



February 2012

## FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL

*A Personalized Learning Program*

*Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges*

**WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM**

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Over the last few months (as well as in my last message) you have heard us mention the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) in relation to our visit by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). I wanted to take a moment to discuss the ESLRs further and to explain the role they play not only in WASC, but also in the school as a whole.



Canice Center Valentine's Day Party

Forest Charter School originally developed the ESLRs in 2005 for our first WASC visit. Then, in the fall of 2010, the Forest Charter School staff revisited and updated the ESLRs that we have adopted for the upcoming March WASC visit. Along the way, various stakeholders, including parents and students, were brought into the process and, ultimately, the charter council approved the revised ESLRs. Through this process we identified that at all times we strive to help our students be engaged learners, critical thinkers, global citizens, technologically sophisticated citizens, and life-long learners.

The ESLRs provide a pedagogical foundation for how the school approaches learning. When developing assignments and by focusing on these seemingly simple tenants, Forest Charter can provide students with superior educational opportunities. For a more detailed description of the ESLRs, look at page 2 of this newsletter. As homeschool families, I encourage you to think about how you as home-educators already weave these concepts into your homeschooling as well as explore ways to further enhance your home study by incorporating these ELSRs into your daily practice.

Thanks,  
Peter Sagebiel



## *Expected Schoolwide Learning Results*

Part of the accreditation process through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is to develop the Forest Charter School's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRS) that articulate the essential things we want our students to learn. By articulating our Expected School Wide Learning Results, Forest Charter school is placing an emphasis on the whole student. Further, Forest Charter School believes that attention toward achieving the ESLRs will have an emotional impact on our students that will ultimately translate into better academic success. With these considerations in mind, Forest Charter School believes that students should strive to acquire and develop the following qualities:

• Engaged Learners:

1. Show proficiency in essential literacy, writing, and mathematical skills
2. Communicate effectively as readers, writers, listeners, researchers, and speakers

**E**<sub>xpected</sub>

• Critical Thinkers:

1. Utilize problem solving techniques and higher levels of thinking to interpret and apply information to their chosen path
2. Apply scientific methods and skills to overcome challenges and create solutions

**S**<sub>chool wide</sub>

• Global Citizens:

1. Investigate global perspectives through the avenues of history, governmental functions, world geography, literature, science, the arts, and other integrated learning
2. Empowered to create positive change
3. Possess respect and integrity for self and others in both the local and global community and environment

**L**<sub>earning</sub>

• Technologically-Sophisticated Citizens:

1. Possess the ability to sift through and critically process information using a variety of Electronic media to create relevant learning experiences
2. Understand the challenges and benefits of the Internet in relation to Internet safety and use discernment accordingly
3. Demonstrate proficiency in the use and application of technology

**R**<sub>esults</sub>

• Life-Long Learners:

1. Identify and pursue personal interests and passions to become self-motivated and directed people
2. Develop a physically and emotionally healthy lifestyle
3. Develop self-awareness while learning to collaborate and contribute to group endeavors, now and in the future

**S**

# Parent information nights

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Forest Charter School is holding three Parent Information Nights. If you know someone who would like more information regarding Forest Charter's K-12 personalized learning program, please invite them to stop by. There will be a brief presentation and time for questions about:

Academics

Enrichment Classes

Small Class Size

Co-Operatives

Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

5:30-6 Presentation

6:00-7:30 Q&A

For More Information Call the Forest Charter School Office  
(530) 265-4823  
224 Church Street, Nevada City CA 95959



## Website Forum

By: Jenna Johnson

School Calendar on the FCS Website:

The school calendar is a great place to find information on upcoming events such as test dates, Block Class celebrations, Open Houses, Independent Study Week, and more.

From the Forest Charter homepage located at [www.forestcharter.com](http://www.forestcharter.com) click on the calendar icon to view the main school calendar.

## FCS Sponsored Chess Tournament in March

FCS Will be holding a scholastic chess tournament on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to noon. All school age children in Nevada County are invited to attend. Registration forms are in the office on Church St in Nevada City. A \$10 donation is requested to help fund the purchase of a new computer for the Technology and Digital Media Arts Academy. For more information contact Mr. Ross at [ross@forestcharter.com](mailto:ross@forestcharter.com) or at [530-559-6528](tel:530-559-6528).



## FCS School-Wide Field Trip

6 FLAGS, VALLEJO : FRIDAY, MAY 11

COST: \$35... Sign-ups closed (Tickets distributed to ES on May 4)

\*\*\* All PERMISSION slips for Forest Students due MARCH 9.

\*\*\* All Private pay monies for parents and siblings due MARCH 9. Make checks payable to: "Forest Charter Educational Foundation"

(See your ES for permission slips and to make payments)

\*\*\* Your ES will help you plan additional small group or family trips.

By: Janice Eggers

## Sierra College Registration Starts May 8!

**Parent Information Nights at Sierra College:**  
February 29<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>. 6:00-7:00. To sign up or get more information email: [outreach@sierracollege.edu](mailto:outreach@sierracollege.edu)

Congratulations to the following seniors who have been accepted to these universities so far:

**Tenaya Driller:** University of Colorado, Boulder. University of Colorado, Denver. University of Vermont.

**Allene Kennedy:** University of Colorado, Boulder. University of Utah. University of New Hampshire.

**Forrest Ferguson:** University of Nevada, Reno.

**Kaitlyn Benson:** CSU Humboldt, Western Washington University, Prescott College

**Briton Moftakhar:** University of the Pacific

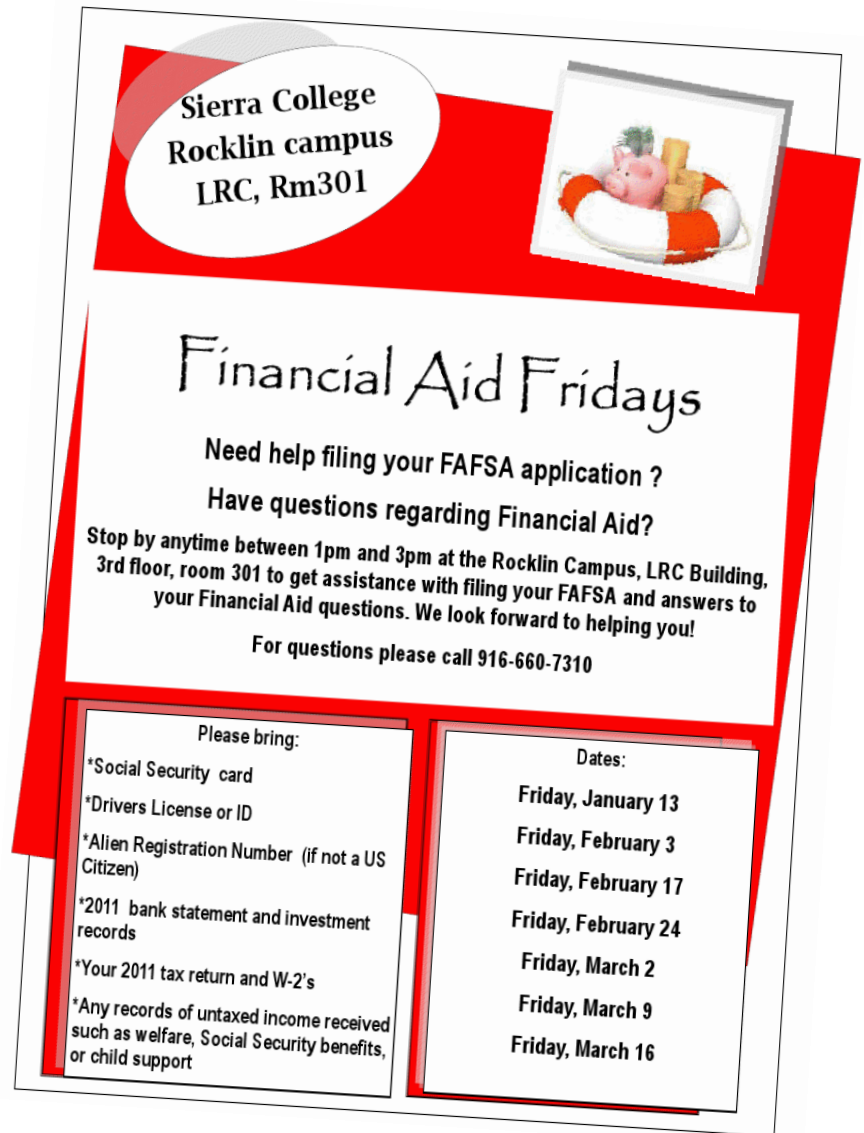
**Jacob Bender:** CSU Sacramento, CSU Chico

**Nick Chesshir:** Universal Technical Institute

**Seniors:** If you have not filled out your FAFSA application, please go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> to fill out your application. This is for all students who are headed to either a community college, or 4 year university next year. This is your first step in the financial aid process. For students attending a college next year in California, please stop by the office to fill out the CAL GRANT form, which is financial aid assistance from the state of California. These CAL GRANT forms need to be postmarked by March 2.

**Juniors:** Upcoming College advisory classes. Check in with Dawn or Janice about when the classes start. If you are headed to college, and want weekly advice on how to get there, this class is for you!

**Freshman and Sophomores:** Keep up those grades! This is a great time to search for summer volunteer activities, or paid positions.



The poster is titled "Financial Aid Fridays" and is set against a red background. At the top left, a white oval contains the text "Sierra College Rocklin campus LRC, Rm301". To the right is a small framed photo of a piggy bank with gold coins. The main text asks if the reader needs help filing their FAFSA application or has questions regarding financial aid. It provides the location: "Stop by anytime between 1pm and 3pm at the Rocklin Campus, LRC Building, 3rd floor, room 301 to get assistance with filing your FAFSA and answers to your Financial Aid questions. We look forward to helping you!" and a phone number: "For questions please call 916-660-7310". At the bottom, there are two white boxes. The left box, titled "Please bring:", lists items to bring: Social Security card, Drivers License or ID, Alien Registration Number (if not a US Citizen), 2011 bank statement and investment records, 2011 tax return and W-2's, and any records of untaxed income received such as welfare, Social Security benefits, or child support. The right box, titled "Dates:", lists the following Fridays: January 13, February 3, February 17, February 24, March 2, March 9, and March 16.

## County-Wide Math Tournament Results

By: Linda Katz

Congratulations to 6th grader Gavin Olsen, 7th Grader Flor Garza and 8th Grader Nick Buck for their success at this years county wide math tournament sponsored by Telestream. Forest Charter School was well represented when the three participants walked away with a combined 8 placement ribbons. 6th Grader Gavin Olsen took 3rd place in Geometry, 7th Grader Flor Garza took 2nd in Problem Solving, 3rd in Special Topics, 4th in Geometry and 3rd in Computation. 8th Grader Nick Buck placed 5th in Problem Solving, 3rd in Special Topics and 5th in Computation. The Problem-Solving Test questions require the student to include problem-solving strategy and a complete explanation of the solution as part of the written response on the answer sheet. Points are earned based on the student's explanation and thought process as well as accuracy. Calculators are allowed on all tests except Computation.



Gavin Olsen



Nick Buck and Flor Garza

## Upcoming Speech Tournament for Grades 4-8

By: Linda Katz

Hurry, hurry, step right up and tell us all about your favorite book! Registration for the Nevada County Speech tournament is quickly approaching. Students in grades 4-8 are invited to write a speech between 2 and 3 1/2 minutes long and give their speech to a panel of judges on Thursday, March 8th in Grass Valley. There are two slots plus one alternate per grade level so please contact Linda Katz at [lkatz@forestcharter.com](mailto:lkatz@forestcharter.com) if you are interested. Please include student name, grade, phone number, email address, and ES name. Registration is due Wednesday, February 22.

# expert SPECIALTY CARE for children

If you know a child Shriners Hospitals for Children® may be able to help, please let their family know about this **free screening clinic**.

Children up to age 18 are eligible for care at Shriners Hospitals for Children if, after examination, there is a reasonable possibility they can benefit from the specialized services available. Acceptance as a patient is based solely on a child's medical needs, and care is provided regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

**Shriners Hospitals for Children provides care for:**

- Orthopaedic Conditions
- Burns
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Cleft Lip and Palate



## DATE, TIME, LOCATION AND CONTACT

### GRASS VALLEY SCREENING CLINIC

Saturday, March 3, 2012

9AM to 1PM

SIERRA NEVADA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

155 Glasson Way, OUT PATIENT BUILDING

Call Daniel for more information: (530) 388 0671

For more information about Shriners Hospitals for Children  
800-237-5055 (U.S.) 800-361-7256 (Canada)  
[shrinershospitalforchildren.org](http://shrinershospitalforchildren.org)



**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children®



## Ready For 7<sup>th</sup> Grade?

You'll need proof of a whooping cough shot  
[ShotsForSchool.org](http://ShotsForSchool.org)



**There's a new rule for school!**

California law requires that all students starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade get a whooping cough booster shot, called Tdap, before entering school in the Fall of 2012.

Contact your child's doctor. If your preteen or teen hasn't received Tdap yet, schedule an appointment today to protect against this dangerous disease.

For more information, visit [ShotsForSchool.org](http://ShotsForSchool.org).

## Support your School!!!



**eScrip**

Give back at the grocery store!



**Register your cards!! You can register your Safeway/SPD store cards or even your debit or credit card.**

**It doesn't cost you a dime, and it is a great cause!**

1. Go to eScrip.com and follow the 4 easy steps
2. Or... call 1-800-931-6258
3. Remember to renew your card every year



**Support your school with a FCS Sweatshirt for ONLY \$25.00! Talk to Jenna for more information 265-4823!**

## Forest Charter School Education Foundation

By now, I'm sure you have received our letter regarding the Foundation's annual giving event. We want to begin by thanking those of you who have already donated. This early momentum we have generated is quite a statement of the commitment our families have to our school. Last year's giving event allowed us to increase the number of computers available to students at each of our learning centers. We are excited and hopeful that this year's event will put us in a position to make similar upgrades to technology as well as provide unique updates to our literacy program.

If you haven't donated yet, please take a moment to do so. Any amount you can contribute is appreciated and translates to learning opportunities for students.

# *The Teacher Who Makes a Difference Award*

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By: Peter Sagebiel

Each year, every school in Nevada County selects one teacher from its staff to represent his or her school as the Teacher Who Makes a Difference. While we all know that Forest Charter School has many teachers who impact their students positively, this year, we were proud to select Linda Hill for the Teacher who makes a difference award.



Linda is a teacher on our staff who makes us all want to be better. Her teaching style isn't one that requires flashy moments. Rather, Linda gently guides her students in their learning while still maintaining high expectations. In fact, it's this ease and grace that illuminates her teaching style. Linda is the consummate professional in her dealings with parents and students, some of whom she's worked with for six years, a testament to the service she provides them. She always remains positive in her approach and often finds ways to encourage and succeed with students who have had challenges in their previous settings. Whether that requires extra meetings, tutoring, or finding a way to personalize the learning, Linda will always go the extra mile for her students.

It has to be mentioned that Linda has a terrific sense of humor. It's this blend of dedication to her profession and her love of life that earns Linda the respect and praise of her colleagues. Regardless of the situation, Linda always looks for the positive side of the situation – she looks to how the school and, most importantly, the students will benefit. She's a team-player and often supports her colleagues in whatever way they need. Often, it's just hearing her laugh.

## *Forest Charter Art Exhibits*

Forest Charter students will get showcased in two upcoming art shows displaying elementary and high school classroom artworks. In the month of February at the Zion Street offices of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, high school artists from the Block Classes will display recent artworks in charcoal, paint, and pencil. At the Rood Center near the Madelyn Helling Library from March to the end of May, Forest students will also display works from all grades and programs including the Co-ops, Block Classes, and Josh Miller's Digital Photo class. Come out to see them and get ideas to use with your own artworks!



## Help for Haiti

By: Linda Katz



On January 12, 2010 a massive earthquake laid waste to much of the island of Haiti, killing hundreds of thousands of people. With a little over 27,000 people, the town of Thomas sits across the bay and approximately two hours west of Port-Au-Prince. Later this year, I will have the distinct privilege of traveling to Haiti and assessing the needs of the Thomas School in Thomas, Haiti, a school that houses approximately 140 students in grades

K-9. Other friends on various teams traveling to the area have sent word that there are specific items lacking at the school that I would like to acquire before my travels. There will be a collection box in the Forest Charter School office in Nevada City and with your help, I hope to support and assist both the teachers and students by providing some of the basic things we often take for granted. If you are interested or able to donate anything from the list, please drop your donations in the box by Friday, March 9. Because of space and weight limitations, please adhere to the list as closely as possible.

PE Equipment - New soccer and basketballs, small pumps and needle kits.

Music Program - Small instruments such as recorders, auto harps, harmonicas, flutes, clarinets, etc. Nothing bigger than a trumpet, please. Happy to take recycled instruments so dig through your closets!

School Supplies - Composition books, thin spiral notebooks (50-150 pages), black ink pens, non-permanent markers, regular (not mechanical) pencils, pencil top erasers, other erasers, basic (non battery) solar style calculators, day packs.



## Global Studies Academy

By: Josh Miller

This month in the Global Studies students have been busy starting their new classes for the semester. While most students are continuing with their classes from last semester, several students have just started attending their Sierra College classes as well.

During January students wrapped up their bird unit with a visit from Nevada county wildlife rehabilitation. Rehab staff members brought non-releasable raptors to help teach about adaptation, human impacts, and rehabilitation. Over the course of their two hour visit students saw and photographed a Great Horned Owl, Harris Hawk, American Kestrel, Western Screech Owl, and Raven. The presentation was exciting enough that much of the office staff joined class for the day.

This time of year is especially busy for the seniors as they are receiving their college acceptance letters and also finishing off their financial aid and scholarship applications. Several students have been accepted into their top schools, and the letters are still arriving. The freshman and sophomores have just begun a semester long project that has them volunteering with a local non-profit of their choice. Along with volunteer work, students are completing several projects reflecting on their experience. Looking forward we are starting to plan our end of year field trips for both classes, along with buying our plane tickets for Costa Rica this next month.



## P.A.C.E. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

By: Annie Keeling

The PACE 3-5 class was filled with science this month. The Sierra Streams Institute program is a 5-week special treat. So far, students have learned about the scientific method, watersheds, and were able to collect and observe macroinvertebrates. Also this month, parent Barry Friedman presented a lesson on compression and pressure, ending with the 200 yard launch of a potato from a canon. No one was hurt! In addition to the Valentine's Day exchange of cards, the students gave a Poetry Reading. (The Forest Charter high school students came to lend their support.) Enthusiastic performances were given by all. Especially memorable was the poem, "Louder than a Clap of Thunder," with the class divided into two sections (boys and girls). Quite a variety of facial expressions and hand gestures. Great teamwork!!!

## Truckee News

By: Janice Eggers

This past month the Truckee Learning Center has been project central for many of our classes. In our Medieval History class for Middle School, students made models of castles. There were many creative models out of unusual materials! In our high school Environmental Science class, students tested soil and water for ph and nitrate levels, and hung class made monitors for an ongoing experiment on air pollution.

In high school art, students are designing their own "dream" homes, complete with floor plans, and making a cardboard model of the project.

We started our semester long 8<sup>th</sup> Grade project. This year, we have 38 students who will be researching and giving their presentations to families, teachers, and other students. With so many students, we are actually doing 2 different nights to accommodate all of our presenters!

As usual, many of our students are in the top in their division for skiing and other winter sports. Tanner Quinneville's hockey team, Capitol Thunder, took the Northern California Championship. Allene Kennedy and Tenaya Driller just came back from the Nor Am Cup in Vail, Colorado. They were skiing with the top racers in the country. Former student, Bryce Bennett, was also at the Nor Am Cup, as part of the US Ski D team. He did so well, that we have heard it might bump him up to the B team! Addison Dvoracek, Garret Driller, and Max Hall are in the top 3 of their J2 divisions. Lila Lapanja, is currently number one in her division!

Lastly, Bennett Drummond, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, just got back from the Teva Winter Mountain Games, Telemark Big Air in Vail, Colorado. Bennett was awarded as the youngest competitor in the event!



To read more about Bennett Drummond:  
<http://www.outsideonline.com/blog/Outdoor-adventure/13-year-old-bennett-drummond-wows-winter-teva-mountain-games.html>

By: Mark Keim

All Aboard the Lady Wilma en route to the Gold! Tree Top Co-op has been active in learning the important components of the California Gold Rush through interactive units in Social Studies, Math, Science and Language Arts. Sid Fleischman has provided us with an interpretive reading of *By The Great Horn Spoon*, as we focused on comprehension, acting, and vocabulary within the book. As well, the students provided a mock gold rush in the classroom, focusing on the importance of safe travel by sea or land, trade, survival and striking it rich during the gold rush. Our math class concentrated on percentages of finding gold, line graphs of population increase and the math application of tools, pricing and story problems to wrap our minds around the Gold Rush. In Science, Tree Top has focused on the classification of minerals, including describing them through their hardness, streak and luster. The students even presented their Birthstone to the class as we passed around turquoise, emerald and rubies.

In early February, Tree Top joined Nancy Nobriga's 6th grade class as we learned about Jazz history, relevance to world music and musical instruments used in Jazz. We joined hundreds of students at North Tahoe High School to witness the New York based Jazz band, Jazz Reach. The students observed the band provide an educational program that taught students the history of jazz and the important role it played during pivotal times in American History, such as women's and civil rights movements.



*Jazz Reach Band Musical Field trip*

As well, our students have decided that they have been fortunate throughout the past months, receiving a great education and parental support. Thus, they have chosen to give back to our community and our world beyond. On Thursday, Tree Top will be visiting our local senior center to share smiles and laughter through creating artwork in Mardi Gras masks and playing Bingo. The students have been focusing on questions to ask the seniors and positive ways to support our seniors in our community. In addition, Tree Top has joined forces with Linda Katz, who will be the director of "Help for Haiti" for Forest Charter School. We have created signs throughout the Truckee campus and already collected items focusing on Physical Education, School Supplies and Musical needs in Haiti at the Thomas School. Please help our students support this great cause by donating to the "Help for Haiti" box in the 4th and 5th Grade Tree Top Co-op Classroom. Together, we have learned that we can make a great difference for others.



*Tree Top Sugarpine*



Tree Top "Help for Haiti" Fundraiser



*Interactive Learning for the Gold Rush*

By: Nancy Nobriga



Our Acts of Kindness Challenge started after Martin Luther King's birthday and ended on Valentine's Day. We met our goal of participating in or observing at least 100 acts! In culmination, the students categorized their discoveries and discussed the importance of speaking kindly. Then, they wrote a specific, personal compliment or point of gratitude for each of their peers, and signed them to take ownership.

Listening to Miles Davis' "My Funny Valentine", among other jazz songs while we wrote, reminded us of our musical field trip experience a few weeks previous. Many students were introduced to jazz for the first time, and some found a new favorite genre.

The usefulness of proportions is exciting us in math! In freshly fallen snow, we measured our height, our shadow length, and trees' shadows to determine their heights. We're also working on a scale drawing project where students are enlarging a picture of their choice to poster size, using rulers and meter sticks carefully to draw straight grid lines. The drawing on their poster will be proportional to their original picture.



The ancient Egyptians would be proud of our accurate measuring skills! We're exploring their culture and working cooperatively in groups to make board games.

We're finishing The Golden Goblet novel and will soon choose an end of the book project.

Following lots of diligent work so far this semester, students deserve a vacation break from school, and some are traveling as far as Florida or Hawaii. When we return, enrichment classes will begin again March 1st, on Thursdays 8:30-12:00.

## P.A.C.E K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

By: Jennifer Borel

The children in the P.A.C.E. K-2 class have spent the past month getting ready for their Valentine's Day Poetry Reading Event, and it was once again a great success. In combination with Mrs. Erin's 3-5 class, the students recited their chosen poems, both original and personally selected. With a full audience of parents, as well as a group of high school students, the children performed with impressive confidence for such a young group. Bravo to all our little poets!

Earlier this month, the P.A.C.E. K-2 students enjoyed a field trip to see a school production of Shakespeare's comedy, Twelfth Night, at Yuba River Charter School. They are also continuing with in-class book club and writers workshop. And next up, following the Ski Week holiday, they will begin studying fossils and dinosaurs.



# Foresthill News

By: Leanne Engel

**VALENTINE'S DANCE:** The Foresthill parent club sponsored our Valentine's family dance on Monday, February 13. Home School and Co-op Families gathered together to enjoy dancing, games, musical chairs, and a wonderful time with other families!

**VALENTINE'S PARTY:** The Foresthill co-op students and K-2 morning block class students held "historical" Valentine's parties on February 14 from 11:00-11:45. Students learned the history of cupid, the biography of St. Valentine, and other historical traditions! They also shared treats and Valentines to celebrate!

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:** Foresthill home school and co-op students will look forward to rock climbing, surfing, skiing, 6 Flags, and swimming field trips this spring!

Please contact Foresthill learning center coordinator ([lengel@forestcharter.com](mailto:lengel@forestcharter.com)) for more information on our co-op program, home school opportunities, electives, and activities.

