

MARCH 2008

Forest Charter School

A Personalized Learning Program
Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
WWW.FORESTCHARTER.COM



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Executive Director

B.J. Hatcher
Vice Principal

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Academic Dean

Steve Canavero
*Director of Assessment
and Accountability*

Debbie Ayala
Business Director

Theresa Smittle
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Valerie Jones
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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Last month I promised to talk about the block classes that Forest offers that provide the “college model” – twice a week classes that support students academically as well as guiding them to be responsible independent learners.

This blended program of class support with independent study incorporates the life skills necessary to integrate in every aspect of ones life. We believe Forest students will be leaps ahead if they can successfully navigate this model. So what is going on beside the cooperatives we talked about last month?

Grass Valley High School Block Classes at the Center for the Arts:

Vice Principal B.J. Hatcher and Coordinator, Michael LaMarca oversee this Tuesday/Thursday program.

- **Math Classes:** Algebra I, Algebra AB and CD, Algebra II, Geometry, Higher Math Tutoring
- **Science:** Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry
- **Social Studies:** World History, U.S. History, Government & Economics
- **English:** English 9/10, 11/12; Beginning & Advanced Creative Writing
- **Foreign Language:** Spanish I and II
- **Electives:** Beginning & Advanced Drama, Beginning & Advanced Art; Leadership/7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens; Voice; Vocal Ensemble; Beginning & Advanced Guitar; Dance



BJ Hatcher and Michael LaMarca

Truckee Pioneer Site Block Classes: Coordinator, Janice Eggers oversees this program that includes High School and Middle School.

- **Math Classes:** Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra AB and CD, Algebra II, Geometry, Higher Math Tutoring, Pre-Calculus
- **Science:** Life Science (MS), Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy, Physiology
- **Social Studies:** World History, U.S. History, Geography, Government & Economics, Middle School World History
- **English:** English 9/10, 11/12; Middle School Language Arts
- **Foreign Language:** Spanish I, II, III; Middle School Spanish
- **Technology:** Computer
- **Electives:** Drama; Art (MS & HS); Beginning & Advanced Guitar; Leadership; Beginning Music



Nathan Bailey Teaching Class

Warm wishes
Sandy McDivitt
FCS Executive Director

IMPORTANT DATES:

March: Portfolios due to ES's
March 24th – 28th: Spring Break

******Vision, Hearing and Scoliosis Screening Dates & Times (Please See Page 6)******

Who's Who:

Forest Charter School Administrative Staff would like to congratulate Executive Director Sandy McDivitt for being awarded the "Who's Who" award given by the Nevada County Charter Association of California School Administrators. This award recognizes outstanding local educators. Congratulations Sandy!



Mrs. McDivitt
Accepting Her Award



Co-Op Class With Parent Chaperones

7th-8th Grade Co-Op

The 7th-8th Grade Co-op has been studying the human body, and went on a field trip to see *Bodies Revealed* in Sacramento. The students, their parents and teacher found the exhibits to be truly fascinating and educational. There were exhibits on the skeletal, muscular, digestive, reproductive, vascular and nervous systems, and there were many different ways of viewing the internal organs that could never be reproduced in a book or on a chart. It was a wonderful opportunity for learning.

The Co-op is currently doing an Easter See's Candy fundraiser for our end of the year trip to Ashland, Oregon to go to the Shakespeare Festival. We will also be doing our own production of a *Midsummer Night's Dream* in May, so watch for dates and location in the next newsletter. If you are interested in purchasing a chocolate assortment bunny box or either a chocolate, peanut butter or bordeaux egg please contact Ms. Dee (Dominique) at 386-2453. They cost \$6.00 each or 3 for \$15.00. We thank you for your support!

IDEA ACADEMY

February was a month of snow days, vacations, and fieldtrips. We started off with a whole Academy field trip to see *The Golden Child* performed by the Community Asian Theatre of the Sierras. The play was excellent, and students were lucky enough to participate in a talkback with the actors afterwards. The following week, the Field Ecology class (and several 9th and 10th graders) took a trip to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge to spot and identify the last of the wintering birds before they began their migrations north. The bird of the day was a camouflage artist-an American Bittern hiding out in the reeds right by the side of the road!

In both classes, students are hard at work on their second semester seminar projects. All 11th and 12th graders will complete three interviews and three job-shadow assignments by the end of the semester, while the 9th and 10th graders are working on twelve hours of community service at sites ranging from animal shelters to trail maintenance organizations. As the weather warms up, students are looking forward to getting outside for a few more adventures before the end of the year!

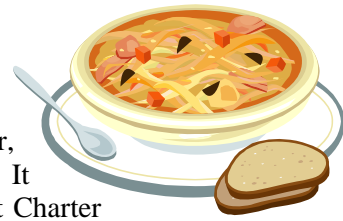


IDEA Teachers From The Left: Josh Miller, Amy Biddinder, Jennifer Homan, Alicia Lacoste, and Steve Ross

CREEKSIDE

Souper Bowl – Souper Bowl – Souper Bowl!!

Creekside is gearing up for its 9th Annual Souper Bowl extravaganza! This year, the event will take place Friday, April 11 at the North Tahoe Conference Center. It is an adult evening event including dinner, entertainment by very talented Forest Charter School students, live and silent auctions, and a raffle – grand prize is a weekend get-away to Monterey including lodging, a year membership to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, gas card and more. We are hoping that the Truckee site band will be available to provide musical entertainment for the evening, as well. Raffle and Admission tickets will be available at the Creekside, Truckee, and the Forest Charter School Administrative Offices.



The snow continues to fall in Tahoe and we had yet another snow day last week. Thanks to Ed Kriston for helping us find our path back inside! The sledding in our yard is “sick” to quote one second grader. But it isn’t all goose bumps and ice at Creekside. Our fourth grade student, Nicole Kates, will be swimming in the local Junior Olympics competition this month, in the back-stroke category. We all wish Nicole the best success with this exciting event. Additionally, the DI Team, the Imaginators, will compete in the regional tournament this month in the category of drama. This team of six Forest Charter School students in grades 3 and 4 have been preparing since last September for this event and are very excited to represent our school.



Kindergarteners Makayla Morris and Rocket Bryan at Snowfest.

The third graders have turned the Creekside library into a tepee while they study Native Americans. The walls, covered in brown paper, are decorated with Native American art and poetry as created by the third students. We will leave this wonderful display up for our Open House in May.

FOREST CHARTER FIELD TRIPS:

Different field trips are being organized in various areas, including Grass Valley, Foresthill/Auburn, Sacramento, and Truckee. All parents and ES’s are encouraged to organize field trips that pivot around their area of study.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:

March 17-	Ski/Snowboard North Star
April-	IMAX- TBA
May 13-	Camp Augusta
May 9 or 16-	Six Flags Discovery Kingdom



Please contact Leanne Engel lengel@forestcharter.com for more information on setting up or attending a field trip.

Truckee News

We are pleased to announce that the Truckee Rotary Club has given \$200.00 to our Truckee site to purchase of a class set of dictionaries. Thank you to Kaleigh Deardorff for her wonderful presentation!

This month, we would like to highlight one of our students, Ezra Stemple. Ezra just finished 17th in the Subaru US Extreme Freeskiing Championships, IFSA – Open, in Crested Butte, Colorado. He has competed in the junior division of this national competition for the past 3 years. He made podium finishes for his skiing during his first 2 years there. Last year, he fell during his qualifying run, but was honored by being asked to be the one "forerunner" for the adult class. The adult venues are some of the toughest that any pro skier would want to attempt, and Ezra skied all three days of these absolutely beautifully. His age kept him from being officially judged, but the experience was phenomenal. Congratulations, Ezra!



Truckee Students With Dictionaries

This last week, we received confirmation that we will not have our current building for next year. We will be working with our landlords to try to find an appropriate site in Truckee for our future FCS building. We will be exploring many options, and are optimistic that we will find a building that works for our school financially, and for our students' education program. If you have any suggestions of sites, or any questions, please do not hesitate to email Janice Eggers, or call the Truckee office.

Upcoming Truckee FCS Events:

- **Friday, March 7:** Middle School students are invited to the "You Can Be Happy" Seminar from 9:30-11:30 am.
- **Wednesday, March 12:** Middle School Parent meeting for end of year Mono Lake trip. 5:00-6:00pm.
- **Monday, March 31:** Vision, Hearing, and Scoliosis screening. Time TBA.

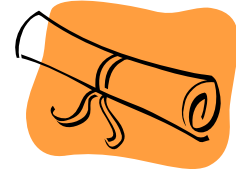
FORESTHILL NEWS- MARCH

Foresthill home school students are working hard and enjoying the fresh snow as well! Some students traveled for two weeks to Egypt for a wonderful academic travel experience this month. Art students are working on a drawing and painting unit and creating self-portraits. They are beautiful! Writing class students completed their persuasive pieces and are working on compare/contrast stories. Guitar and piano students continue to improve their music note reading and playing abilities. Other interesting units of study that are happening are space, weather and seasons, animals, and anatomy. Keep up the good work!

Foresthill block class schedule for the fall:

Monday:	1:00-2:00	K-2 Art History	Dawson
	1:00-2:00	3-8 Writing Techniques	Engel
Monday:	2:00-3:00	3-8 Art History	Dawson
Wednesday:	2:00-2:30	8-12 Advanced Guitar	Namanny
Wednesday:	2:30-3:00	8-12 Beginning Guitar	Namanny
Wednesday:	3:00-3:30	8-12 Intermediate Guitar	Namanny

COLLEGE AND CAREER CORNER



We are excited to announce that our Senior College Acceptance list now includes Biola University, and Dominican University. Congratulations Seniors!
Senior Reminders for this month:

- Check that the college has received financial, test scores, and all other forms.
- Check to see if the college will allow you to apply for housing.
- Some acceptance letters may arrive. Inform either Dawn or Janice when you hear from a college.
- Pursue scholarship options, and watch for due dates. Check the college financial aid pages, and check www.forestcharter.com, under “College Planning”, financial aid resources.
- Talk with any community colleges if you are considering applying there, and get applications for these schools.
- Keep those grades up!

Junior Reminders for this month:

- Register for the April ACT or SAT I.
- Continue the prep for the ACT or SAT I.
- Research interesting summer programs, scholarships, jobs, volunteer work, and other summer opportunities.
- Visit colleges if able.

Dawn Stillman and Janice Eggers are available for appointments. Please do not hesitate to call!

FCS Nominee for the Governor’s First Annual Academic Recognition:

Vienna Saccomanno



David Long, California Secretary of Education has invited one student from Nevada County, along with student representatives from all California counties, to participate in the First Annual Governor’s Academic Recognition Dinner hosted by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver.

The criteria for student selection was based on the following:

- SAT Score
- PSAT Score
- GPA
- Class Rank
- Extra and Co-Curricular Activities.

Three students from Nevada County were nominated from the following schools: Nevada Union, Bear River and Forest Charter School. Forest Charter School nominated Junior, Vienna Saccomanno. Though Vienna was not selected to represent Nevada County at the Governor’s Academic Recognition Dinner, she will be honored by the Nevada County School Board on March 12.

Please join Forest Charter School in congratulating this outstanding, well-rounded student, Vienna Saccomanno.

ARTMILES.ORG Mural Project at St. Canice

On Wednesdays at the K-8 Block Class Site, St. Canice, located at 236 Reward Street in Nevada City, the Mural Project is in full swing and it is currently drawing a few students who are finishing two murals begun at the end of last semester. Students of all ages are encouraged to contact **Valerie Stuart at 273-5945 or e-mail at: valeriestuart66@hotmail.com** sign up and help paint current murals and begin a new one. The Murals will be displayed when they are finished (target date; Fall Semester) and students who are interested can come to paint in small numbers during the day (**hours are approximately 9:30-2:30**). Come and share in the large-scale creativity!



Valerie Stuart and Students Working on Art Miles

MESSAGE FROM YOUR STUDENT STUDY TEAM

[We Never Forget Anything \(Anymore\)](#) (adapted from Prevention Magazine)

"Processing new information when we're anxious is nearly impossible; the stress itself is a distraction, and the brain is not working efficiently. Stop and take a few minutes before starting an activity if you see you or your child are stressed and try doing this together. (The deep breathing is especially important.) Close your eyes, touch your pinky fingers to your thumbs, and think about that healthy feeling after a good workout. Take deep breaths and hold that thought for 30 seconds. Next, move your ring fingers to your thumbs and remember a time when you felt loved for 30 seconds. For your middle fingers, recall a caring gesture, and for your index fingers, imagine a beautiful place."



Student Study Team From the Left: Steve Canavero, Eylse Raupp, Shana Stratton, Molly Harrison, Ruthanne Buckley, Candi Fyfe and BJ Hatcher

VISON HEARING & SCOLIOSIS SCREENING DATES:

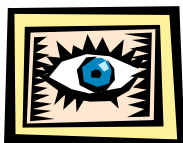
Forest Charter School Nurses Heidi Biber and Tracy Larsen will be at the following locations conducting vision and hearing screenings and scoliosis screening for 6th & 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys.

March 10th: Creekside – Vision and Hearing – Time TBA

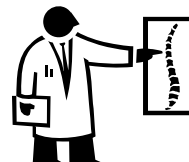
March 18th: Center for the Arts 9:00am-12:00pm 9th – 12th Grade – Vision and Hearing

March 31st: Truckee Site – Vision, Hearing & Scoliosis – Time TBA

April 8th: Truckee Site – Vision, Hearing & Scoliosis – Time TBA



The Ear



FCS TEACHER WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE: STEVE ROSS



Steve Ross might possibly be considered a 21st century style Renaissance man. He has made his love for Math, Science and Technology an art for the students that he serves at Forest Charter School. Throw in his passion for Archery and Chess and, be assured, his students will be signing up for those classes, as well. He just makes learning fun.

Steve came to Forest after a successful 20 year career in the software industry. He changed careers when he discovered his love for teaching and the possibilities to positively effect many young lives. His practical experience in the business world has contributed to his effectiveness as a teacher. He knows how to make learning, even the seemingly driest subjects, relevant and fun for his students.

Steve is finishing his 3rd year as an Education Specialist in this Personalized Learning School working collaboratively with parents and students to develop and monitor each student's unique educational plan. In addition, he teaches classes in Algebra, computer technology and Earth Science. He is consistently seeking grants to make his classes experiential. I remember Steve proudly planting a weather station on our office roof and having students monitor, graph and predict the daily weather. It was better than Channel 3.

Steve volunteered to become the Forest Charter School Technology Department Head last year. He designed state of the art "flash drive" technology curriculum for each FCS Education Specialist to bring to their students. He has created a column in our monthly newsletter on internet safety and has done presentations to staff, parents and students.

In summary, Steve is an idea man and he includes everyone. I bet I receive e-mails each week about something new and exciting he would like to bring to our students and staff. He is in process of creating a Chess Club Tournament open to all students in Nevada County.

Steve will be honored along with other Nevada County teachers at the annual Association of School Administrators (ACSA) Awards Dinner at the Miner's Foundry on March 13th.

The students and staff of Forest Charter School extend their gratitude to Steve for his energy, enthusiasm and professionalism and for making a difference in each life that he touches.

- Sandy McDivitt



INTERNET SAFTY TIPS – **BY DEPT. HEAD STEVE ROSS**

On 2/25/08 Jim Harris from the FBI office in Sacramento gave a presentation on internet safety to parents and educators at Nevada Union High School. The focus of the presentation was the threat of Internet predators to minors. Harris reported some good news; the number of incidents regarding children being victimized has decreased. Harris thought this is probably due to an increased presence on the Internet by law enforcement officials. Harris told the audience "we can't prosecute our way out of this, we need your help." Predators commonly operate by befriending children on-line. They may pose as a peer and work to gain trust slowly over time. Once this is done the predator may try and arrange for a face-to-face meeting. Harris told the audience some of the warning signs are phone calls from unknown men, packages from an unknown addresses and gifts received unexpectedly. For more information see the following Internet link.

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety: <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm>