

# Forest Ranch Charter School

## August 2015



September 7 – Labor Day, No School  
September 8 – PTP Meeting, 3PM  
September 11 – Electives Day  
September 12 – Firefighter’s BBQ, 11 AM-3PM  
in downtown Forest Ranch  
September 15 – FRCS Board Meeting, 5PM  
September 18 – Field Trip, Laxson (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>)  
September 25 – Electives Day  
September 25 – Dinner/Auction Fundraiser at  
Sierra Nevada Brewery  
October 2 – Assembly at 8:30AM  
October 9 – Conference Day, No School  
October 13 – PTP Meeting, 3PM  
October 15 – Field Trip, Hands on Lab (5<sup>th</sup>)  
October 16 – Electives Day  
October 19 thru 23 – Book Faire  
October 19 – Field Trip, Laxson (6<sup>th</sup>)  
October 22 – STEM Day on campus  
October 30 – Electives Day

### From the Director

Dear Forest Ranch Charter Families,

We have had a fabulous couple of weeks. We welcomed many new families, and students and teachers have jumped right into learning. Students have started field trips, history projects, science experiments and first electives. We started band today. Classrooms are operating smoothly and students and teachers are hard at work. It was lovely seeing many of you at Back to School night last night and showing off our beautiful, expanded campus. Our facilities team worked very hard to get the new buildings in place and everything ship shape for school this year. We are still waiting for the new bathroom building in between the portables.

As always, students learn better when parents and teachers work together. A focus of ours this year is working with families to have adequate reference resources and support available after school for homework and additional enrichment. We have a lending library, and will have multiple book swaps and give-aways. Another way we will work to support students at home is through our new Parent Portal. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades and their parents will have access to an on-line portal to check assignments and scores. This is similar to the program used at the local high schools and will allow parents to constantly track their child’s progress. I am excited about the opportunity to spend time with all of you creating enriching learning environments for our children.

*Christia Marasco*

## After School Sports

Basketball kicks off our fall after school sports program. The fun starts on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and ends on September 24<sup>th</sup>.



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.

## Important Paperwork Completed

By now you should have received a back to school packet in the mail and a first day packet of information from your student. Please make sure that all paperwork is completed and returned to the school as soon as possible. We not only need to be in compliance but we need to have your most current information in case of emergencies. If you think you might be missing some paperwork please contact the office soon.

## Website Very Useful

Many questions parents have can be answered by visiting our very useful, easily navigated website. Take the time to visit us at [www.forestranchcharter.org](http://www.forestranchcharter.org) and get to know the site. If you have suggestions for things you would like to see posted on the website, feel free to make suggestions to the office or via [info@forestranchcharter.org](mailto:info@forestranchcharter.org).

## Homework Club

Homework Club is back! Starting Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> students may join Mrs. Sellu (Matoes) 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!

## 2015 Annie B's Campaign



Your fundraising dollars are at work once again at the Forest Ranch Charter School. Two years ago we added two more classrooms due to our growth. This year we added another two classrooms and will be adding another bathroom very soon. Charter schools very rarely get funding for facilities. To pay for expansion, we either take the money away from students by using instructional funds or we fundraise. This is where the Annie B's Community Campaign comes into the picture. Funds raised during August and September help us pay for our building projects and keep instructional funds in the classrooms, where they belong. We need your help! Support your school today with a donation to FRCS/Annie B's. Look for the donation information on our website at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/annie-bs-campaign.html> or stop in at the school office. Please share this request for donations with friends and family. All funds raised directly benefit our students and make a real difference on campus.

## 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. Make school a priority - success starts now!

## 2015 Big Event Dinner/Auction

Save the date for the 2015 Big Event on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Sierra Nevada Big Room. This Dinner/Auction is a joint fundraiser for the Forest Ranch Charter School, the Broom Education and Eradication Project, and the Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council. Come enjoy good food, live music, and silent and live auctions while raising funds to support three very worthwhile, local organizations. Tickets are on sale now at the FRCS office, Zavaterro's Grocery (The Store) and LaRocca Tasting Room or online at <http://www.forestranchcharter.org/dinnerauction.html>.

### Community Events

**Firefighter's BBQ** – this critical fundraiser supports our local volunteer firefighters. Held on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Bidwell Park Clean Up** – Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Seussical Jr.** – Support FRCS students Gwen H as Yertle the Turtle and Emma D as Jojo in this local production, held at Laxson Auditorium on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. For tickets or information, visit [www.chicoperformances.com](http://www.chicoperformances.com) or call 898-6333.



## PTP Meeting Agenda

Join us in the library at 3PM on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss things such as the Full Moon Festival, fall PTP fundraisers, and elect PTP officers for the school year. This dynamic group is instrumental in supporting our school. Participate! Get involved! We need your help!

### Heard About Campus

Kindergarten is off to a great start with fun projects and activities! We have been busy building our classroom community as we learn about friendship and sharing through books such as *A Rainbow of Friends*, by P.K. Hallinan. We made our own "friendship rainbow" as students learned about our rainbow behavior chart, which encourages positive behavior and participation. This week, we began a mini unit on names. Students are learning to spell and identify all the letters of their name with fun art projects that will decorate our classroom walls. They are also beginning to learn proper letter formation when writing their names. This unit also included a lesson on capitalization and the initial sounds we hear in words.



The 1st and 2nd Graders are starting the year focusing on our classroom theme, "Kindness.... Start the Journey." Using the hit movie *Inside Out*, we have been discussing our feelings, sharing memories, and working on being good classmates and friends. We have been working in the garden for Outdoor Ed. preparing it for the fall harvest. We are looking forward to our first field trip of the year to Laxson Auditorium to see the show *Seussical*.

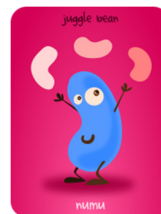
Third and fourth grade students have begun the year by learning about the Elements of Reading through study of an exciting book called "The Raft." In math, both classes are working hard to further develop their understanding of place value and the importance thereof. Science has brought the study of energy and the knowledge that energy is all around us. Many students have been excited to make connections from science to the real world.



The fifth graders have kicked off the year learning about the importance of mindsets on our learning, teamwork with a cup stacking challenge, and engineering Spaghetti towers that hold a marshmallow on top. Students learned about scientific observation and questioning through a candle demonstrations. They were shocked when Mrs. Sellu ate the "candle". We will keep in mind "the more you look the more you see" as we begin learning about how the biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere interact with each other. We are also learning about states and capitals, geography, and how to enlarge a map to scale in history. Next week, we'll start reading Pay it Forward, for young readers. The Pay it Forward Foundation donated 40 books to our school for the upper grades. How will we take their generosity and Pay it Forward? Together, we can make an impact!

We have had a busy couple of weeks so far in sixth grade. Students are adjusting to the academic pace and homework changes from last year. I made sure to schedule in some fun last Wednesday. We had a blast at the Fore Bay Aquatic Center. Students were kayaking, paddle boarding and swimming after learning the safety rules and getting fitted properly in a life jacket; it was a great way to bond and breathe! History has us learning about the 6 Themes of History and 5 Themes of Geography. We are delving into the study of early man and archaeology and will be conducting a "dig" on campus. Science is all about lab safety right now, next week we are learning about scientific reasoning and then on our way into a unit on energy. Our first novel this year is Touching Spirit Bear, which exemplifies 18 different life skills as it follows the journey of a young man's awakening to how his actions affect others. It fits well with our school wide theme of "Find Your Way, Impact Today, Pay it Forward." Hang on it's going to be an amazing ride!

September is special. Our seventh and eighth graders have started their first book club meetings. We are performing our first skit of the year on September 4<sup>th</sup>. We are reviewing and pursuing new math concepts, including linear and non-linear equations and observing patterns derived from data tables. We have entered the "Age of Enlightenment" and are beginning to understand how our current views on equality and society were present hundreds of years ago. Don't rub us the wrong way, because everyone can recognize examples of friction; and whether it is static or kinetic. We are about to investigate Isaac Newton's three laws, and why the apple fell to the ground. On



top of all this, we are learning to juggle!