

JANUARY 2009

Forest Charter School

A Personalized Learning Program
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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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It is with mixed feelings that I announce my retirement from public school education for which I have served over 35 years. I am most grateful to have ended my career in the charter school arena, most especially with Forest Charter School this past 8 years. The FCS Charter Council has approved my resignation effective June 19, 2009. Our current Academic Dean, Peter Sagebiel, has accepted the appointment as the new Executive Director for the 2009-2010 school year. I will miss all of you, students, parents, teachers, and office staff and am so pleased that Peter will be leading this wonderful school to its next right steps. I have accepted a position in Gurgaon, India, as founding principal of a new school bringing Education for Life philosophy to India.



Peter Sagebiel and Sandy McDivitt

Finally, as all of you are aware, our state is in the midst of a budget crisis, which ultimately trickles down to everyone. All California public schools have been mandated to cut their budgets immediately. Forest is looking at several different scenarios to weather these challenging times. We have appreciated that so many of you have stepped forward with creative ideas and a willingness to help. Our educational commitment to you is as strong as ever, and we are doing all we can to make sure our students receive the same strong educational support.

Meantime, may this new-year 2009 be filled with positive and creative new possibilities.

Warm wishes
Sandy McDivitt

Important Dates:

- **January 5th:** Spring semester begins
- **January 14th:** Vision and Hearing Screening for grades K-8 and Scoliosis Screening for 6th and 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys at Canice Center 9am – 12:00pm , 236 Reward St. Nevada City
- **January 19th:** Martin Luther King holiday
- **January 20th, 22nd, 27th, 29th:** CAHSEE prep for 12th grade
- **February 11th:** K-8 Valentine Party 12:30-2:30 at St. Canice Center

Truckee News

by Janice Eggers, Education Specialist

December was a busy month at the Truckee Learning center. Truckee Middle School students combined community service, geometry lessons, and recycling to help Truckee Seniors have a brighter holiday. Nancy Nobriga's math and science classes learned geometric formulas and made tree decorations complete with information tags. The art class participated in the project by making decorations out of toilet paper rolls. Five hardy students braved the storms of December 15th to help decorate the tree at the Truckee



Students with Santa

Senior Center. Two days later, our Middle School Music class performed holiday songs, and individuals played for the seniors during their lunch hour. To top it all off, parents,

students, and staff enjoyed the annual Holiday

Potluck and music performance on that Tuesday as well. Even though the roads were slippery, and it was

very cold, Santa was able to join us for the celebration.



Students at the Senior Center

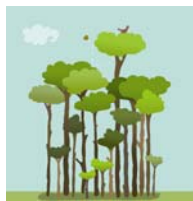
On Tuesday, January 27, we will be having our 8th grade meeting for all students and families. At this meeting, we will be discussing our 8th grade promotion, 8th grade project outline, and end of the year activities. We will be holding the meeting at our new center, in the Middle School room.



Madison Kwansy

Sierra Nevada College has expressed an interest in creating an academic partnership with Forest, much as we do with Sierra College. We are actively in discussion with SNC about this opportunity and hope to have this new relationship in place for this semester.

In January, the Truckee Center will be making our permanent move. Our offices, high school center, and our middle school classes will all be under one roof. **We will be observing a week of Independent Study for all of our classes the week of January 20-23.** During that week, we will be asking our families to volunteer time to help us. We will keep you posted on the details. Our new center is located in the Pioneer Commerce Center, Suite 101.



Foresthill Co-op News

by Erin Hunt, Education Specialist

The Foresthill Co-op continues to see such growth and academic talent among the students. This group works together like a family, and students are excelling in their academics, and in other areas.

Student Council is getting off the ground with various activities planned. Each month there will be a theme dress up day. Also, a knitting club is in the works. The student newspaper is deciding on a name and on how to organize the journalists. The recess committee has been helpful for setting up games at lunchtimes. Additionally, students are organizing the daily custodial needs for students, as well as reaching out to others beyond our school walls with acts of kindness.

These students are leaders. Each one has special gifts to contribute. I am grateful to be their teacher.

FORESTHILL HOME SCHOOLERS:

by Leanne Engel, Education Specialist

Home schoolers have continued working on the *Lord of the Rings* intensive unit study, California history and Sutter's Fort living history preparation, observing ant farms, analyzing interesting space and planet information, caroling for Christmas to local elderly people, and improving in their music! Foresthill high schoolers are excited about their basketball season and are busy juggling their intense AP schedules and 7:00AM am practices! Go Team!



FORESTHILL BLOCK CLASSES:

Students were snowed out for our last week of block classes! We had wonderful home school days and enjoyed our snowy mountain as well. Students performed Christmas carols and piano and guitar songs for family and friends and received fabulous reviews! We look forward to our spring semester of classes, which will begin **January 12**. Classes for this semester include art, guitar, keyboard, writing, and Spanish. We welcome Cheryl Kennedy as our newest instructor who will be teaching Spanish.

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

Creekside News

By Camille Taylor, Site Coordinator

With January and the New Year comes our Creekside Enrichment Ski Program. This year, we will be alpine skiing at Homewood on Jan 16th, 23rd, Feb 6th, 27th and March 6th, 13th and 27th. We will XC ski on Jan 9th and 30th, Feb 13th and March 20th. Huge thanks to John and Lynda Walsh for coordinating the downhill skiing and to Shana Boyd for coordinating the XC skiing. Now all we need is a few feet of the good stuff on top of this sheet of glacier!

Creekside Alumni, Sierra Walsh inspired many of our elementary grade ballerinas with her performance in the Nutcracker in early December. We are so lucky to have a great dance program in our area and so many of our Creekside students performed in this year's production! Congratulations to all of our dancers for all your hard work and your beautiful performances!

Our December Family Field Trip to San Francisco was **AMAZING!** Some of us began with opening night of the Nutcracker at the SF Ballet (followed by treats at Citizen Cake). On Friday, we gathered at the DeYoung Museum where the students viewed the resident collections as well as an YSL Fashion exhibit and Maya Lin's Systematic Landscapes. The students were very well behaved and loved what they saw. On Saturday, we visited the newly opened California Academy of Sciences, perspiring in the rain forest, rocketing through space and mingling with some amazing 3-d bugs. The entire event was coordinated by parent and Enrichment Coordinator Nichole Hull and was an unforgettable experience.



Creekside students at the California Academy of Science

We feel so fortunate in these times of conservation to experience such abundance in learning! Best wishes to everyone for a joyful 2009!

Academic Adventure Co-op

by Dominique Del Chiaro, Education Specialist

The Academic Adventure Co-op is preparing for our big end of year trip to the Big Island of Hawaii. We are learning about weather, studying western migration, and exploring Hawaiian culture. The class wrote letters to 8th grade students at the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science, a sister charter school that we will visit in May. We will also visit the Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, which was established by NASA several years ago.

We are still fundraising and would truly appreciate you saving your recyclable items for us and bringing them by our class. We will host another pizza night in March, and we will also have a huge dinner/dance event in early May where the students will teach the community to dance!



Connecting with the elderly at Quail Ridge

In December our service project was singing and dancing at two assisted living homes. The students and the elderly had a wonderful connection singing Christmas carols together. Our service projects this semester will include teaching swing dance to the students at the local elementary schools for the drug-free campaign. This final semester of preparation for high school will definitely be an adventure for the co-op!



ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH OPPORTUNITY

by Valerie Stuart, Education Specialist

A unique diagnostic for motivated and academically advanced students to take summer courses at the campus of Sacramento State University will be offered to Forest Students on **FEB 13th, from 1:30 to 2:30** at the office on Church Street. Over 100 academically challenging and fun summer classes covering subjects such as; Forensic Science, Creative Writing, Math, the Arts and Constitutional Law are on the schedule. Classes are taught by professionals in their fields and is offered to 6-9th graders, with an expansion this year to 4-5th graders. An average of 2,000 students attend each year. The test takes approximately one hour to take and is a requirement for enrollment. It is styled as an aptitude test and costs \$15 per student with waivers available upon request. ATS is a commuter program that has been dazzling northern area students for over 27 years! Information about the program is available at Sacramento State, (916) 278-7032 or ats@csus.edu or edweb.csus.edu/Projects/ats. Please sign up for this easy and painless diagnostic that could pave the way for a fun and enriching summer.

College and Career News

by Janice Eggers, College and Career Advisor

Seniors! If you have not already, this is the time to fill out the FAFSA. Also, make sure to check with your colleges you applied to in case they need any further information from you, your teachers, or Dawn and Janice. It is also not too late to apply to many colleges, so keep sending in those applications! And, keep those grades up!

Dawn and Janice are offering College Advisory C, the second class for seniors. This is a 2.5 unit class that will be going over the FAFSA application, scholarships, state grants, and other pertinent information for our seniors. Check in with Dawn or Janice for times of the classes in Nevada City, or in Truckee.

In December, 7 of the Truckee students visited Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, Nevada. SNC is a private four year college that offers majors in Fine Arts, Humanities, Science, and Management. Students met with various Deans, toured the college and dorms, and were given a fabulous cafeteria lunch. Students also toured the science building that is a partnership with UC Davis that focuses on the study of the Lake Tahoe region. Our students were excited to learn about small class sizes, lots of teacher and student interaction, and see the beautiful campus.

For all of our 9-11th graders, please contact Dawn or Janice for any college or career questions.

Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted into college!!

*Theresa Harcourt –
Midway College
Hunter Jones –
Dominican University
Zack Fox – University
of Oregon*

*Chelsea Ferreira, Myles
Allen, and Bobby
Stohlgren – Humboldt
State
Vienna Saccomanno –
Northern Arizona
University*

Internet Safety Tips

by Steve Ross, Technology Dept. Head

Are the bad guys winning the Internet Security battle? In an article appearing in the New York Times, John Markoff tells us that "Internet Security is broken and nobody seems to know quite how to fix it." While nearly all computer users have anti-virus software installed and aware of the problem the underground economy of fraud and computer scams is growing to an estimated \$100 billion a year.



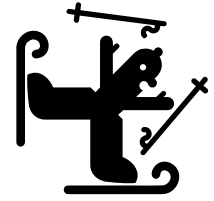
One of the latest scams is a Russian company selling fake anti-virus software. The software begins as an ad on a web page warning you that your computer is infected and to download an anti-virus program to fix it. Once the bogus program is downloaded it scours the users hard drive for credit card information that it sends to illicit distributors. The scam is so profitable that investors were paid \$5 million dollars last year.

So what does all this mean? As computer users we may not be able to depend on Virus protection software. And as always, before downloading anything one should do a little research and make sure it is legitimate. Unfortunately the bad guys are getting smarter, so we need to be as well to keep a step ahead.

FOREST CHARTER FIELD TRIPS:

Upcoming Field Trips for Foresthill, Auburn, and Grass Valley area students:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| January 20: | Ski/ Board North Star, Deadline Dec. 17 |
| February TBA: | Ski/ Board Boreal, Deadline Jan. 23 |
| March 1-2: | Age of Sail, \$106, Deadline Dec. 19 |
| March 20: | Discovery Marine Science- CANCELLED |
| April 3-4: | Sleeping with the Sharks, \$83, Deadline Feb. 13 |
| April 27-30: | Marine Biology Camp, \$309, Deadline Mar. 6 |
| May TBA: | Camp Augusta |
| May TBA: | Six Flags Discovery Kingdom |



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)



Pajama bottoms from the Canice Center Sewing Class! by Valerie Jones

Celeste Wingerd's sewing class made pajama bottoms and donated them to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada County. Kudos to Celeste and her students for their generosity and skill.

Message from Your Student Study Team

by Shana Stratton, Special Education

Is your teen making poor choices? Showing signs of depression or low self esteem?



For many teens, the single best way to build esteem, maturity, independence and reduce drug-use or drop-out is by holding a job. Being successful in finding work and being a good employee is increased with help from experts. The **One-Stop Golden Sierra Workforce Connection offers help to write a resume, search for work and to prepare for interviews. They are all about increasing work ability and finding real solutions to individual challenges.

*Remember that you must have a 3.0 GPA in order to obtain a work permit; perhaps this may serve as a motivation for your student.

**There are three locations for Golden Sierra Workforce Connection: 117 New Mohawk Road , Suite G., Nevada City , CA 95959 Phone (530) 265-7088 or 10775 Pioneer Trail, Suite 102, Truckee, CA 96161 Phone: (530) 582-7332 or 11548 E Avenue, DeWitt Center, Auburn, CA 95603 Phone: (530) 823-4631 <http://www.nevadacountyonestop.org/>