



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

The 2005-2006 school year is officially over, and there has been much to celebrate!

First, all of us at Forest extend our heartfelt congratulations to our graduating class of 2006, 60 graduates who were honored in a beautiful ceremony last Friday at the Veteran's Hall. The graduation theme was "Leaving a Legacy". There was hardly a dry eye after Olivia Saccomanno, the FCS valedictorian, delivered an inspiring speech on behalf of her class. Jeff Rice, founder and director of APLUS Personalized Learning Network Association, delivered the keynote address that mixed relevance with humor. In addition, I want to thank our musicians, James and Brenda Bellizi on guitar and violin; to Susie Morris our FCS parent representative who serves on our charter council for her astounding voice in the presentation of "America the Beautiful" and "Think of Me" from *The Phantom of the Opera*, to our photographers, Kristin Oliver and Josh Miller. A giant thank you goes to the FCS vice-principal, BJ Hatcher, for his unfailing energy all year long in the planning and organization of this important event.



Olivia Saccomanno



The class of 2006

Another reason for celebration comes from the news last week that Forest Charter School has been awarded a full 6-year term of accreditation by WASC, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges that will run through March of 2012. This was the result of an intense 2 year self study that included educators, parents, students and community members who joined together to set exciting goals for the educational growth of our school. Thanks to Steve Canavero, our WASC coordinator, for his leadership in this accomplishment and to our entire school community for your participation.

Lastly, I wanted to extend a heartfelt congratulations to FCS 11th grader, **Matthew Rongey for winning 2nd place in the Behavioral Sciences division of the California State Science Fair.** He not only represented Forest Charter School in this prestigious event in Los Angeles, but all of Nevada County. Matthew is the first Nevada County student to ever receive this honor.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the start of the 2006-2007 school year: **August 21st.** We will kick off the year with our annual beginning of the year picnic at Condon Park at which time you will be able to sign up for fall block classes.

Have a wonderful summer filled with fun, adventure and inspiration!

Warm wishes,
Sandy McDivitt

Forest Charter School Graduation 2006

Lance Allen
 Kayla Jean Best
 Tristan Blore
 David Butterfield
 Tiffany Clark
 Joshua R. Colwell
 Trina Marie Console
 Chaz Anthony Cooley-Rieders
 Keaton William Cooley-Rieders
 Brandi DeGennaro
 Ashley Elizabeth Durham
 Jonathan Edwards
 Wesley Fox
 Darlene Nicole Frisa
 Bradley William Gaines
 Christopher Barry Galvin
 Kendra Gilio
 Cooper R. Golding
 Chellsea Leeann Grow
 Lindsey Hardin
 Dylan Christopher Harpold
 Jeffrey Helm
 Tyler Hodge
 Melissa Michelle Jamison
 Jared John Julian
 Joseph Michael Lewis
 Tasha Chantille Mapes
 Audrey McClellan
 Megan McGeary
 Ryan McKenna
 Amber Jean Ruth McVicker
 Glory Dawn McVicker
 William D. McVicker, II
 David Michael Myers
 Jessie Naumann
 Monica Nicole Nicholas
 Elliot Dean Patterson
 Ariana Prusa
 Jonathan Reafsnyder
 Dennis D. Rhoads
 Yod Rivera
 Olivia Danielle Saccomanno
 April Renee Silva
 Joseph Ryan Smith
 Sean William Stewart
 Adam Tarlton
 Joseph Tejeda
 Maria Evelyn Thornton
 Matthias John Thornton
 Jennifer Lee Wellington



Keynote Speaker Jeff Rice



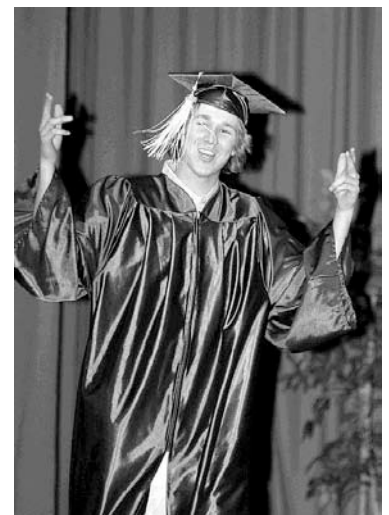
Susie Morris sings *America The Beautiful* and *Think of Me*



Director Sandy McDivitt speaks to grads backstage



Valedictorian Olivia Saccomanno celebrates with her sister Vienna



Congratulations to the Class of 2006!

FCS Peer Leadership Success

Forest Charter School's Peer Leadership Team had a successful start this year. They met throughout the year and used their leadership, organizational, and creative skills to design a mini-workshop on The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, which they presented to the Idea Academy this spring. The workshop was informational, inspiring and lots of fun for everyone involved. Part of the workshop included the opportunity for the Idea Academy students to create an individual personal Mission Statement for themselves. Dawn Stillman, their teacher, said that once her students had completed their Mission Statements, they told her it was their favorite assignment of the year! Congratulations Peer Leadership Team and Idea Academy.

The FCS Peer Leadership Team has an exciting year coming up. They have a new Lead Teacher, Mr. Lamarca (Eleni Rice will continue to partner with him as his assistant). This class is designed to support students in working together to achieve a variety of student-determined goals. Next year's proposed projects include:

1. Creating a "buddy system" to link Peer Leaders with new students coming into the school in order to provide support for the new student's successful transition and integration into the program.
2. Creating a video to promote Forest Charter School and the FCS Peer Leadership program.
3. Designing a tee-shirt to give the Peer Leadership Team a visible identity.
4. Initiating a Forest Charter School student government.
5. Creating opportunities for community service for the Peer Leadership Team members.

Grass Valley Open House

The Grass Valley Open House was enjoyed by all once again this year with teacher appreciations, performances from FCS Drama, Guitar, Keyboard, and Dance students of all ages and student projects, artwork, and even pet snakes on display.

For more information on Block Classes for the fall, see Grass Valley Block Class News on page 5.



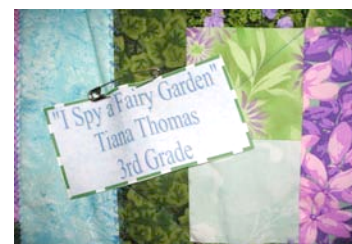
Sewing Class Display



Detail of "I Spy a Butterfly" quilt by first grader Devon Thomas



Vice Principal and US History teacher BJ Hatcher speaks to parents and students



Detail of "I Spy a Fairy Garden" quilt by 3rd grader Tiana Thoma



High school Guitar students play a song



Freshman Shemiah Sams performs with the high school Drama class

New Class- Genetics and the Ethics of Biotechnology

An exciting new class exploring the principles of genetics and biotechnology for the 2006-2007 school year.

A wide range of topics will be covered (see below) along with student-selected topics.

some topics that will be covered:

- ❖ Fundamentals of genetics
- ❖ How traits are inherited
- ❖ DNA, genes, and chromosomes
- ❖ Human Genome
- ❖ Mutations and causes of
- ❖ Various aspects of biotechnology, such as GMO's and stem cell research
- ❖ Links between Genetics and evolution

Objectives of the Course:

- ❖ To explore in depth the principles of genetics
- ❖ To explore in depth the many aspects of today's biotechnology
- ❖ To be able to explore and investigate both sides of controversial issues and make informed, intelligent decisions based on the facts
- ❖ To effectively convey one's opinions and thoughts in a clear and concise manner through written language and oral presentations
- ❖ To enhance research skills
- ❖ To enhance critical thinking skills
- ❖ To use literature and film to enhance course material
- ❖ To explore topics of student interest

Note: There are no state standards for a genetics class at the high school level. Therefore, this class will enjoy an enormous amount of freedom as to what topics we cover and to what extent we cover them. Students will be driving the curriculum to a certain extent on topics they wish to learn about. We will enhance classroom instruction with guest speakers, debates, Socratic dialogue, and more. We hope to make field trips a regular part of this class also.

Prerequisite: Biology (passing grade) and instructor approval.

Digital Photography Class

The spring semester photography class has been a great success, with several students interested in careers in the arts. Along with learning Adobe Photoshop, students completed numerous creative assignments including Andy Warhol compositions as well as an ongoing portrait project. Student work was exhibited at the end of the year open house and several students are in the process of getting their work shown locally.

Forest Charter will be offering Introduction to Digital Photography again in 2006-2007. Taught by professional photographer and Education Specialist Josh Miller, this one-year course meets the Art requirement for entry into the California University system. Students will be developing their inner creativity through the use of the photographic medium while also learning the industry standard program Photoshop CS2.

Contact your ES for more information on how to sign up for Introduction to Digital Photography for 2006-2007.

The World in Focus-A new style of Block Class

Do you want to be involved in your student's Ancient Civilizations curriculum, but would rather not do all the planning? Do you have approximately 4 hours per week to work on assignments in history with your child? Would your student like to prepare assignments and projects to share with a class? Would you be interested in getting together with other students to work on History projects? The World in Focus class may be for you and your student.

Parents and students will sign a class contract to participate in this adventure that will include mapping, textbooks, foods, cultural investigations, and projects that will cover 6th grade standards in Social Studies. Interested 5th, 7th and 8th graders may also participate.

Projects may include: designing a modern-day game based on principles learned from the Greeks, writing haikus from ancient Japan, bringing foods that represent cultural norms from ancient Islam, building a representative totem of the Aztec god Tlaloc, and many more.

Foresthill News

Foresthill home school students continue to enjoy personalized learning opportunities! We are proud of our students who took the AP biology test in May and anxiously await results!

We also enjoyed our last block classes on Tuesdays! In computer literacy, students dressed up in corporate attire to make presentations! Students in the art history class finished their school year with pottery and clay designs, which they painted creatively and artistically! Music students participated in a live recital where they sang as a group and solo in front of families and friends. They sounded beautiful and even though some were nervous... it didn't show! Thank you to all of our fabulous instructors!

Upcoming Fall Block Classes in Foresthill:

We look forward to another wonderful year beginning in the fall. Possible classes include the following: computer class, writing class, art history, music history and chorus class, and Lego Engineering. Please indicate your interest early!

Please contact Leanne Engel, ES for questions or information regarding any field trips or classes. 530-906-4212, lengel@forestcharter.com.

Forest Charter School-Wide Field Trips

Our school-wide field trips were wonderfully received this year!

Possibilities next year include: Old Sacramento capitol and train museum, Bishop's Pumpkin Farm, Wolf Mountain Science Camp, Christmas Story play, Nutcracker Ballet, Boreal Ski/Snowboard, IMAX theater, and Marine World Math/Science day.

Please contact me to let me know of your interest or to suggest other trips. Pre-sign-ups are always OK! Details will follow in the fall!

– Leanne Engel

Truckee News

On Monday, May 22, our high school English class was visited by a native Truckee man, Rex Reid. Rex has been writing poetry and musings for the last 25 years or more. He shared with our high school students his methods and ideas that over the years have worked for him while getting his writing published. It was a great way to spend one of the last days of class.

Wednesday, May 17 brought a community forum to the Truckee campus. Hosted by Education Matters, parents, concerned citizens, and teachers were given a short presentation about the background and goals of this community school partnership. Education Matters was conducting brainstorming forums in the community regarding the elements of a quality education, and what the community needs to prioritize for the education of students in the community. The end product of the forums, is the Monday, June 5 Town Hall meeting in Kings Beach to discuss the findings at all of the meetings.

Wednesday, May 24 was the last day of classes in Truckee for the 2005/2006 school year. We celebrated with next year's class interest sign ups, a potluck dinner with students and families, and a wonderful recital of our middle school and high school music classes. We were all treated to some extraordinary performances by individuals, and a whole class song by our middle schoolers, which was called "The Middle School Blues". What a way to end the year. We saw so much support from all of our families and students. Thanks for a great turnout!

We wish you a enjoyable summer, and we will see you all at the **August 22 Back to School picnic and class sign ups at Riverview Park in Truckee.**

Grass Valley Block Class News

Remember to attend the **Grass Valley Back to School Picnic at Condon Park on August 21st** to complete official sign ups for fall Block Classes.

Grass Valley block classes will begin for the 2006-2007 school year after Labor Day.

See you in the fall!

Student Poetry

Twister

The wind
Blows faster
And
Faster
Turning and
Twisting
Until all parts
Are united and
Twist angrily
Sweeping Down
To the earth
Crashing
And pulling
The world
Apart
Until
Its Anger
Is Satisfied

Mirror

person
heart?
head?
bad?
landscape
emotion
searched
discovered
painting
is.

It shows the outside
But does it really show the

Can a mirror show your

Or the thought in your

The good or the

It shows nothing
But the skin
Like a painting
It shows the

But conceals the

Until it is carefully

Even then the emotion
Is only half

To know the artist
Is to know the

To know the person
Is to know who the person

-both poems by Lauren Hough, 8th grade

To get your poetry published in the school newsletter, please send it to your ES

FCS At the State Science Fair

As you may remember from last month's newsletter, FCS high school students had taken Best of Show, 2nd, and 3rd at the Nevada County Science



Matthew Rongey

Fair in April. Matthew Rongey, who won Best of Show, was fortunate enough to be able to attend the California State Science Fair at the California Science Center in Los Angeles May 22nd and 23rd.

This was a very exciting opportunity, as over 900 projects representing schools from all over the state, were displayed between the Junior Division (Jr High Students) and the Senior Division (High School Students). Matthew's project entitled; "The Effect of Visual Subliminal Messages on Viewers' Color Choice" was entered in the Behavioral Sciences category in the Senior Division. Matthew was competing against 20 other projects in this category. He won Second Place in his category. Matthew is the first student from Nevada County to win an award in the Senior Division of the California State Science Fair in the Fair's 55 year history!

Matthew was accompanied by his parents, Dave and Carol, younger sister Sarah, and science teacher Nancy Markson.

Congratulations to Matthew for his hard work and dedication to excellence.

Reminder-Office and Resource Library Closed in July

The office and resource library will be closed from June 30 to July 31st. **The library will not be open for any check-outs or returns during the month of July.** Please return any materials to your ES or to Valerie Jones at the Nevada City resource library before June 30th.

Also, please remember to return only materials that belong to Forest Charter School. **We are currently not accepting donations.** If you are interested in donating materials next year, please contact Valerie Jones at vjones@forestcharter.com.