

DECEMBER 2009

# Forest Charter School

*A Personalized Learning Program*  
*Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges*  
[WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM](http://WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM)



## MESSAGE FROM THE 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  
*Business and Tech  
Assistant*

Brandon Johnson  
*Resource Assistant*

224 Church St  
Nevada City  
CA 95959

Phone (530) 265-4823

Fax (530) 265-5037

It's hard to believe that we have almost reached the end of the first semester. Time has certainly moved quickly. I want to thank everyone for all the work and effort that have made to make this first semester a successful one. I have visited almost all the various Learning Centers and seen families meet with their ES here at the office, and it is exciting to see the level of learning and engagement taking place.



Paul Simoes & Peter Sagebiel  
shoveling snow at FCS

Even though we are just in the beginning of December, we have had our first major storm of the season. Due to the diverse geography of our school, the different locations (i.e. Nevada City/ Grass Valley, Foresthill, and Truckee) will each make an individual determination as to whether or not to run the site classes and/or cooperatives. We will do everything we can to inform you of our decision in a timely manner. In most cases, we will try to call you using our ConnectEd system. We may also use other systems such as an announcement on the local radio station. Under all circumstances, if Forest Charter closes its classes or a cooperative, the day reverts to a homeschool/Independent study day and students should do schoolwork during the day. Further, if you miss a class day (for an official snow day or for another reason) make sure to check in with your instructor about what you might have missed. One of the beautiful things about a personalized learning program is that learning continues despite a snag in location; it's this kind of flexibility and meaningful engagement with curriculum that makes Forest Charter School such a special place.

Please keep in mind that our main concern is your safety. Please use good judgment and travel only if it is safe for you to do so.

I hope you have a happy holiday.  
See you next semester,

Peter Sagebiel

### Important Dates:

- **December 11<sup>th</sup>** – **Holiday Open House at FCS Nevada City Office, 224 Church St. 1:00-3:00**
- **December 16<sup>th</sup>** - **K-8 Block Class Winter Celebration at St. Canice, 236 Reward St. 12:30-2:30**
- **December 21<sup>st</sup>** – **January 1<sup>st</sup>** – **Christmas/Winter Break**

## TRUCKEE NEWS

by Janice Eggers, Site Coordinator

Truckee's Middle School Earth Science class welcomed Rebecca Anderson, a guest speaker, from the Alliance for Climate Education before Thanksgiving. Rebecca is a paleoclimatologist who studied carbon dioxide bubbles frozen in ice. She worked in Baffin Bay and Antarctica. The students learned a lot about collecting, graphing, and analyzing data. Each student committed to "Do One Thing" (D.O.T.) to help prevent global climate change such as: unplug cell phone chargers, use compact fluorescent light bulbs, and wear a sweater inside for warmth.

After Thanksgiving, the M.S. Earth Science class walked down the street to T.N.T. to learn how concrete is mixed from a mix of aggregates and cement. Students were given the opportunity to push buttons to "batch" the incoming trucks. We looked in the large hopper that measures weight and moisture content. Many students climbed a steep catwalk to the top of the silo. Students received t-shirts as they connected their field trip experiences to their classroom lessons about volume, measuring, and mining processes.



Mark Keim finished his student teaching this last week in our Middle School classes. Mark provided the classes in Earth Science, Pre-Algebra, and Math lab with many exciting and challenging activities. We are pleased to announce that Mark will continue working with FCS in Truckee next semester with Middle School Math, Tahoe Ecology, and Math lab. Mark is a wonderful addition to our staff here in Truckee.

Lastly, in order to preserve our student budgets for the upcoming Spring Semester, we will have 2 Independent Study weeks. One week will be **January 19-22**, and the other week will be **March 15-19**. During these weeks, students will receive assignments from block class teachers, and we will be offering field trips to the different age groups. We will keep you posted on these upcoming opportunities.



Students at the tree decorating

We look forward to seeing you all at our Holiday Party, **Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30** at the Hampton Inn in Truckee. Thank you to all of our students and families that showed up for the Downtown Truckee Tree decorating on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a wonderful way to start off the Holiday season!



## PACE Cooperative News

PACE families gathered with the teachers for conferences the two days before Thanksgiving. At the K-2 level, teacher Heather Johnson had the students share their portfolios with their parents, a lovely opportunity for the students to showcase the work they've been proud of so far this year. At the 3-5 level, teacher Erin Drew said, "Each student completed goals for the year which demonstrated their ability to self-reflect, evaluate their progress, and make a plan for the year. One child's goal was to get a job and buy a house. We've got quite an ambitious group!" Overall, the conferences were a big success!

**Everyone at PACE wishes the rest of the Forest Charter community a happy holiday season.**

## **FORESTHILL NEWS-NOVEMBER**

by Leanne Engel, Site Coordinator

### **FORESTHILL CO-OP:**

Students have decided they would like to have a dress-up day a month at the Foresthill Co-op. On Thanksgiving students wore any clothing that went along with a Thanksgiving theme, and then we had special Thanksgiving games on that day. Coming up on December 17 students decided they wanted a "Just-got-out-of-bed-on-Christmas-morning" dress-up theme. We will also have a party on that day.

Also coming up will be our Egyptian Day, on the morning of December 17 where we will wrap up our study of Egypt with Egyptian food and games. The aunt of one of our students knows Egyptian recipes, and she is going to help us put together a fun conclusion to our study!

### **FORESTHILL GROUP FIELD TRIPS: by Julie Lagorio, ES**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, most of the Foresthill Co-op families took an all-day fieldtrip to San Francisco's Golden Gate Park to visit two world-renowned museums: The de Young Museum and The California Academy of Sciences. The families started at the Academy, where the first stop for most was the Rainforest Sphere. Butterflies fluttered freely in the sphere, but (thankfully) the Madagascar Insect exhibit did not! From there, most went to the new Steinhart Aquarium, then to the 3-D Bug Show. Next stop was the Planetarium show, where thanks to incredible modern technology, the ceiling became the night sky, then space and the



universe. We traveled close to our sun and viewed stars that could be suns of different universes. This was a great "tie-in" to our school-wide Astronomy unit. After that many had lunch or visited the Natural History Museum, the Living Roof or many of the other exhibits housed there.

After lunch was our visit to the de Young Museum for the King Tut Exhibit. Hundreds of artifacts used by Egyptian pharaohs and their families were viewed. Golden masks and lavish jewelry, discovered on King Tut's mummy were beautifully displayed. The exhibit was a fascinating and informative glimpse of 3,300 year old civilization, and an awesome culmination of Mrs. Hunt's Ancient Egyptian study for the 6 through 8 graders. This is also the last time this exhibit will be let out of Egypt. If you miss it, you'll have to go to Egypt to see it!

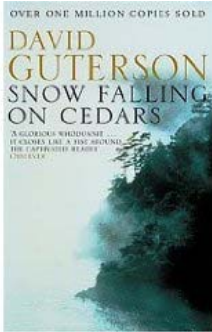
**FORESTHILL HOME SCHOOLERS:** Our home schoolers are enjoying various units of study including: physical science, marine biology, Thanksgiving and family units, and holiday traditions! We are also enjoying elective classes with our co-op friends.

**FORESTHILL ELECTIVES:** Our block class electives are going well! Music and drama students are memorizing lines and songs in preparation for our biographical musical on the life of Thomas Edison—performed on Dec. 14. Art students are also making paper mache' objects and painting Egyptian Hieroglyphic pictures. Spanish and sign language students continue to practice and learn these languages and speech/ debate students are refining speaking skills.

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

## Global Studies Academy

by Katie Ayala, 11<sup>th</sup> grade



Happy Holidays from the Global Studies Academy! This past month, the Academy has started to read *Snow Falling on Cedars*, a novel by David Guterson, for English class. This book has been chosen as the Nevada County Reads book for 2010. In Field Ecology, we have been working on our Little Deer Creek project with Friends of Deer Creek. We have put our sweat and muscle into fixing up spots along the creek, as well as using our brain power to analyze the creek's water quality. On December 14, we are taking a field trip to Grey Lodge to bird-watch, and in U.S. History we will be recreating the Congressional debate over the Dawes Act of 1887 for our final project. On December 10, our class is seeing *A Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* put on by Legacy Productions, and our own drama teacher, Brandon Johnson, has a role in the play. Have a good break from school, and enjoy the snow!

### FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL-WIDE FIELD TRIPS:

by Leanne Engel, Education Specialist

Due to the storm this week and severe icy conditions, our trip to see *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* was postponed until **Wednesday, December 16**. We will meet in front of the Broad Street Theater in Nevada City at 9:40 SHARP! The Forest Charter field trip coordinator would like to extend a huge thank you to Sue LeGate of Legacy Productions for her flexibility in changing our date at the last minute. Also, thanks to all families for their flexibility in changing plans for this re-schedule! We are happy that everyone was safe during our storm!



#### **Field Trip Sign-Up Procedure:**

1. ES will forward an advertisement for a field trip to parents.
2. Parents will sign up for field trip with ES.
3. Parents will sign permission slip and give to ES with cash or check for any private pay people.
4. After receiving permission slips and private pay money, ES will e-mail all required information to field trip coordinator by sign-up deadline.
5. ES's will fax or bring in permission slips to office and mail private pay money to trip coordinator by sign-up deadline.

#### **UPCOMING:**

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY:** Ski days at Boreal/ Northstar Resorts... more info to follow.

# K-8 Block Class Winter Party

**When: Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30**

**Where: St. Canice Center, 236 Reward Street Nevada City**

**All Forest Charter K-8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome**

**Crafts & Games**

**Please bring a healthy snack to share**

**The 4th-8th grade Drama class will be performing monologues beginning at approximately 12:35.**



## **College and Career News December**

by Janice Eggers, College and Career Advisor



**Congratulations to Bryce Bennett! He has already been accepted to Montana State University!**

**Seniors-** Keep working on college applications for private colleges. Collect your financial aid information from the FAFSA worksheet, and get your PIN number for your FAFSA application, which you should get in as early as possible in January. Sign up for College Advisory C to help you through your last semester for financial aid and other information. Keep those grades up!

**Juniors-** Talk to your ES about signing up for the AP tests in the spring. Check over the SAT dates, and find a date that works for your schedule in the spring. If you are going on vacation during the holidays, plan a college visit to a school that you might be interested in attending in the future.

**Freshman and Sophomores-** This is the time for you to keep your grades up, and get involved in your community. Make an appointment with Dawn or Janice to discuss future higher education choices.

**Sierra College Information Nights-** For Seniors who are interested in attending Sierra College in the Rocklin and Grass Valley areas. Meetings are on **January 27, February 10 and 24, March 10 and 24, and April 14 and 28**. Time of the meetings will be from 6-7pm, and the meetings will be located in the Learning Resource Center, Room 212, at the Rocklin campus. Email the outreach office at [outreach@sierracollege.edu](mailto:outreach@sierracollege.edu) to reserve your space.

## PENNIES FOR PEACE UPDATE

by Eleni Rice, Education Specialist

This month, our Pennies for Peace Team attended a statewide Personalized Learning Charter School conference in Monterey, CA. Julia Bergman, Greg Mortenson's ex-chairman of the board, spoke as the keynote speaker. Her talk on Central Asia Institute's work in building schools for children in Pakistan and Afghanistan stunned the almost 200 participants. They didn't want her to stop telling her very personal stories! Our Pennies for Peace Team representatives included Cara Krpalek ('09 FCS grad) and Mariah Sanford (FCS Senior). They did a wonderful job of talking to conference participants about their



Mariah Sanford with Julia Bergman



Cara Krpalek with Julia Bergman

involvement in Pennies for Peace and about our fundraising items. It was great to have Cara acknowledged for coming up with the design idea for our Pennies for Peace logo. Our accumulated donations for our fundraising shirts and cards totaled \$1,000 for this event. This means that the FCS Pennies for Peace Team raised \$2,000 in the last month. FCS has a running total of \$8,000 dollars! Congratulations to all who have made this possible. This amount far exceeds anyone's expectations and we intend to keep going!



**What is it?** The peace. love. swap. mission is to keep gently used baby, kid, and maternity items out of our landfills, and to donate to local charities by hosting fun, affordable, family friendly swaps for moms and dads. Bring in your gently used items & leave with something "new", ~instead of taking it to a thrift or a consignment store....come in & swap it!

**How does it work?** Drop off the stuff you don't want, get a ticket, and sign in. Then, you hang out and enjoy the gym with your kid(s) while we get organized and set things out. Then, come in and take what you want. Leftovers go to charity.

**When is it?** Every first Saturday of every month ~**Drop off times:** 8:30 am - 9:30 am the day of the swap, **OR** any time prior to the event. Email or call to set up a drop off time. ~ Swap starts at 10 am-11:30 am.

**Where is it?** **Sponsored by:** Gold Country Gymnastics: 110 Spring Hill Dr #14 ~ Grass Valley

**How much is it?** \$5 donation if you find stuff to take home ~ free if you volunteer

Go to [www.peaceloveswap.com](http://www.peaceloveswap.com) or email [peaceloveswap@gmail.com](mailto:peaceloveswap@gmail.com) or call 530.913.6848 for all the details

