

AUGUST 2009

Forest Charter School

A Personalized Learning Program
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WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year! I hope you have all had a fun and relaxing summer and that you are feeling energized for the upcoming year.

The staff has been working hard to prepare all the details to make the beginning of the year kick off smoothly.

This year, many of us are beginning a new path in our lives. Some of us are joining Forest for the first time, starting middle school or high school, learning to be homeschooling parents for the first time, or, like my daughter, starting school as a kindergartener. Any new path can feel exciting but also daunting. Remember, there are many support systems and people at this school who want nothing more than for students and families to succeed and to feel supported. Please know that we are here to help you, so I encourage you to ask for guidance when you feel you need it. I, too, plan to benefit from this supportive staff as I start a new, exciting chapter of my career as the Director of Forest Charter School. I am thrilled to be surrounded by such a dynamic staff and I know that together we will create an exceptional year.

I'd like to take a moment to introduce our new Academic Dean, Paul Simoes. Paul worked with Forest last year as an education specialist and as the high school block class coordinator. Before that, he taught for over nine years and then worked three years as the Assistant Head of School for a program in Marin County. We are thrilled to have him as part of the administration. Besides working in the Nevada City office, you can find Paul at the Grass Valley block classes where he teaches history and continues to oversee the center.

I'd also like to take a moment to welcome our new Education Specialists:

- Julie Lagorio: Education Specialist at the Foresthill Cooperative
- Heather Johnson: Education Specialist at the PACE Cooperative
- Erin Drew: Education Specialist at the PACE Cooperative

Please be sure look through the newsletter for specific information regarding each Learning Center and the important dates associated with them.

We look forward to an exciting year.

Thanks,

Peter Sagebiel
Director



Peter Sagebiel
Director

B.J. Hatcher
Assistant Director

Paul Simoes
Academic Dean

Debbie Carter
Business Director

Mary Whittlesey
*Administrative
Business Assistant*

Valerie Jones
Resource Coordinator

Janne Delhez
Student Services

Becca Armstrong
Student Records

Nancy Nobles
*Administrative
Assistant*

Jenna Johnson
*Resource and Tech
Assistant*

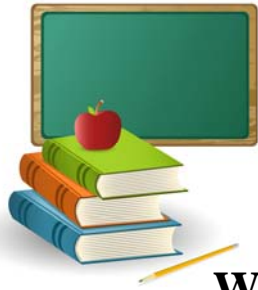
Brandon Johnson
Resource Assistant

224 Church St
Nevada City
CA 95959

Phone (530) 265-4823
Fax (530) 265-5037

Important Dates:

- **Thursday, August 20th: Back to School Days** (see site news for details)
- **Tuesday, August 25th - High School Block Classes at the Center for the Arts Start**
- **Wednesday, September 2nd – K-8 Block Classes at the Canice Center Start**
- **Monday, October 12th - PLAN (10th and 11th grades)**
- **Wednesday, October 14th - PSAT/NMSQT (10th and 11th grades)**
- **November, 3rd and 4th – CAHSEE 11th & 12th Grade**



Back To School Day!

When: Thursday, August 20th 9:30 – 11:30

Where: Nevada City Office – 224 Church Street, Nevada City

Students and Parents, Forest Charter School will be holding a Back to School day on **Thursday August 20, 2009 from 9:30am to 11:30am** at the main office in Nevada City. The office is located across the street from the Nevada City Courthouse at 224 Church St.

Students and parents will be able to meet the teachers of the GV/NC block classes. **Students in grades 8-12 can have their student ID picture taken from 9:30-12:30.**

Parents can also sign up for escript to help benefit the school financially.

We look forward to seeing you there!

P.A.C.E. Peace. Art. Creativity. Environment.



PACE Families Preparing the Co-op Garden

P.A.C.E, the new K-5 co-op at Forest Charter in Nevada City, is off to an exciting start with two dynamic teachers and a group of wonderful K-5 students. P.A.C.E. will be holding classes at Bluebird Farm on Cement Hill Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9-1. We are looking forward to a great year!

Important P.A.C.E. dates to remember:

Thursday, August 20th 9:30-11:30: Meet the block teachers at the Forest Charter Administrative Offices

Thursday, August 20th 1:00-2:00: P.A.C.E. Orientation at Bluebird Farm

August 24-27: Parent/Child/Teacher Conferences – sign up for your time slot!

August 31st: First Day of P.A.C.E. classes

September 2: First day of Wednesday block classes for those students who signed up for block classes



Erin Drew (3-5) edrew@forestcharter.com



Heather Johnson (K-2) hjohnson@forestcharter.com

Truckee News

by Janice Eggers, Site Coordinator



We hope that you have enjoyed this wonderful summer! The learning center in Truckee will be busy in August. **We will be holding our Back to School Meeting on August 20th at Riverview Park at two different times for our students (please see schedule below).** We will introduce new teachers, hand out the final schedule, sign up for orientation days, and of course officially sign up our students for block classes. At the meeting, students will take their student ID pictures for the 2009-2010 school year.

During the week of August 24-28, we will hold our orientation days for students and parents. We will ask all students and at least one parent to join us for one session of orientation. The time goes fast as we cover important block class guidelines, homework suggestions, role of the parent and student in our program, and hand out first week assignments and books for classes on campus. Please do not miss this opportunity for a jump start to our school year!

Schedule of Events in August:

Thursday, August 20: Back to School Meeting. Riverview Park, Truckee. (Directions will be sent via email before the meeting.) 10-11am for all K-8 Students and families. 12-1pm for 9-12 grades.

Monday, August 24: Orientation Day. 10-11:30 for 9-12th grade. 12:30-2:00 K-8th grade.

Tuesday, August 25: Orientation Day. 10-11:30 for K-8th grade. 12:30-2:00 for 9-12th grade.

Monday, August 31: First Day of block classes.

Middle School Team Building Day: TBA.

Global Studies Academy



Welcome back, Global Studies Academy students and welcome all new students! Your teachers are looking forward to the year with you, exploring important global issues and discussing our essential roles in the ongoing history of our planet. After ending last year with amazing trips to Malakoff Diggins and Yosemite National Park, we are all set to start the 2009-2010 year with our traditional teambuilding days, ropes course, and trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Teambuilding days will begin on

August 26 for 11th and 12th graders and August 27 for 9th and 10th graders, and Josh and Jen will be scheduling your beginning of the year meetings with you sometime before those dates. We hope you all had adventurous summers and are excited for school to begin!

FORESTHILL NEWS:

Welcome Back Families:

We would like to welcome you all back to school and welcome our new families to our Foresthill Group at Forest Charter School. We will be kicking off our first day of school with a welcome back picnic on **August 20th** 11:00-1:00 at Leanne Engel's house.

August 20th -September 4th will be independent study weeks. At our picnic, we will be handing you out a list of assignment ideas, field trips, and project ideas for these two weeks. Our first day of co-op classes and elective classes will begin after Labor Day on September 8th.

At the meeting, we will take signups for this year's elective classes. We will introduce our elective teachers: Vicki Merrill, Debbie Dawson, Linda Peets, Scott Namanny, Steve Clark, and Cheryl Kennedy. We are excited to expand our offerings this year and welcome our new staff aboard!

We will also introduce upcoming themes of study for the school year, field trips, and academic and behavioral contracts will be discussed and signed. Some of our exciting hands-on learning will include: trip to San Francisco- King Tut display, museums, plays, musicals, guitar, keyboard, art, Camp Augusta, pumpkin patch, and more!!!!

We look forward to a fun and fabulous year and partnering with YOU for an INCREDIBLE educational experience!

Warmly,

Leanne Engel (ES, K-2 block class teacher, and Foresthill Site Coordinator)

Erin Hunt (ES, 6-8 grade co-op teacher)

A Special Welcome to Julie Lagorio (ES, 3-5 grade co-op teacher)



WELCOME



FCS Field Trips

August 31:	Camp Augusta	Sign-up by: 8/24
October 27:	Bishops Pumpkin Farm	Sign-up by: 10/2
December 15:	Foothill Theater Co Play	Sign-up by: 11/13

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)

College and Career

Attention Seniors! Sign Up for College Advisory B. Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors, make an appointment to discuss college or career goals with Dawn or Janice.



Dawn Anthony & Janice Eggers

Charter Council Positions Are Open

Serving on the Forest Charter School Charter Council gives you the opportunity to be an integral part of the school's development and direction. This is your opportunity to take an active role in the school that is educating your student.

Currently, the following positions are open:

- 3 parent positions (with enrolled student in FCS)
- 1 student representative position (must be enrolled in grades 9-12)
- 1 Community Member



Elections take place in September, and the new board begins their term in October.

If you would like to run for one of the open positions, please send a letter of interest to the following address:

Peter Sagebiel
Forest Charter School
224 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at 530-265-4823

Ed Performance Testing Window - OPEN

To all Nevada City/Grass Valley families: Please come in to the FCS offices to complete Ed Performance testing. The system is up and running as of August 11th, so come in now before school schedules fill up your days. Please call Nancy at the front desk (265-4823) to make arrangements or drop by in person.



ART MILES SHOW - Monday, October 12th **at CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

By Valerie Stuart, Education Specialist

The ARTMILES murals are being completed this semester and are being prepared for their show in Grass Valley and journey to Egypt. A culminating event at the Center for the Arts on **Monday, October 12th** will include donations to the project, a viewing of the works of Forest Charter students and teachers from grades K-12 and encompassing Truckee, Forest Hill, and Nevada City students. Please mark this on your calendars. More information will follow later. Thanks for all the support so far. The kids are excited to see their works and share them with our community.

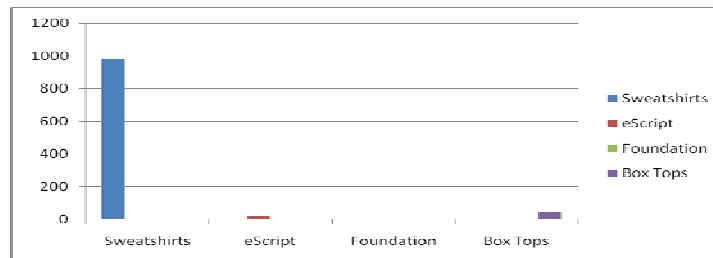
For more information contact Valerie Stuart at valeriestuart66@hotmail.com or 273-5945. See for yourself the amazing web site: www.the-art-miles-mural-project.org.



FUNDRAISING CORNER

Please join us in our Fundraising efforts which benefit the whole school!

- **Buy a FCS Sweatshirt for only \$25.00!** Talk to Jenna for more information 265-4823!
- **Sign up and participate for eScript!** This is a great way to support your school and students. See Becca for details!
- **Join the FCS Education Foundation!** We are looking for creative, inspired, and motivated people to become board members of our Foundation! Call or email Debbie Carter for additional information!
- **Send in your box tops!** They can be turned into Nancy at the Nevada City site or Janice at the Truckee location OR to your ES!



PARENTS, YOU CAN CHECK ATTENDANCE, ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADES FOR YOUR STUDENT'S BLOCK CLASSES!

To access the Student/Parent Portal

To Login to the Student/Parent Portal go to:

- 1) www.forestcharter.com and click on the image for your block class campus in the upper right corner (Grass Valley/Nevada City, Truckee, or Auburn)
- 2) Click on the "Student/parent portal" link in the upper middle portion of the page.
- 3) Enter Local Student ID (5 digits)
- 4) Enter ES Last Name
- 5) Enter the school name: forestcharter (one word & lower case)
- 6) Select from the menu of options (assignments, attendance, grades, and more).

