

APRIL 2009

Forest Charter School

A Personalized Learning Program
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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Teachers Who Make a Difference awards event from the right: Ruthanne Buckley, Sandy McDivitt and Katherine Buckley

On March 19th, FCS Education Specialist, Ruthanne Buckley, was honored, along with 26 Nevada County teachers, by the Association of California Administrators at the 13th annual *Teachers Who Make a Difference* Awards Evening at the Miner's Foundry. Congratulations to this dedicated educator, for providing a nurturing educational environment for each and every student and for contributing so professionally to the leadership community at Forest Charter School.

Five Forest team members attended The California Charter Schools Conference where we felt the creativity, entrepreneurship, and power behind the ever-growing educational options for our California students through the charter school movement. Sir Ken Robinson, the CCSA keynote speaker, speaking of creativity in both education and business, identified the need for educational transformation, not just reformation. Currently there are 750 innovative charter schools in California, and I predict a surge in that number. As a veteran charter school of 8 years, Forest has the experience and expertise as a personalized learning school to continue a positive response to modeling an effective approach to educational innovation.



At the CCSA Conference from the left: Peter Sagebiel, Camille Taylor, Sandy McDivitt, Linda Hill & Debbie Carter

STAR Testing:



April is our STAR testing month! As in years past we have set up testing sites in convenient locations. A list of testing locations with dates and times is included in this newsletter (page 2). In addition, check with your ES to confirm your designated testing location. Each test is pre-IDed so they will have been sent to the specific test sites where your student is expected to test.

Your child's test proctor will create a comfortable testing environment with the intent of providing a positive educational day.

As always, we thank you for **your** positive support and we value the individual talents and gifts that each Forest student brings to this educational environment.

Warm wishes
Sandy McDivitt
FCS Executive Director

IMPORTANT STAR TESTING DATES:

- **April 21st – 24th: 9:00 – Noon (approximately) - GV/NC testing at the First Baptist Church, Grass Valley**
- **April 20st – 24th: Truckee testing at the Truckee Learning**
- **April 22nd – 24th: 9:00 – TBA- Auburn testing at Grace Christian Fellowship in Auburn**
- **Cooperatives will be testing at their usual sites according to teacher schedule**
- **IMPORTANT DATES: April 6th – 10th Spring Break**



STAR TESTING

STAR Testing Dates and Times

Region	Dates of Test	Times
Auburn	April 22, 23, and 24 (if needed)	9am – 2pm
Grass Valley/Nevada City	April 21 st – 24 th	9am - noon
Truckee	April 20 th – 24 th	See Site Schedule

In order for your student to do his/her best, please consider the following suggestions:

- Discuss with your ES appropriate test preparations and give your student an opportunity to practice.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast.
- Send along bottled water/nutritious snacks. Brain research correlates positive brain functioning with hydration.
- Arrive 15 minutes before the testing time.

* The tests are not timed, so please be available for a call to pick up your student when they have completed their test.

TESTING LOCATIONS:

Please check with you ES to find out where students are testing.

GRASS VALLEY AREA - LOCATION: First Baptist Church, 1866 Ridge Road (Across the street from Nevada Union High School)

AUBURN AREA - LOCATION: Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 250 Elm Street, Auburn

TRUCKEE AREA - LOCATION: Truckee Site, 10655 Pioneer Trail, Truckee CA 96161



FORESTHILL NEWS

by Leanne Engel, Education Specialist



FORESTHILL HOME SCHOOLERS:

Students are enjoying the days of sun and coming of spring. Many are beginning gardens and preparing to watch as young offspring hatch in animal unit studies. Middle school students are engaged in the Lord of the Rings intensive unit study and are excited to be analyzing many characters in the series. Preparations of costume and character studies are also underway as we anticipate our upcoming living history experience at Sutter's Fort on April 21st.

FORESTHILL CO-OP:

by Erin Hunt, Education Specialist



In March we kicked off our Mystery Forensics Unit (from Lawrence Berkeley Lab).

Students stumbled onto a crime scene in the classroom, and they are gathering evidence and testing it in the "lab". Students will be comparing pH levels of liquids, looking at fingerprints, conducting tape lifts, comparing scents, and testing powders to obtain enough evidence to narrow down which suspect might be responsible for the crime. Students have been fully engaged.

Several of our students took part in Age of Sail on March 2nd. All participants said it was an incredible trip. All students came back with a great number of stories and a great deal of confidence. Field trip coordinator Sandy Allen did a wonderful job organizing this trip and preparing our students for the rigors of the sea. Thank you, Sandy!

FORESTHILL BLOCK CLASSES:

We continue to attend block classes that include: writing, art history, Spanish, guitar, and keyboard. Art students are experimenting with various painting mediums and techniques. Writing students just completed adventure "Fantasy summary" stories where they had fun each making up various endings for each other's stories. Spanish students are learning names of clothing, colors, and foods. We are having a great time!

Please contact Leanne Engel (lengel@forestcharter.com) for more information on the Foresthill Co-op, classes, or home school opportunities

FREE Vision, Hearing and Scoliosis Screening!

When: Monday, April 20th

Where: Nevada City Office, 224 Church Street

Time: 12:00 – 3:00



The Ear

Screenings will be conducted by the school nurse Heidi Biber. Scoliosis screening is for 6th or 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys. If you would like your student to participate in the scoliosis screening please have them wear comfortable clothing, the nurse will need to look at their back.

Global Studies Academy

by Samantha Buck, 11th grade



Tom Reyes and Micah Warren

This month in Global Studies Academy, the 11th and 12th graders have been focusing on restoring Deer Creek. Working with Friends of Deer Creek, they have gone out on several Fridays to first dig out patches of Himalayan Blackberry and then plant native species, such as willow and wild grape. In a few weeks, they will be collecting insect and water samples from the creek to test whether the ecosystem is healthy or not.

Both the 11th and 12th graders and the 9th and 10th graders had a guest speaker this month. Rebecca Anderson, from Alliance for Climate Education, came in and spoke about global warming. She discussed the specifics of what was happening, and what she and other scientists were doing to try to prevent it from continuing. She also focused on some solutions that we as individuals could help with.

Several students were accepted to colleges and won competitions this month. Congratulations to Teresa Harcourt for being accepted to Otterbein College in Ohio, to Annabelle Ziegenhagen for being accepted to the School of Visual Arts in New York and Moore College of Art and Design, and to Bethany Anderson for being accepted to St. John's College in Maryland. Dylan Rodrigue and his band The Shreds also won the prestigious John Lennon Educational Tour Bus competition, and were able to record their own music video!

My Trip to Rome for the TKO International Cup

by T.J. Pelletier, 11th Grade



I started taking karate with Pacific Crest Martial Arts in September of 2005. I instantly was addicted to it! It became my passion to dedicate and learn the discipline. This meant I would need to strengthen my mind and body. Who knew that when I started training I would someday compete in a tournament in Rome, Italy!

I competed in the TKO International Cup 2009 in Kata and Kumite.

Although I didn't get a medal, it was an experience I will never forget. Before the tournament, all competitors in our dojo were required to train at least 3 days a week, which I faithfully did. Our dojo travels to Grants Pass, Oregon to train with the grand master of the style Shito-Ryu. His name is Soke Del Saito and is a 10th degree black belt.

In order to go to Rome the competitors of our dojo had to do fundraising to raise money for our trip. Our dojo sold T-shirts, and had a kick-a-thon just to name a few of the many fundraisers we arranged. In order to be prepared to be able to communicate with the Italians, I took a semester of Italian this year in school. It helped tremendously at the hotel, the restaurants, and in talking with the local vendors.

In Memoriam

Forest charter school sends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Will Parkhurst Class of 2005 for the loss of his mother, Carol Parkhurst.

TRUCKEE NEWS

by Janice Eggers, Education Specialist

Truckee students have been very busy pursuing interests outside of their school day. Here are just a few samples of what students have accomplished this last month:

Daniel Ziegler, 8th grader, participated in the American Mathematics Competition on February 10th, and earned a score of 139.5. Students earning a score of at least 120 on this test qualify for the **AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MATHEMATICS EXAMINATION (AIME)** which will be held on **Tuesday, March 17, 2009**. We are so proud of Daniel's excellent score and mathematical prowess. Congratulations Daniel!



Madeline Hall

After completing 9 qualifiers, and ending with the Mammoth Super G, the following students made the Junior Olympics for J3: Lena Andrews, Madeline Hall, Morganne Murphy, Jessica Tidd, Max Hall. (Pierson Souza is an alternate!) These students have worked very hard all winter in various snow conditions to make it to the Junior Olympics. Congratulations skiers!

Last but not least, we want to congratulate Bryce Bennett. Bryce has been skiing since he was 2 years old. At 6 feet 6 inches, Bryce towers over other skiers. On Thursday, March 12, in Aspen, Colorado, Bryce won the J2 National Junior Olympic Giant Slalom race, and he has a Gold medal to prove it! Bryce is off to Alaska for the US Nationals. Congratulations Bryce and good luck!



Bryce Bennett

Upcoming Truckee Events:

Tuesday, March 24: 8th Grade project meeting, 1:45-3:00

Tuesday, March 24: 8th Grade Graduation planning meeting, 3:00-4:00pm

Spring Break: April 6-10

STAR testing: April 20-24

FOREST CHARTER FIELD TRIPS:

Upcoming Field Trips for Foresthill, Auburn, and Grass Valley area students:

March 24:	Ski/ Board North Star, \$53 pkg. - FULL
April 3-4:	Sleeping with Sharks (4-8), \$83- FULL
April 27-30:	Marine Biology Camp, \$309- FULL
May 1:	Sleeping with Sharks (K-4) - FULL
May 22:	Six Flags \$30- FULL
May 26:	Camp Augusta, \$50- FULL



All field trips are first come, first served. To sign up for these field trips, please have your ES e-mail: Leanne Engel (lengel@forestcharter.com)

Academic Adventure Academy

Come see our hilarious rendition of *The Princess Bride* at St. Joseph's Hall in Grass Valley. Our two performances are on **Thursday night, April 23 at 7:00 p.m.** (a perfect after dinner show), and on Friday morning, **April 24 at 10:00 a.m.** There is a \$5.00 cover fee, and we will have a baked goods, snacks and beverages for sale. Invite your family and friends to this classic fractured fairy tale that will make you appreciate the power of "true love."



The Academy Students

Pizza Night Fundraiser at Round Table. The Co-op is working hard to raise the last part of our funds for our end of year trip, graduation, and yearbooks. Please come help out by having your dinner at Round Table on **Tuesday, April 21st**. We receive a portion of the proceeds that night for every person who purchases a meal and brings in one of our mini flyers. You can pick up a flyer at the school office, or at the Co-op.

Arriba! Arriba! Get your tickets now for our **Cinco de Mayo Celebration Fundraiser**. We will be serving homemade chicken, pork or vegetarian tamales, rice, beans and salad, there will be dance lessons, live Latin music from Sabroso, and dance performances. Get your tickets in advance so that we can buy and prepare the right amount of food. Prices have been reduced so bring the whole family!!! This is a fundraiser to support our end of the year 8th Grade Trip.

DAY: Cinco de Mayo (Tuesday, May 5, 2009)

PLACE: Miner's Foundry

TIME: Dinner 5:00-6:00 p.m., Dance Lesson 6:30-7:30 p.m., Band 7:30-9:00 p.m.

COST: \$20.00 for adult full ticket, \$15.00 for child full ticket, \$10.00 dance only ticket

CONTACT FOR TICKETS: Dominique at 478-1348 or ddelchiaro@forestcharter.com

On Friday, March 13 the Co-op made and served dinner for the homeless through the Hospitality House. After dinner we performed Rueda, swing and played basketball with the guests. This was a wonderful experience for the class as well as all the parents and guests who attended!

Congratulations Edda Snyder!

By Linda Smith, Education Specialist



Congratulations to Edda Snyder, Forest Charter School senior for taking first place out of seven competitors at the annual Lions Club Student Speakers contest in Downieville, CA, held Tuesday, January 26. She advanced to the district level where she competed once again on March 1. Competition was stiff and although Edda did not advance to the zone competition, she did a phenomenal job discussing this year's topic "Water - Will California be Left High and Dry?" The speakers were judged on effectiveness of the speech, thus testing the speakers' skills in research, organization, poise, and the ability to overcome a natural fear of public speaking. Edda received a \$50 cash award for her first place honor!

Pennies for Peace

by Bethany Anderson, 12th grade, Global Studies Academy



This last month has been a busy and exciting one for the Pennies for Peace team. *Three Cups of Tea* is this year's Nevada County Reads book, and we have had the opportunity to participate in several of the county wide events. The kickoff event, at Daju Bhai restaurant, was a big success and we were able to earn about \$550 in donations from t-shirt/bracelet sales and our coin jar.

We also had the awesome opportunity to participate in a book discussion on NCTV, which will air for the entire month of March, on Sundays from 2:30-3PM and Tuesdays from 6-6:30PM. Micheal Milligan and I participated as students in the discussion and our Global Studies Academy teacher, Jen Homan, moderated. What was really amazing about the experience was the fact that we got to meet other high school students that are just as inspired by Greg Mortenson's story and are excited to become involved with Pennies for Peace. We can all agree that Mortenson's story is an inspiring one, and it is exciting to see how reading his book will further inspire our community.

Here is a reminder of some of the upcoming Nevada County Reads events:

March 30th--Presentation and discussion with Julia Bergman--Forest Charter in the Resource Room/Academy Classroom 1:20-2:20 PM

April 19th--Presentation by Julia Bergman--Nevada Theater 5-6 PM

We'll be at all of these events cheerfully selling our t-shirts and bracelets, so everyone should stop by to support our community and this very just purpose! It's lots of fun working towards such a meaningful goal.

INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

by Steve Ross, Dept. Head



This month I would like to mention some of the great new technology that is available for students. I believe these technologies be transformative in the way our students learn in the future.

1) Netbook computers: These are sometimes called "Thin Clients" but whatever you call them they are proving to be just right for students. Netbooks are low cost (\$300-\$500) lightweight laptops that provide Internet connectivity, some word processing and not a whole lot more. They are frustrating slow for playing games on which is one reason schools and parents love them.

2) Electronic Book Readers: Amazon has had it's Kindle out for a few years and is releasing it's newer version. Not to be outdone, Sony has it's own book reader. What is transformative about these? Imagine a school loading up all the books a student will need for the year on one e-book reader that weighs around 10oz.

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INTERNET SAFETY TIPS (Continued)

3) Wi-Fi everywhere: Ok, this may only be a dream in Nevada County but it may soon be a reality for city residents. With high speed Internet access widely available schools are going to be offering more learning opportunities. At Forest Charter School we began offering our first online class this year. More will be coming next year. Colleges have been offering online classes for many years; soon this will be the norm for high school and middle school as well.

Personally, I'm very excited about the new teaching learning opportunities that our students will have available to them. I'm proud of the leadership role FCS is taking is giving our students the best opportunities possible.

Here are a few links that you might find interesting: Review of E_Book Readers:

http://portables.about.com/od/ebookreasers/Ebook_Readers.htm



Netbook Now:

<http://www.netbooknow.net/>

College and Career News

by Janice Eggers, Education Specialist

Congratulations to the following students on their college acceptances:

Gabbi Hall-University of Denver

Michael Lufkin-UC Davis

Fathom Neft-Sierra Nevada College, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara

Josh Barram- UC Davis, UC Merced, UPO

Camille Cadeaux- UC Santa Cruz, CSU Sacramento

Bethany Anderson: St. Johns College

John Vaughn: UC Santa Barbara, Pepperdine University

Terry Hicks: UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, CSU Fullerton, CSU Northridge, Notre Dame de Namur

Here are some tips for our high school students for the month of April:

March and April are exciting months for our **Seniors**. They will be hearing of their college acceptances, receiving their financial aid packages, and making the decision on where they will attend college. If students are thinking about community college, now is the time to visit and apply. Seniors, please keep Dawn and Janice posted of your acceptances and your final decisions, and scholarships!

Juniors might want to take their Spring Break to visit colleges that are of interest. It is also a time to start studying for the SATs or ACT exams, and to register for the tests. Juniors also might want to research summer programs, internships, or volunteer opportunities to help create the well rounded student.

Freshman and Sophomores, this is the time to keep your grades up. If you are considering the SAT II tests, sign up through College Board. This is a great time for you to research colleges, majors, internships, summer classes, and volunteer work.

OLD PORTFOLIOS CAN BE PICKED UP



Student portfolios from the 2001-2002 and the 2002-2003 school years can now be returned to families. Please contact your ES to arrange a pickup.