

NOVEMBER 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

We're very pleased with the increase in students participating in EdPerformance! Parents, students, and teachers have found this web-based, computer adaptive diagnostic as a helpful tool for choosing appropriate curriculum and developing a deeper understanding of subject areas in need of support. Please take this opportunity and contact your Education Specialist to schedule an EdPerformance session. Should you have any questions regarding this diagnostic please don't hesitate to call Steve Canavero at 265-4823.



Eleni and Vienna

Congratulations to ES Eleni Rice and FCS student Vienna Saccomanno for their recognition at the APLUS Conference representing 43 Personalized Learning schools across the state of California. These two outstanding individuals were presented the Pioneer Award for their contributions to our very innovative and growing educational movement. Also, a giant thank you goes to FCS

family, Claudelle and Taylor Moe and students Danielle Kibel and Shemiah Barton for their help in registration and behind the scenes support at the conference. Forest was well represented at the conference and this included the "Personalized Learning Broadway Musical Review", an entertaining medley of songs rewritten by APLUS founder, Jeff Rice.

If you haven't had a chance to participate in the Math Games nights hosted by Academic Dean, Peter Sagebiel, ES's Steve Ross and Amy Biddinger, your next opportunity will be on **December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00** at the FCS administrative offices. Also, we encourage you to attend the parent Math Teaching-Techniques workshop on **November 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00am** at the K-8 Block Classes.



Dominique Del Chiaro

Welcome to Dominique Del Chiaro who will be teaching the River Cooperative! Dominique brings over 10 years of middle school teaching experience along with dance and theater.

A giant thank you to Sarah Gordon for creating the river co-op program. We look forward to Sarah's contributions teaching math at the St. Canice K-8 block classes.



Sarah Gordon



Caprice Young - President of CA Charter School Association visits Forest Charter School



Vienna, Danielle, Taylor, Claudelle, Eleni and Josh

Have a Thanksgiving filled with gratitude for the daily gifts we enjoy every day of the year.

Warm wishes  
Sandy McDivitt  
FCS Executive Director

## IDEA Academy:

This month has been another busy and exciting one for the IDEA Academy. Students are moving right along in their academic classes completing lab reports, writing research papers, creating song journals, and delivering oral presentations. There are so many cool things to learn about, and it's hard to believe the semester is half over already!

In addition to their coursework this month, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders attended the Foothill Theatre's incredible production of Evermore, a new play about the life and works of Edgar Allen Poe. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were able to participate in a talkback with the actors at the end of the show.

Both groups of students also began this year's work on the ongoing Tribute Trail Project with the Natural Heritage Institute and Friends of Deer Creek, by hiking in their separate classes along one section of the proposed nine-mile trail. After being inspired by the walk, students are now creating original Deer Creek artwork to be included on the interpretive trail signs and in the



Sarah Ford

published trail brochure. This is an ongoing project, and in the coming months, students plan to be at the creek again, pulling invasive species of plants, doing some water monitoring, and helping with wetland restoration.

Finally, on October 26, both groups of students participated in a transformational full day ropes course through Synergia Learning Center. Not only did our two classes accomplish some great feats of teamwork, but the students became closer and more trusting of their classmates and themselves. For many of us in the Academy, this was the best day of school this year, and the concepts of working together, challenging yourselves, trusting your friends, and creative problem solving are all lessons that we will bring back into our IDEA classroom at Forest Charter!



Jenna Denniston and Daphne Pryde



Tas Moanna and Amanda Christopherson

## FORESTHILL NEWS



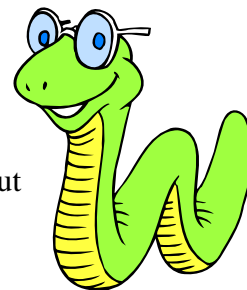
Foresthill home school students are working hard on project, activities, and studies. Students are studying interesting topics such as plants and trees, zoo animals, sign language, ancient Greece and Rome, and California History. Art students are beginning a study of clay and look forward to making interesting holiday gifts for friends and family. Writing class students completed their biographies of famous people and are writing humorous creative stories of animals. 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

## CREEKSIDE COOPERATIVE

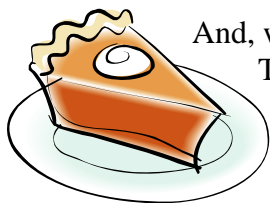
3,000 worms joined the ranks at Creekside Cooperative on Friday. As part of our Nutrition/Cooking/Gardening program, we have established a composting center at the site. The kids will be feeding our new little friends and learning about composting at the same time. Huge thanks to parent **Rhonda Kreidler** for her organization of this wonderful new addition.



Miss Mindy's first and second grade class submitted a scarecrow, named "Tiger Woods," to the Tahoe City PUD's Community Scarecrow Contest, and took **First Place** in the preschool-first grade category. A medal was delivered last week acknowledging their efforts and the class received mention in the Sierra Sun. Tiger was displayed in town at the Tahoe City Golf Course sign along the highway. Thanks to **Miss Mindy** and parent **Jessica McDermid** for leading the creation!

The Third Graders prepared a ghoulish hot lunch for our students last week, including witchy fingers (cheesy breadsticks with almonds), worms in dirt (noodles with breadcrumbs), vampire fangs (sliced apples with raspberry sauce), and bugs on a log (celery stick with peanut butter and dried currants). While the kindergarteners were a bit hesitant at first, the older students were able to convince them to dig in. It was a booo-tiful spread and oh so yummy! Thanks to parent/chef, **Dawn Baehr** for leading this wonderful cooking/eating experience for the school.

This Friday, November 2, Creekside families will enjoy the November Friday Family Field Trip to Fleischmann Planetarium, followed by a tour of the Andy Warhol Exhibit at the Nevada Museum of Art. Any Forest Charter Family is welcome to join the fun...cost is \$5/person. Please call the Creekside site for more information and to sign up. This is a Creekside PTO, Inc. event.



And, with November here, we are pleased to continue the traditional Creekside Thanksgiving Pot Luck. This year's lunchtime event will take place on Tuesday, November 20 at the site. Any Forest Charter family is more than welcome to join us! With the many chefs in our group of families, this gathering is always yummy!

## **Internet Safety Tips – By Steve Ross, FCS Technology Dept. Head**

Parents, a desktop system in a visible area of the house is the best spot for the family computer. Teens should prove that they are responsible and safe computer users before they are allowed to have a laptop.



With any computer, be wary of what your child is downloading. Our children expect us to keep them safe and monitoring computer activity is part of a parent's job these days. Online fantasy games are of particular concern now. Mental health professionals are reporting that the fantasy life offered by computer games can be overpowering to many.

For an informative story on the topic of online gaming read the article, "When games Stop being fun", <http://news.com.com/2100-1040-881673.html>.

## FIELD TRIP – ALLEGHANY MINE

September 28, forty-two students and adults went on a field trip to the Sixteen to One Gold Mine in Alleghany.

The exciting and informative trip started at the Mine Museum where families learned about the history and development of gold mining, it's relationship and impact on Northern California and how the Gold Rush transformed the economy of California including its impact on immigration, settlement and development.



Sparkling pieces of gold quartz were passed around before the group headed to a beautiful geologically significant site where we ate lunch and learned how to differentiate between various types of rocks before heading to the mine portal. After donning our "rescue breathers", rubber boots, and hard hats, the group headed underground for a nearly two hour trek through the dark, damp mine. Touring one of the few operational gold mines in California was truly an awesome learning opportunity for our students!



### **FOREST CHARTER FIELD TRIPS:**



Students recently toured Bishops Pumpkin farm and enjoyed a train ride, hay wagon ride, marble mining at Coyote Mountain, and fresh apple cider. Students also ventured to The Sacramento Zoo and Fairy Tale town. This was a wonderful opportunity to view animals that students have been studying and experience favorite fairy tale places.

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:**

November-28 IMAX Theater, Sacramento (Mystery of Egypt) (Mystery of the Nile)  
 December- 5 Foothill Theater Co. "It's A Wonderful Life", Nevada City  
 December- 12 Nutcracker Ballet, Sacramento  
 January- Ski/Snowboard Boreal/ North Star  
 February- Ski/Snowboard Boreal/ North Star  
 May- Six Flags Discovery Kingdom

Please contact Leanne Engel [lengel@forestcharter.com](mailto:lengel@forestcharter.com) for more information on setting up or attending a field trip.

## COLLEGE AND CAREER CORNER

Some reminders from the College and Career Center:



Sarah Covington and College and Career Advisor Dawn Stillman

- Check [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for upcoming SAT dates; the next SAT date is **Sat., Nov. 3**
- Check [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for upcoming ACT dates; the next ACT date is **Sat., Dec. 8**.
- On Mon., Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Nevada City Office from 1-3pm, Dawn will be holding a “Let’s Talk College” general information session for anyone in 9-11<sup>th</sup> grades as well as parents.
- On **Thurs., Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**, at the Truckee site from **4:45-6:45pm**, Janice will be holding a “Let’s Talk College” general information session for anyone in 9-11<sup>th</sup> grades as well as parents.
- **Sun., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>** there is a large college fair in Reno, NV at the Reno Convention Center all day. Feel free to attend and talk with college representatives.
- There will be two more Senior Day meetings in Truckee from 10-12pm on **Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- Senior Students should be working on any college applications if they are planning on attending a 4 year college.
- All Senior Students should meet with either Janice or Dawn to discuss their plans after this school year. Please contact either Janice or Dawn to make an appointment.
- Check out The College & Career Offices for information on scholarships and other college news.

## TRUCKEE NEWS



TAO Adventures had another exciting trip on Friday, October 12. Students went rock climbing off of Highway 40, on Donner Summit. These trips are wonderful ways for our students, no matter what age, to socialize and experience new challenges and make new friends. Please encourage your student to participate in these Friday activities!



The Truckee Site Leadership group is busy planning many activities. The group is planning dances, Halloween lunch games, and other fun days for the students. Congratulations to the following students as the newly elected Truckee Site Student Council: **Clayton Noel-High School Chairperson, Jade Bokelund-High School**

**Representative, Kaleigh Deardorff-High School Event Coordinator.** The Middle School Student Council members are: **Madison Kwasny-Chairperson, Kaelyn York-Co-Chairperson, and Maddie Hall-Event Coordinator.** Student Council meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3:15-4:45. The Council welcomes any ideas for the upcoming school year.

**Please mark your calendars for the following important Truckee Site Dates:**

**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>:** Reno College Fair, 12-4 for all High School Students. Details will be passed out in Block classes this week. Located at the Reno Convention Center, South Virginia, Reno, Nevada.

**Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>,** 4:45-6:45, College Talk for all 9-11<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. Classroom A, Truckee Campus.

**Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>:** Friday Adventure with TAO Education, 10-3, Truckee Regional Park. Disc Golf activities and community clean up.

**Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>:** 10-12, Truckee Site. Senior Day!! Bring your college essays! Snacks and refreshments provided.

**Monday, November 12:** NO SCHOOL!

**Friday, November 16:** Fieldtrip to Plumpjacks in Squaw Valley. Sign up at school.

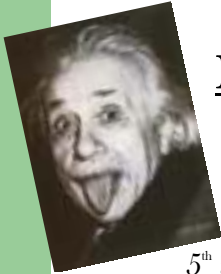
**Friday, November 30:** UC Davis Environmental Center Fieldtrip, Incline Village, Nevada. 10-2pm.

**November 30:** 10-12, Truckee Site. Senior Day!! Bring your college essays. Snacks and refreshments provided.



## Archery Class Needs A Parent Volunteer

Mr. Ross who teaches archery is looking for an adult volunteer to help with his class. No previous experience in archery is required just a good set of eyes and a caring attitude. Some physical activity will be required: lifting of targets and walking. The class meets Thursday's from 4-5:30. Please call or email Mr. Ross if you are able to help out. He can be contacted at 559-6528 or at [srossnz@netzero.com](mailto:srossnz@netzero.com).



## MAD MATHNESS

### Forest Charter - Game Night!

Another exciting game night is planned on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Forest Office in Nevada City from 5:00 - 6:00. Any Forest Charter Family is welcome to join us for pizza (with a \$1 suggested donation), games and lots of fun! If you have a favorite game, please bring it in and share it. There is another Game Night scheduled for Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!



Students & Parents at the First Game Night

## PARENT WORKSHOP

There will be a parent workshop focusing on math instruction for grades 3-6 (but all parents are welcome). The workshop will be held at the **St. Canice K-8 block classes from 9-10 on November 7th**. Amy Biddinger will give helpful tips and techniques for parents who are teaching their students math.

## Message From Your Student Service Team

### Goal Setting

Success doesn't happen magically through wishful thinking. It is a process which occurs with intent and effort. Even if you don't believe in quantum physics, goal setting has a way of setting a dream into action. Here are some tips to help setting goals.

- 1.) Write down exactly **WHAT** you want. Be specific.
- 2.) Write down exactly **HOW** you plan to achieve it. This will be your playbook.
- 3.) Give yourself a timeline.
- 4.) Also, tell people about your goals. You are more likely to follow through on them. Have fun with it and make goal setting a regular family activity. Include art with your goals so they are beautiful and inspiring. Keep your goals in front of you and check progress often.

**No one always meets every goal, so we must remember to help the child learn how to deal with failure. This is as important as setting the goal! The process should be specific and engaged in with intention by writing the answers to the following:**

**\*What went RIGHT? \*What went WRONG? \* How will I do it DIFFERENTLY next time?**



## Book of the Month



**Recommended Book of the Month for November:** *Drama is Optional: A Guide for Teens* by Judee Ausnow (a local author) The following is in the author's introduction:

"Compare your life to a computer. In even the most complicated computers there are only three major components: the hard drive, the operating system and the programs. Scientists have described life as a consciousness computer that also has only three major components; our physical world is the hard drive, our consciousness is the operating system and our thoughts are the programs. You don't change the hard drive on your computer to create something new; you change the programs. If you want to create something new for yourself, you don't have to change your physical world, you simply have to change your thoughts. Changing your thoughts literally changes the experience you create in your life because your thoughts create your feelings and emotions- and your feelings and emotions have the power to make you feel really, really good, or really, really bad."

**For Younger Students:** *Stickeen: John Muir and the Brave Little Dog* by John Muir, as retold by Donnell Rubay; Illustrated by Christopher Canyon (Dawn Publications)

## K-8 Harvest Party Photos



Congratulations to the Winners of the  
"Guesstimate" Game!!

Pumpkin Weight: Bree Barnickol  
Guess - 15 lbs (Actual weight - 15lbs 7 ounces)

Candies in the Jar: Iona Swift  
Guess - 350 candies (Actual number 350)