this year. Sharon Wilson is our Resource Specialist. Bert Robinson is our Speech Therapist. Margie McNulty is teaching one of our 3/ 4 grades. Alysia Frank and Tony Catalano will be working as support staff and intervention teachers. It has been wonderful having so much new experience and energy on campus. We are very fortunate to have each of these individuals on board. I will be introducing them through brief bios in upcoming newsletters. If you happen across a new face on campus please introduce yourself and get to know our new community members.

We had our first PBS (Parents, Staff, and Board) Meeting on Tuesday. It was well attended. We discussed the changes to the lunch schedule, classroom volunteers, and fall events. We will meet once a month on Tuesday afternoons. Next week we have Back to School Night. It is a time to get to know your child’s teacher and learn more about what will be happening in their classroom and around campus.

On another note, we still have space for new students. We were full on paper but had a little more attrition than expected, due to student relocation. Please help us to fill those extra spaces. The funding is critical. Thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing many of you at Back to School Night.

Christia

Construction in Progress

We are in the process of getting two more portables classrooms. Please be patient with the mess and noise during construction as it will be very worth it. Next year we will need one more classroom to house another 5th/6th grade class. The additional space will be used for a variety of things including small group and individual pull out tutoring, art, music, after school care, and anything else we can think of. The classrooms should be ready for use in the next month or so. We are very excited. Now, to pay off the loan...



Annie B's Community Drive

Hopefully everyone has seen the Annie B's fundraising letter and donation form by now. Funds donated are completely tax deductible and 100% goes directly to the school. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please help if you can as we need to pay for that new classroom space we are so excited about. If you do not have the donation form or need another, please check the website or ask Terry in the office to send one to you. Additional forms could be sent to family and friends who may also want to help. Please remember, donations must be received by September 30 to be eligible for the percentage match from the North Valley Community Foundation.

All School Clean Success

Thanks to all the faculty, staff, board members, community members and families that showed up to help, the All School Clean held in August was a great success. We were able to knock out several projects that needed doing and get a great start on the before-school cleaning tasks. As we don't have a maintenance and custodial staff, help from all our supporters really means a lot.

Lions Club Helps Out, Again

Those Lions just keep on helping no matter what the needs may be. Just before school started a crew showed up early on a Saturday morning to put the finishing touches on parking lot and playground clean up, as well as tree and rose pruning. What a great bunch of folks – thanks again.

New Garden Beds in Courtyard

Last spring Dave Foreman, our Board Chair, retired from his position in the Finance Department at Chico State. In lieu of a retirement gift his coworkers took up a collection for his favorite charity – Forest Ranch Charter School. Some of those funds were used this summer to build the beautiful new garden boxes located in the main courtyard.

After the boxes were built we had empty boxes – no dirt. The Worm Farm in Durham came to our rescue. Not only did they donate the six yards of compost needed to fill the boxes, but they delivered it as well.

Thank you to all the many donors and volunteers that made this project a reality. Our gardening elective and classroom students will have fun for years to come planting and eating using these boxes.

Save the Date – Dinner/Auction

We last had a Dinner/Auction Fundraiser in 2008. Due to popular demand, this event is back for 2012. Save the date – November 9, 2012 at the Sierra Nevada Big Room for dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing. This is a shared benefit for the School and the Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council. We are actively soliciting auction items focusing primarily on local arts and crafts. If you can help find auction items please contact the school or a Fire Safe Council member.

Community News

Women’s Club – The Forest Ranch Women’s Club meets monthly at the Community Center. This month’s meeting, held Wednesday September 5th at 7PM, will host a talk by Carey Vandewalle, Gretchen Vandewalle's granddaughter. Carey will share her adventures joining a Samaritan's Purse Team that went to Mongolia to distribute boxes of Christmas goodies to the children there.

Fireman’s BBQ – Company 24 is our local volunteer fire department. These wonderful folks help our school and our community in many ways beyond keeping us fire safe. Please join us in supporting them by attending the BBQ on Saturday September 15th from 11AM to 3PM.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is September 6. We are trying out a new strategy this year. Let us know how it works for you. The K through 2 classrooms will be open from 6-6:30PM and the 3 through 6 classrooms from 6:45-7:15PM. From 6:30-6:45 there will be a brief discussion held in the library for all grades. See you then!

Reminder – this is a kid-free event.

After School Sports Starting

Wednesday September 5 is the first day of our Volleyball rotation in after school sports. Don’t miss out on the fun and teamwork as we learn and play together. For a signup sheet, contact Terry in the office or visit

<http://www.forestranchcharter.org/after-school-sports.html>.



Upcoming November Elections

Parents and community members have been inquiring about how the ballot measures regarding education will affect our school. There are two measures on the November ballot regarding education funding. The Governor’s Budget, released in June, relied heavily on the tax increases proposed by these measures rather than implementing spending reductions. For information on these measures visit

http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2012/30_11_2012.aspx and http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2012/38_11_2012.aspx.

Heard Around Campus

In K we are having fun learning our names and the letters in our name. We read Chrysanthemum and are making a classroom garden of flower names. We're moving into an "All About Me" unit and will be exploring what makes us unique as well as what we have in common.



First and second grades will be studying the parts of the brain and body, then moving on to geography and maps. We will be going on a treasure hunt to test our map reading skills and have a little fun. Kids will become young cartographers as they create their own maps.



Third and fourth grade is off to a great start. We had a tremendous time learning about the brain and multiple intelligences. Then we got to know each other through art and cooperative games. We are looking forward to our first field trip at Chico Creek Nature Center on Wednesday, September 12. We are moving into a unit on scientific inquiry and a "Where in the World" geography exploration unit.

In fifth and sixth grade we learned a song about the states and created a classroom constitution. We have been reviewing the scientific method and had fun setting off a soda geyser. In September we will be moving into a Solar System unit and will begin learning about Native Americans.

