

DECEMBER 2006

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

On our October break I traveled to India for an education project. As always, travel broadens my perspective, creates connections, and expands possibilities. I had an opportunity to meet a number of educators and business people in the Delhi area and get a sense of education in India, now considered an emerging world economy. Recognizing the consequences of a highly competitive society, where students are sent to highly competitive private schools, a businesswoman whispered in my ear after seeing our FCS website, "India needs Personalized Learning."



Sandy McDivitt learning from an Indian musician in market in Delhi

I was staying across the street from a school where I couldn't help but observe that at recess kids sound just the same all around the world, filled with activity and laughter. Truly, we are more connected than ever.

Back on the home front, Forest submitted our application for full funding last month to the Advisory Commission on Charter Schools (ACCS). We attended the SB740 determination meeting in Sacramento on Monday after Thanksgiving and can happily report that Forest was awarded a **100% funding determination for the next 3 years!** The ease of this award is based not only on the expert fiscal management by our business director, Debbie Ayala Carter, but on the academic growth that we continue to make each year.

With that said, I want to encourage all of you to take advantage of the EdPerformance assessment that we provide to help identify areas of academic strengths and weaknesses in our students so that we can continue to provide helpful and appropriate interventions. In addition, a giant thanks goes out to our SST (Student Study Team) team leaders, Ruthanne Buckley and Janet Daniels who assist you and ES's to provide a collaborative process in creating solutions for student success.

Lastly, our charter council and administrative team are in process of examining a transition in sponsorship for the 2007-08 school year and are holding conversations with our NCSOS county offices to provide that support service. We will keep you updated as this unfolds. Please feel free to attend charter council meetings for questions and input.

Meantime, may this holiday season be filled with the joy of family and friends and generous support for those who benefit from the extension of helping hands.

Warmest wishes,
Sandy McDivitt

Important Dates:

Dec. 12th: Grass Valley/NC Winter Celebration for K-8 at the Imaginarium 12:00-2:00pm

Dec. 13th: Truckee Site Holiday Potluck from 5:30-8:00pm, 10655 Pioneer Trail

Dec. 15th: Nevada City Site Holiday Potluck from 12:00-3:00pm, 224 Church Street

Dec. 20th-Jan. 2nd: Winter Break

Jan. 5th: Fall semester ends

TRUCKEE NEWS:

Did you know that our retina (in our eye) sheds cells every night when we sleep? Did you know that human babies can swim under water from 0-6 months of age without drowning? (Their bodies know naturally to close the trachea so that water does not flow in through their mouths.) Or that our bodies lose up to a pint of water every day through our skin? These and many more facts were learned by Truckee students who ventured to the Fleishmann Planetarium on the UNR campus Friday, November 17. Students viewed the fascinating film on the human body, and all of its amazing systems.



Student Council has been busy this month. They are conducting meetings twice a week during lunch time. They planned their first fundraising event, Movie Night! It was a huge success. Students bought tickets which included pizza, popcorn, and soda, and viewed the movie "Cars". Thanks to The Murphy family for providing the sound system, screen, and DVD player! It was a fun evening for all.

Please mark your calendars for the following Truckee event:

Wednesday, December 13 from 5:30-8:00 will be our Holiday potluck and music performance.

Please observe the following for all participants according to last name:

A-G: Please bring an entrée.

H-O: Please bring an appetizer.

P-S: Please bring a dessert.

T-Z: Please bring a beverage.

Lastly, the Student Council is organizing a food drive through Project Mana. Please drop off all non-perishable items from December 4-14 to the office.

Congratulations to Eric Schlobohm for scoring an 800 on his SAT II Math, which is the highest score possible!

CREEKSIDE COOPERATIVE:

Deadline is December 8th for the C-Note Challenge; a winner-take-all raffle of approximately 75 gift certificates from restaurants and businesses from around Tahoe, Reno, Sacramento and the Bay Area. Ticket sales began on November 1 and only 100 of the \$100 tickets will be sold ~pretty good odds! Call the Creekside site for more information.





Roots and Shoots Club

The Forest Charter Trailblazers continue to amaze. We had a good turnout to our second meeting, and our volunteers have been coming through with tremendous energy and effectiveness. Our first project, clearing the trail

(Photo: Katie Ayala, Russell Milligan and Michelle Milligan, article at theunion.com November 18th)

connecting Pioneer Park to Nevada City, is all but finished. During the coming winter months, we will be focusing our efforts on research for signage and brochures. We'll be studying early Nevada City history including Native Americans, Chinese, and mining history, local ecology, tourism and recreation, and fitness. Forest Charter students are still invited to participate in all ways-- we would love to have your help and input.

The next service day will be Friday, December 8th from 9-1. We will meet at the Forest Charter office in Nevada City. The next meeting is December 3rd at 3:30. If you would like to be included in our email list, please email Anya Jacobson at ajacobson@forestcharter.com. This list will provide you with reminders and meeting details.

8th Grade Co-Op

The 8th Grade has been an exciting and busy place this year. We've already taken (and collectively passed) the US Constitution Test, we're enjoying writing workshops with Dawn Stillman, studying issues concerning global warming, participating in the Roots and Shoots club, reading Kim Culbertson's wonderful book "Songs for a Teenage Nomad," writing song journals, and rehearsing a performance piece to be performed on December 14th. What fun! The piece is open to the Forest Charter community, but tickets are very limited. If you would like to attend, please contact Anya Jacobson as soon as possible (ajacobson@forestcharter.com). Tickets will be donation, the performance will begin at 6pm, 12/14/06, at the Black Box Theater in Grass Valley. Happy Holidays, from all of us to all of you!



FORESTHILL NEWS

Foresthill home school students are participating in many exciting learning activities this semester. In our individual homes, students are discovering electricity, improving writing, participating in physical science lab experiments, and applying math principles while baking for the holidays! For our block classes, art students just finished making and painting their clay creations and will begin working on holiday themed drawing and painting projects. Lego students have been making model houses and cars and learning the engineering fundamentals of each creation! Guitar students continue to improve skills! Congratulations to each family on the wonderful learning that is taking place!

Foresthill block class schedule for the fall:

Monday:	1:00-2:00	2-6 Art History
Monday:	2:00-3:00	K-1 Art History
Monday:	2:00-3:30	2-8 Lego Engineering
Wednesday:	2:00-3:00	9-12 Intermediate Guitar
Wednesday:	3:00-4:00	7-9 Beginning Guitar

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:

Students just returned from Wolf Mountain Science Camp. The response was great and we had 33 students in attendance this year! Activities included: zip-line, herpetology class, horse class, archery, insect study, nature hikes, and more! Lots of hands-on learning took place and it was a wonderful opportunity for students to meet new friends while learning in an outdoor environment. The following field trip opportunities are upcoming. Hope to see you there!

DATE:	SIGN-UP DEADLINE:	DESCRIPTION:
December 8:	10/6	Gift of the Magi Play
December 15:	9/15	The Sacramento Nutcracker Ballet
January 3:	12/4	Boreal ski/snowboard
February	TBA	Boreal ski/snowboard
March:	TBA	IMAX
April:	TBA	Folsom Zoo
May:	TBA	Marine World Math/Science Day

Please sign up with your ES. E-mail Leanne Engel (lengel@forestcharter.com) with questions.

Special Ed Corner:

"Ok. I give up. I just can't get these kids to study those sight words anymore! It's so boring!" Have you ever said this? I have. Studying sight words is a very important part of learning to read but sometimes those flash cards just don't work! Here is a game I created to get kids (and the whole family) to have fun learning their sight words

Sight Word UNO

(A fun way to learn those tricky sight words)

1. Choose 10-20 high frequency sight words to be studied.
2. Cut 3x5 index cards in half.
3. Write each word on four cards with a symbol in the corner of each card (either square, circle, triangle or star)
4. Create 8 wild cards by writing a "?" in the middle and including all four symbols on the card.
5. Shuffle and deal 5 cards to each player. Place the draw stack in the middle and turn one card over for the discard pile.



Play the game using Uno rules. On their turn Players must read the card that is face up on the discard stack and the card they are playing. They must either match the word, symbol or play a wild card. The first player to play their last card wins!

– Shana Stratton

Other News....

K-8 Winter Celebration

12:00-2:00 pm at the Imaginarium

- ❖ K-2 Drama and Music Class Presents The Cat in the Hat
- ❖ Ceramics Classes Art Show
- ❖ Crafts and Games for All
- ❖ Please bring your favorite winter treat to share
- ❖ Sign-ups for potential new classes beginning in January



🌀 **Imaginarium is located at 112 Nevada City Hwy, Nevada City** 🌀

Fundraiser: SEE'S CANDY – See Debbie Ayala at the Forest Charter School office to get your SEE'S Candy for the holiday season and it helps support the school!

Student ID Cards: If you lost your student ID card there will be a \$5.00 replacement fee to be paid to the school. If your photo has not been taken for your ID card call Becca at 530-265-4823 to schedule an appointment.