

AUGUST 2007

Forest Charter School

A Personalized Learning Program
Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Forest Charter School welcomes you back to the 2007-2008 school year! We start the new school year under the official sponsorship of Nevada County Superintendent's Office of Education, along with 4 other local charter schools forming the Nevada County Charter Collaborative (NCCC). I want to welcome Holly Hermansen on board as the new County Superintendent and look forward to a dynamic new educational relationship.



The FCS office staff has been busily preparing for the opening of school. The Truckee team will host an all staff team building day on Monday, August 13th at Donner Lake, CPR and First Aid training on Tuesday to support the new FCS Safety Plan, and Wednesday will be dedicated to teacher inservice training.

This year Forest is putting special emphasis on Math instruction. See the last page for more information on "Mad Math-ness" . . .

School officially starts for FCS students on Thursday, August 16th.

Important Back-to-School Class Sign-ups:

- **Grass Valley:** Monday, August 20th at Condon Park (* **note: K-8 & High School are at separate times**)
 - ***K-8: 10:00 to Noon**
 - ***High School: 1:00 to 2:00**
- **Truckee:** Tuesday, August 21st at Riverview Park - 10:00 to noon

Kindergarten/1st Grade Screening will be administered these days (details in newsletter)

Take this opportunity to have your FCS photo ID taken. These ID's are vital for students in grades 9 - 12 because of the Nevada County Truancy Ordinance. K-8 students are invited to get an ID, as well.

Block classes will start after Labor Day. Check the website for details.

We look forward to a dynamic new year!

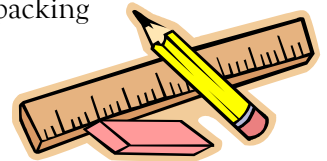
Warm wishes
Sandy McDivitt
FCS Executive Director

WELCOME NEW FOREST CHARTER STAFF MEMBERS!!

Johanna Stephan	Business Assistant
Heather Buck	Education Specialist
Geoff Quine	Education Specialist
Tamara Chisholm	Creekside Kindergarten and Spanish Co-op Teacher
Candi Fyfe	Truckee/Tahoe Special Education teacher and Education Specialist
Alexandria Torres	Education Specialist and Spanish Instructor
Marla Landon	Education Specialist
Molly Harrison	Psychologist
Sarah Gordon	River Co-op Teacher for 7 th /8 th Graders (3 days/week)

WELCOME**TRUCKEE NEWS:**

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! Please join us at the Truckee Back-to-School class sign up and meeting on **Tuesday, August 21 from 10-12 at Riverview Park**, off of Highway 267. Please arrive at **10am**, as we will be introducing new teachers, confirming class sign ups, giving out the class schedule, and having sign ups for Fieldtrip Fridays! Students will also be signing up for Edperformance assessments, class orientations, and the upcoming backpacking trips for middle and high school students. See you there!



Directions to Riverview Park: Riverview Park is in Truckee, off of Highway 267. Take the Soaring Way Exit, and wind your way down towards the river. (Do not go straight, as you will go towards the airport.) Take the first left, which is by the soccer fields. We will be meeting under the pavilion.

Reminder: **The first day of block classes will be Tuesday, September 4th.** During the class orientations, students will be given out books, and a first assignment to be done before classes start.

IDEA ACADEMY: Nevada City

The IDEA Academy is again recruiting all high school students for another exciting school year! We will be continuing our two-day a week model for academic classes with a focus on global issues, environment, and community and a renewed emphasis on experiential learning through projects and fieldtrips. Ninth and tenth graders will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays and eleventh and twelfth graders will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call Jen Homan (575-7084) or Josh Miller (575-8083) for more information!



~A New 7th & 8th Grade CoOp is forming at Forest Charter~ The River CoOp!

The River CoOp is for 7th and 8th graders looking for a school-like setting, 3 days a week with a high academic standard within a team/community context. Parent participation will be key to the success of the River CoOp.



The curriculum will center around the theme of “The River”, to include an in-depth study of our own Yuba River, possible community projects with local watershed organizations, and monthly hikes or water trips on the Yuba. The focus of studies will be mainly Math & Science, with specific Social Studies, English, Art and P.E. skills as they pertain to projects. The River theme will afford us opportunities to explore local, national and international water and climate issues. The year will begin with a hike from the headwaters of the Yuba River at Donner Summit with local experts, a Ropes Course and culminate at the end of the year with a possible 5 day canoe/kayak river trip.

Sarah Gordon is the teacher for the River CoOp. She will work closely with the ES for each student to coordinate specific curriculum expectations beyond those being met by the River CoOp. Sarah has lived in Nevada County with her husband and 2 sons for 13 years. She has been an educator for over 25 years and brings a strong foundation of classroom and environmental/outdoor education experience to create this school.

For more information, contact Sarah at saresbean@yahoo.com.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Academic, Speech and Language Screening



Welcome back to school! To follow up from our June newsletter, we are still planning to conduct our first kindergarten and 1st grade screening for all Forest Charter students.

The screening will cover basic reading, and speech and language skills expected for a K-1 student. Results will help you, the parent, and your ES know what to work towards should we find areas that need further growth for success in the K-1 grades. The K-1 grades are the foundation for future success in grades 2 up! Should we find areas that need additional growth, we will also work with you and your ES on strategies, techniques and if necessary, make recommendations for materials and/or curriculum to help enhance their learning.

The screenings will take place sometime between August 20th and August 31st. Each student's screening should take no more than 30 minutes. Results will follow shortly after Labor Day. Specific days and times are still to be determined. Parents of K-1 students and ES's will be contacted directly for more information.

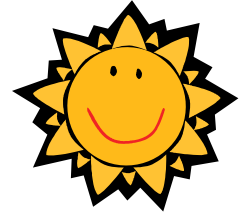
For more information please contact Shana Stratton at 265-4823 or 470-0235.

FORESTHILL NEWS

Foresthill home school students had fabulous summer excursions to wonderful places like Santa Cruz, Monterey, Catalina Island, Las Vegas, Oregon, and North Carolina. Many also enjoyed swimming in our local rivers and lakes, picking blackberries, and swim team competition. We are looking forward to group classes, field trips, and individual learning for 2007-2008.

Foresthill block class schedule for the spring:

Monday: 1:00-2:00	K-2 Art History	Dawson
1:00-2:00	3-8 Writing Techniques	Engel
Monday: 2:00-3:00	3-8 Art History	Dawson



Wednesday: 2:00-3:00	7-12 Advanced Guitar	Namanny
Wednesday: 3:00-4:00	7-12 Beginning Guitar	Namanny

Classes are located at the Calvary Bible Church on Todd Valley Road

Just a short drive from Auburn, we welcome any and all to come join us for a fun, educationally focused, group learning adventure! Please contact Leanne Engel, ES for questions or information regarding any field trips or classes. lengel@forestcharter.com.

FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL-WIDE FIELD TRIPS:

The 2007-2008 school year will prove to be another fabulous year for field trips! Your ES will e-mail you trip advertisements and sign-up deadlines. Also, watch the newsletter for field trip information. Our first trip will be to Allegheny Mine on September 28. Please read below for information.

FIELD TRIP: Original Sixteen to One Mine

LEARNING AREA: Science / Social Studies

DESCRIPTION: Students will learn about the history and development of gold mining and it's relationship and impact on Northern California. Students will learn to explain how the present is connected to the past and identify and interpret the causes and effects of mining. They will become familiar with how the Gold Rush transformed the economy of California, including it's impact on immigration, settlement and development. Students will also learn how to differentiate between various types of rocks by referring to rock properties and methods of formation.



GRADES: K-12, however, this is a walking tour of about 2 miles on uneven terrain so participants must be in good health.

PLACE: Sixteen to One Mine, Alleghany, CA

DATE: Friday, September 28, 2007

TIME: 10:00 am arrival at the Underground Gold Miner's Museum in Alleghany

COST: \$20.00/ per person

SIGN-UP DEADLINE: Friday, September 14, 2007

For questions and sign up info e-mail Linda Smith at linsmith4@yahoo.com

Important Dates and Information



Back to School Class Sign Ups

Grass Valley: Monday, August 20th at Condon Park (* note: **K-8 & High School are at separate times**) ***K-8: 10:00 to Noon** ***High School: 1:00 to 2:00**

Directions to Condon Park

From Auburn area:

Take Hwy 49 toward Grass Valley. Exit at Highway 20/Marysville. At the top of the exit take a left over the freeway. Take the first exit toward Mill St on your right. Take a left at the stop sign and then another left at Pacos Tacos onto French St. At the next stop sign take a right onto Brighton St. After about a block take a left onto Minnie St. You will see a small park and a firehouse on the corner. Continue straight into Condon Park. The BBQ Area is on the left above the main parking lot.

From Penn Valley: Take Hwy 20 toward Grass Valley. Exit at Mill St. Take a left at the top of the ramp and another left at the stop sign onto Mill St. Go under the freeway and take your second left at Pacos Tacos onto French St. Directions from here are same as above.

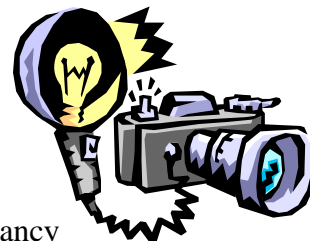
From Nevada City Area: Take Hwy 49 towards Grass Valley. Exit at Hwy 20/Marysville. Take a right at the top of the ramp and take the Mill St exit. Directions from here are the same as from Auburn.

Truckee: Tuesday, August 21st at Riverview Park - 10:00 to noon off of Highway 267

Pictures For Student ID's

At

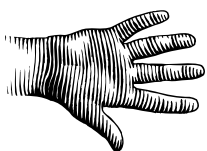
Condon Park and at Truckee Riverview Park



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Parent Project – Parenting class taught by Bill and Kathleen McVicker at Citizens Restaurant starting August 27th from 6:00pm – 9:00pm for 10 weeks. Come have pizza and learn great parenting skills for the strong willed child. Ages 10-18 years. Cost is \$25 for book and \$25 for the class. Call Touched By A Child Foundation at 273-1112 or visit the website at www.touchedbyachild.com.

Did you know?.....All community vendors have to be re-fingerprinted. The Business office sent a letter and forms out in late June so that your favorite vendor would be cleared to begin instruction in early September. If a vendor has not been fingerprinted it will delay the start of instruction for your student. Please check with vendors and make sure they have been fingerprinted.



Youth Digital Arts Cyber School

What: Youth Digital Arts Cyber School. The courses are made up of software and step by step videos designed to teach students how to create digital art. We will create a simple video game during the fall semester, there are also animation and digital painting courses for the Spring semester.



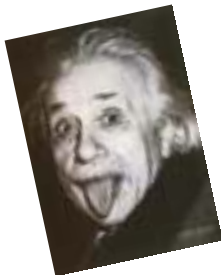
The class will be starting with Video Game Design Basics. The class only requires that students be comfortable using a computer. No programming or digital art experience is required. Students will learn how to create a simple platform video game. (Super Mario Brothers on the Nintendo is an example of this type of game)

When: Mondays from 1 to 2 pm class starts on Monday, September 10th

Where: the computer lab at the Nevada City office

Price: TBD

Signups at the block class signups both days, more information at www.ydacs.com



Welcome to Mad Math-Ness at Forest Charter

Look for a variety of support options in math.

Parent workshop

Learn effective teaching strategies and activities to use with your students from teachers with years of math teaching experience

Two sessions for your convenience:

September 19th from 9:00 am – 10:00 am at the K-8 block classes on Reward Street
Learn techniques while your students are attending classes.

OR

September 19th from 5:30pm – 6:30 pm at the Forest Charter offices on Church Street.
Activities available on site for your children while you attend the workshop.

Additional Math-Ness

K-12 drop in math lab at the Forest Charter main offices on Thursday from 2:00 – 3:00
Math lab classes available at the K-8 block classes for students and/or parents.
Chess Club – Contact the Forest Charter offices to sign up.

Mark your calendar:

The next math workshop will be October 24th.
Look for details in the October newsletter.

Information on Truckee workshops to follow.

