

JANUARY 2007

# Forest Charter School

*A Personalized Learning Program  
Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges*



[WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM](http://WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On **Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00** the FCS administration and charter council will be hosting an all-wide community school information meeting regarding the transition from district to county sponsorship for the 2007-2008 school year. Please bring any questions you might have regarding the collaboration of 5 local charter schools under the Nevada County Superintendent's Office (NCSoS). We will meet at the FCS administrative offices, 224 Church Street in Nevada City. We look forward to talking about this exciting new collaboration.



*Denise Wey with ceramics class at the Mud Hut*

December was a short month full of activities and student performances before Christmas vacation. The K-8 block classes at the Imaginarium enjoyed a day of student performances, art displays and crafts at the annual Winter Festival, expertly organized and facilitated by Ruthanne Buckley and Valerie Jones. Anya Jacobson's 8<sup>th</sup> grade cooperative performed a brilliant improvisational play at The Black Box Theater, guided by both Anya Jacobson and Kim Sagebiel. Finally, FCS hosted our annual Christmas Open House, which was well attended. The Truckee Pioneer site hosted a potluck social, bringing a spirited closure to first half of the school year.



*Anya Jacobson and students at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade play*

Don't forget, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester officially begins on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. We are including a Vocal Ensemble class directed by Gabrielle Lawson at both Tuesday and Thursday block classes with the hope of expanding our music program, so check out this opportunity.

Last, but not least, the CAHSEE (high school exit exam) is coming up on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Remember, attendance is required for 10<sup>th</sup> graders and those who still need to pass a part of the exam. Contact your ES for prep materials, time and location.



*Ruthanne Buckley at Imaginarium Winter Celebration*

Warmest wishes,

Sandy McDivitt

## Important Dates:

**Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>: Second semester begins**

**Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>: Block Classes begin for second semester**

**Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther King Holiday**

**\*\* Attention Seniors \*\* Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Graduation planning meeting 3:30pm at Nevada City Site**

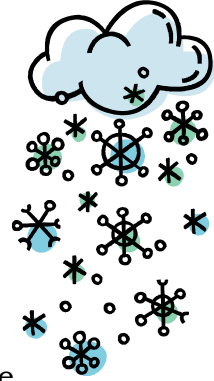
**\*\*\*Feb: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: CAHSEE (Exit Exam)\*\*\***

**Grass Valley: 9:00am – 1:00pm at Center for the Arts**

**Truckee: 9:00am – 1:00pm at Truckee Site**

## Truckee News

Happy New Year to all of our students and families! In December, our site celebrated the Holidays with a festive family potluck, and a wonderful music performance by our Middle School and High School guitar classes. We had some astounding performances from our students. It was a great way to bring the Holiday spirit to our site.



Our High School Environmental Science class took a fieldtrip to the new Lake Tahoe Research Center in Incline Village, Nevada. We were the first school group to go through the center. Students learned about the dichotomous key, watersheds of the Tahoe Basin, and viewed a 3-D film on what the bottom of Lake Tahoe looks like. Students were also given a tour of the new building, which is using incredible “Green” Building techniques such as water collection systems, low flush toilets, and economical heating and cooling systems. Thanks to Mark Keim for arranging the trip for his classes.

We want to wish all of our skiers and snowboarders who are headed to competitions good luck, and safe travel!

Lastly, as winter is upon us, we would like to remind all of our students and families about snow days. The Truckee campus holds a snow day when the Tahoe Truckee Unified School district calls a snow day. If TTUSD calls a delayed start, we will start on time with our regular schedule. If you have any questions, please contact your ES, or Truckee Site Coordinator, Janice Eggers.

## Forget-Me-Not Bash



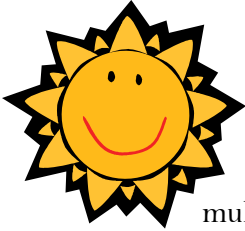
**When:** Friday, February 16, from 6-10pm

**Where:** Union Hill School

**Tickets:** \$5.00

**Contact:** Michael LaMarca email - [mlamarca@forestcharter.com](mailto:mlamarca@forestcharter.com) or phone: 292-9044

The Forest Charter Leadership class would like to invite all Forest Charter 8 - 12 graders to come to a winter dance titled: The Forget-Me-Not Bash. The dance will be held at Union Hill School (11638 Colfax Hwy, Grass Valley, CA 95945), on Friday February 16, from 6 - 10pm. Dress is semi-formal and the dance theme colors are red and white in honor of Valentines Day. Students who get into the spirit and dress in red and/or white will automatically be entered into a drawing for prizes at the dance. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at the Forest Charter School office in Nevada City, at the Center For the Arts in Grass Valley (on Tuesdays and Thursdays), from the Leadership students or at the door. Students may invite 8 - 12<sup>th</sup> graders from other schools, we only ask that all attendees bring their student ID cards with them to the dance.



## FCS Wins Bright Ideas Science Grant

In November Forest Charter School Educational Specialist Steve Ross learned a grant he applied for in October was awarded. The program, funded by PG+E is part of the Solar schools initiative. One part of this multi-year initiative is to award grants to schools implementing innovative science programs. \$2,500 was awarded to FCS to further education in solar energy, climate and weather. The grant will allow the purchase of solar energy science kits along with a state-of-the-art wireless weather station. The weather station will provide real-time weather data to students via the school website. Steve Ross will be creating independent study and block class lessons that will allow FCS students to study weather patterns and related atmospheric conditions. Technology students will learn to manage and sort large amounts of data performing trend analysis. Look for the weather station to be on the Nevada City office roof sometime in the spring!



## Forest Charter School Vocal Ensemble

Do you have a knack with your voice, or want to develop one? Interested in a new block-class?

**Who:** Teenagers interested in singing and having a good time of it.

**What:** The FCS Vocal Ensemble

**When:** Starting January 9<sup>th</sup> on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 3

**Where:** At the Grass Valley Center for the Arts in the Van Gough room.

**How:** Please contact your Education Specialist to sign up and attend the first class.

**Cost:** \$110 for Forest Students (student budget deduction) \$125 for non Forest Students for the semester.

Find out what its like to be part of something wonderful!

Facilitated by Gabrielle Lawson



*11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade IDEA Academy  
with holiday graham cracker houses*

## Special Ed Corner.....

To test or not to test, that is the question...

Well friends, the decision is partially made for us. We have to take the STAR and the CAHSEE. The rest is up for debate.

- Testing provides the student with external motivation to study hard, take notes and remember the material, at least until the test is over.
- Testing provides teachers and students with objective feedback on their progress through the curriculum.
- Testing may provide information on the specific concepts in need of remediation or concepts that do not need to be taught.

As a Study Skills Teacher I have begun to dread the day that I introduce note-taking strategies to my home-school students. Why? Well, here is the standard high school student response, "I don't need to take notes because I don't have to take any tests. I can answer the chapter questions by looking them up in the book." What this means is that the information is not being retained in the brain unless further activities are done to explore the topics.

Elementary students benefit from informal assessments such as reading inventories, phonemic awareness assessments, and math inventories. For the Teacher this information is vital because it will identify the areas that need more focus. The curriculum can be personalized to remediate the areas of need and reinforce areas of strength. In the Primary grades each concept build on each other. If one is missing the rest become more difficult to learn.

*\* If you are interested in informal assessments please ask Valerie Jones to refer you to the Intervention Curriculum Library where binders are being developed for your use.*



*Imaginarium - Siobhan Markee's K-2 Music & Drama class performs The Cat & The Hat*

## **FORESTHILL NEWS**

Foresthill home school students had a wonderful holiday season. Students completed many wonderful and unique learning opportunities including candle making, pottery painting to give for Christmas presents, baking, music and drama performances, and more! We are looking forward to group classes, field trips, and individual learning for the spring semester.

Foresthill block class schedule for the spring:

|            |            |                      |
|------------|------------|----------------------|
| Monday:    | 12:45-1:45 | 2-6 Art History      |
| Monday:    | 1:45-2:45  | K-1 Art History      |
| Wednesday: | 2:00-3:00  | 9-12 Advanced 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](mailto:lengel@forestcharter.com).

## **FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL-WIDE FIELD TRIPS:**

Many students participated in our December theater field trips of “Sacramento Nutcracker Ballet” and “Gift of the Magi”. Both performances were excellent and of professional quality. It was exciting that many students furthered their learning and comprehension by reading the stories both before and after the performances! Students also had a wonderful time at the Boreal Ski/snowboard day. It was exciting to have so many new skiers/boarders taking lessons and learning technique for this fun, winter sport. The following field trip opportunities are upcoming. Hope to see you there!

| <b>DATE:</b> | <b>SIGN-UP DEADLINE:</b> | <b>DESCRIPTION:</b>           |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| February:    | TBA                      | Ski/snowboard trip            |
| March:       | TBA                      | IMAX                          |
| May:         | TBA                      | Marine World Math/Science Day |

At the time of the newsletter printing, dates for spring field trips were still not confirmed. Please look for e-mail dates to come and sign up with your ES. E-mail Leanne Engel ([lengel@forestcharter.com](mailto:lengel@forestcharter.com)) with questions.



*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-Op Improvisational Play*