

Forest Ranch Charter School

September 2014



September 1 – Labor Day, No School
September 4 – Back to School Night
September 5 – Assembly at 8:30AM
September 6 – Firefighter’s BBQ, downtown FR
September 9 – PTP Meeting at 3PM
September 12 – Electives Day
September 17 – Constitution Day
September 18 – Chico Sports Club field trip
(Stearns and Ball)
September 24 – Punctuation Day
September 26 – Electives Day
October 2 – Hands on Lab field trip (Jimenez)
October 3 – Assembly at 8:30AM
October 7 – Gateway Science Museum field trip
(Matoes and Jimenez)
October 9 – Burrito Dinner Fundraiser at the
Forest Ranch Community Assoc.
October 10 – No School, Parent-Teacher conf
October 13 – Picture Day
October 13 – Laxson field trip
(Stearns and Ball)

From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

This week students acted as “learning detectives” as they wrapped up our school-wide, kick off mysteries! Our theme this year is “Dive Deep; Explore Beneath the Surface”. The focus for both faculty development and student learning will be to challenge students towards greater depth of processing; going beyond the surface level, asking good questions, searching for answers, providing evidence to support ideas, and diving further into Common Core. Please help us to challenge our young “learning detectives” by getting involved; ask questions of and work with your student to learn more at home about thematic studies happening at school, ask for resources at school to help you at home, and join us for parent education opportunities throughout the year.

Last year we spent considerable effort compiling our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), setting school goals aligned with the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). We have two primary goals with supporting actions and services to help obtain these goals. The first goal is to improve academic achievement. The second goal is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our campus-wide Positive Behavior Support Program. There will be many opportunities soon to learn more about how we can work together to achieve these goals. We want to partner with you to increase your student’s learning. I look forward to working with all of you and your students this year.

Christia Marasco

Community Events

Firefighter's BBQ – this critical fundraiser supports our local volunteer firefighters. Held on Saturday, September 6th in downtown Forest Ranch from 11AM until 3PM, this event is nothing but fun for all. They serve a tasty lunch, have live and silent auction items, and fun things for kids to do. Join us in supporting our local volunteers – they do so much for us!

Chico World Music Festival – Saturday, September 13th is the 21st Annual Chico World Music Festival. This free event is held at CSU, Chico from 10AM until 6PM. There is a kid's stage, lots of musical styles to enjoy, and kids crafts, arts, and science exploration.

Bidwell Park Clean Up – Saturday, September 20th is the Butte Environmental Council Park Clean Up Day. To join this community clean-up effort, sign up at their website at <http://www.becnet.org/bidwell-park-clean-up>. This year, they have a particular need for folks with trucks to transport trash to dumpster sites.

Alice in Wonderland Jr – Travel down the rabbit hole for some adventures with Alice in this local production, held at Laxson Auditorium on Thursday, September 25th at 7:30PM. For tickets or information, visit www.chicoperformances.com or call 898-6333.

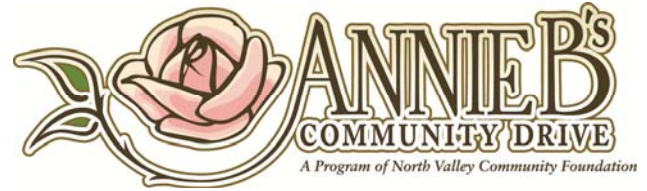
After School Sports

Basketball kicks off our fall after school sports program. The fun starts on Tuesday, September 9th and ends on September 25th.



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.

Annie B's Fundraiser



Help us get ready for two more portable classrooms on campus! We need these two more classrooms to complete our growth plan for our K-8 school, leaving room for art, music, science, pull-out intervention help, and after school care. The Annie B's Campaign is a great way to raise funds as every dollar donated is actually worth more than a dollar after the North Valley Community Foundation makes their percentage match contribution. For more information, a donation form, or to donate online, please visit our Annie B's page at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/annie-bs-campaign.html> or contact the office at 891-3154. To reach out further, send this information on to friends and family. Every dollar counts!

September is Attendance Month

Chronic absence in kindergarten and first grade, defined as missing 10 percent of a school year for any reason, is associated with lower levels of third grade reading, higher levels of suspension, and lower academic achievement in middle school. By middle and high school, chronic absence is a critical early warning sign that a student might drop out. Regular attendance helps students succeed in school and is an essential future employment skill. It all starts now!

September is Attendance Month. One of our goals is to help students become the best citizens they can be. Setting a pattern of regular attendance and avoiding chronic absences is a great first step. We encourage an ongoing conversation with families experiencing attendance challenges.

Homework Club

Homework Club is back! Starting Monday, September 8th students may join Ms. Matoes and her helpers after school to get homework and late classroom work done. The Club will meet every Monday and Wednesday with occasional exceptions. Snacks will be provided and students must have a current Explorer's Club registration to attend. See you there!

Lunch Time Chaos

The school year began smoothly across campus, except for lunch. Last year we changed to a different student information system. This change affected the online lunch payment program. Chico Unified is working very hard to make the change seamless, but some accounts are having problems. Please let us know if this is affecting you.



Another monkey wrench in the lunch time fun is that our walk in cooler died. It will take some time for us to gather repair quotes and figure out what we can afford to do about it. In the meantime, Amber the Lunch Lady is working very hard to stick with the menu but things may be a little changed day to day. Maybe this is a good time to practice the LifeSkill of Flexibility.

PTP Meeting Agenda

Join us in the library at 3PM on Tuesday, September 9th to discuss things such as the Full Moon Festival, fall PTP fundraisers, and elect PTP officers for the school year. In particular they will be looking for ideas and help with a Burrito Feast. The Burrito Feast will be held at the Forest Ranch Community Center on October 9th and will benefit the FRCA and the Trinity Morris Recovery Fund. This dynamic group is instrumental in supporting our school. Participate! Get involved! We need your help!

Heard About Campus

Kindergarteners had a wonderful start to the school year. They are busy making new friends and learning what this school thing is all about. We are practicing how to write our names, drawing self portraits, reading poems and learning about what we have in common and what makes us unique individuals. We are looking forward to a fun year of learning!

The 1st and 2nd graders are ready to dive deep and start exploring a healthy body and brain for their first mini-unit! Students will see how the different parts of their brain help their learning and functioning day to day. They are also going to explore the connection between how having a healthy body can actually help them in school. They will explore the 8 different smarts to find out more about themselves and will even be taking a trip to Chico Sports Club this month to explore more about having a healthy body and brain with their very own personal trainers!

The third and fourth graders worked very hard at being detectives, putting their skills to the test at solving the mystery on campus of "Who Borrowed Mr. Bear?" Ask your student for the solution. Currently they are looking forward to their trip to the Chico Farmer's Market where they will be searching for a rainbow of fruits and vegetables. Throughout the upcoming nutrition unit, students will be looking at how food can fuel their bodies and brains.

The fifth graders are diving into their curriculum. For our water unit we are learning about the importance of water in our bodies, before learning about water on Earth. In history, we are getting familiar with the geography of the U.S.A. We will be working as a team to enlarge a USA map, which will become our history bulletin board for the year. We're even planning trips to a national park or monument to integrate math, history, and language arts. We continue to challenge ourselves with daily homework and P.E. In our

first novel, *Holes*, by Louis Sachar and our read aloud, *The Homework Machine*, by Dan Gutman, we become detectives, looking at the clues to solve the mystery and see how all the pieces fit together. Will they be able to fill in all the holes?



September is full of fun in 6th/7th grade! Our class has gotten to know each other, established our routine and we are now kicking off the month with History and Science being immersed in living off the land. Seventh graders are covering world geography and 6th graders are focused on the U.S. In Science we are learning about the effect water has on our brains, bodies and how little of the earth's water is for drinking. Seventh graders are diving into cell theory. Our entire class will be taking a hike to Upper Bidwell Park to explore the local watershed and the history of the dam at Bear Hole. Our 7th graders have the opportunity to attend a hands-on-lab at Chico State to learn all about electricity and then return to the lab one week later to teach grades 3-6 what *they* have learned! Exciting! Our Literature Circles have us reading *The Outsiders*. The Blue Room Theater has offered to do a week day matinee just for our class to provide us with the opportunity to compare and contrast the two forms of the story line, text vs. live performance. Hang on; it's going to be an exciting ride.

Student Compositions

My First Week of 5th Grade by Emma D.

My first week of 5th grade was really fun. I enjoyed mostly making "All About Me" books. I thought that the "All About Me" books were fun because we got to design a really cool cover and some people did their insides and looks really cool. I also enjoyed the cup staking challenge because you had to use only strings and a rubber band. I thought it was hard. Overall, we are off to a good start.

By Aliyah B.

The year 2014-15 is great so far. Ms. Matoes' fifth grade class has already accomplished a lot! Everyone is making new friends. Having seventh grade on campus is a nice change.

By Emma R.

I really liked drawing license plate name tags and math class. What I liked about drawing license plate name tags was I could kind of represent that I am from Texas. It was also fun because you could draw it and try to copy if you chose to.

By Carmen Mae P.

Hi, I'm Carmen Mae. Some of us kids love school, or not, but you need to learn. I don't like reading but I still do. Homework is a little hard sometimes, but you sometimes need to do things that you don't like doing. You should just do it! Like I hate writing but now I don't.



So, you should try new things.