

OCTOBER 2007

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

Forest Charter School Receives CCSA Certification



On September 19th, The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) honored Forest as one of the nation's first "Certified Charter Schools." According to CCSA, this program now includes 56 Certified Charter Schools, which "represents the first time in the nation that a state's charter school movement has defined standards for high quality with accountability, and recognizes charter schools that have met those standards." If you missed the article in the Union, you may go to their link at <http://www.theunion.com/article/20070919/NEWS/109190156/-1/ARCHIVES01>.



In addition, on Sept. 24th, Union education staff writer Soumitro Sen, wrote a touching feature article covering Forest's participation in the international Art Miles Mural Project entitled, "A Mural Worth 1000 Words". The article begins with "Students of Forest Charter School have become ambassadors of world peace." These murals will join hundreds of other murals from around the world in Egypt in 2010. To read more go to <http://www.theunion.com/article/20070924/NEWS/109240129>. Thanks to ES Valerie Stuart for coordinating this UNESCO sponsored project. Please contact your ES if your student wants to contribute to a mural in your area.

Congratulations to the student and teachers of Forest for bridging borders. Watch for other opportunities to learn more about other cultures through our October Book of the Month in this newsletter edition.

Warm wishes

Sandy McDivitt
FCS Executive Director

Important Dates:

- **Tues. /Wed Oct. 2nd & 3rd** : 11th and 12th graders CAHSEE (high school exit exam) 9:00 AM to noon – all sites
- **Wed. Oct. 10th**: PLAN Test (10th & 11th graders)
- **Sat. Oct. 20th**: PSAT Test (10th & 11th graders)
- **Oct. 15th- 19th**: October break
- **Wed. Oct. 31st**: Fall Harvest Festival at the K-8 Block Classes, St. Canice (Nevada City)

Creekside Cooperative:

The month of September was busy at the Creekside Site with classes beginning, school photos, a visit by the Charter Council, enrichment activities and family field trips. On September 21, our school observed one minutes of silence at noon in celebration of Peace One Day 21 September.

Then students had a peace parade on Highway 89, flying the peace doves they made the week before. We concluded the celebration by reading the book "Peace One Day" by Jeremy Gilley, the day's founder. It was a beautiful way to bring peace into our community and into our hearts.



October will be equally thrilling. The PTO sponsored Friday Family Field Trip on October 5 will be to the Black Chasm Caves and then to Sutter Gold Mine. For details on this trip, please visit the PTO website at www.creeksidepto.org. Forest Charter School students attending other sites are welcome to join this adventure.

Please email Nichole Hull at nichole_hull@yahoo.com.

We commence the first phase of our C-Note Challenge this month, gathering one hundred wonderful gift certificates from local restaurants (contributing businesses are listed with their logo in a color full-page ad in the Sierra Sun in December). In November, we will sell one hundred raffle tickets for \$100 each and a lucky winner-take-all ticket will be drawn in early December. If you are a business owner interested in providing a gift certificate for this worthy cause or if you love to eat out and wish to purchase a ticket, please contact Camille Taylor at (530) 581-1036.

FORESTHILL NEWS



Foresthill home school students are working hard on project, activities, and studies. Students are studying interesting topics such as the Story of The World, American Girl history, Early America, Sign Language, Earth Science, and planets. Students are refining drawing and painting techniques in art class and prepare to enter into a study of clay. We would especially like to recognize the writing class students at this time, who are working hard on their biographies of a famous historical person. Their style and techniques are greatly improving. 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



River Coop News

The River Coop is already in full swing. We have been to the Synergia Ropes Course, we will be floating on the Yuba in October and a hike from the headwaters of the Yuba is in the works. Thirteen lively students arrive on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to delve into math and science classes. Tuesdays we spend the morning in Randy Oliver's "lab" at the Imaginarium. There is still room in the Coop for a few more students if you know of a 7th or 8th grader who is willing to take on a new endeavor. Contact Sarah Gordon for more info: saresbean@yahoo.com or 274-3154.



Internet Safety Class taught at the River Co-op



Last month Mr. Ross taught 7th and 8th graders of the River Co-op several important Internet Safety topics. Included in the presentation were discussions on the issues surrounding on-line gaming, problems with cyber-bullies, and the broader topics of technology and communication. The topic of cyber-bullies, or on-line harassment, struck a chord with many students. Many have either had personal experience or have a friend that has been the victim of on-line harassment. The class discussed strategies to combat harassment and what steps to take if this happens to them. While there are many facets of technology that raise concerns for students and families I think we can all agree that education is the most important tool we have to meet those concerns.

Mr. Ross would like to thank Sarah Gordon and the River Co-op families for allowing him to come and present his information.

Welcome Heather Buck as K-8 Block Class Coordinator in Nevada City

Heather Buck joins Forest this year as both an Education Specialist and K-8 Block Class Coordinator at St Canice Center in Nevada City where she oversees and teaches classes every Wednesday. Heather served as an Education Specialist and administrator at BASIS, a personalized learning charter school located in the Bay Area. Heather and her family moved to Nevada County last year and, as an experienced home schooling mom, she enrolled her son, Nicholas, now a 4th grader, in Forest. A Wellesley College graduate with a political science and economics background, Heather found her calling in teaching. We are delighted to welcome this experienced and enthusiastic educator to Forest.



Heather and her son Nick Buck

Truckee News

The Truckee Campus has had an incredible start to the school year. We would like to welcome our new teachers, Monica Caldari, Gretchen Brugman, Nate Bailey, and Geoff Quine. We are very excited to have these folks on board!

Many of our students participated in the Squaw Valley Adventure Ropes course last Friday. Students climbed up 100 feet to ring a bell, swung from the giant swing, and did the free fall. This wonderful adventure was sponsored by TAO Adventures.



Upcoming TAO Adventures:

*Friday, October 12 Rock Climbing at Donner Pass

Please make sure to sign your student up on the board outside of the office. Sign ups are not for interest, but for serious attendees only. The minimum number of students needed for each trip is 5. Parents, when signing your student up, please indicate whether you are paying private pay, or from student budget.

Upcoming Parent and Student Social Dinner: Wednesday October 3rd 6-8:30pm. This is an event for all FCS Truckee families at the Pioneer Site. Ron and Liz Allen will be hosting the event. Cost will be \$7.00 for each person or \$5.00 if donations are brought of non-perishable food items for Project Mana.

Student Council Elections: Leadership class in Truckee is sponsoring the Truckee site elections. Positions include: Chair person, Vice Chair, Representatives, Treasurer, and Event Coordinators. If you would like to join the dynamic Leadership team, please contact Janice Eggers. The team meets every Tuesday from 3:15-4:45 on campus.



IDEA ACADEMY

The IDEA Academy is off to a great start this semester with two amazing groups of students who have been going non-stop since August! We kicked off the year with a series of group challenges and community building activities, where students not only learned to work effectively as group, but also had a large hand in creating their Academy communities. Then it was off to classes, where our students are having a wonderful time studying math, English, science, history, and geography!



IDEA Academy Community Building

In early September, our 9th and 10th graders attended their first fieldtrip to the Sierra Shakespeare Festival's performance of *Taming of the Shrew* at the fairgrounds. Then, in keeping with our global issues theme, the 11th and 12th graders were honored by a two hour visit from guest speaker Marion MacGillivray, who shared her experiences from her recent trip to Rwanda and also inspired the students to become world travelers! In their seminar class, students are now taking what they've learned from Ms. MacGillivray and delving further into the recent genocide in Rwanda and also exploring the history of genocide in the 20th and 21st centuries. These students want to make a difference in our world!



Josh, Jen, Sandy and Marion MacGillivray

In October, the Academy has several more fieldtrips planned for both groups of students. The 11th and 12th graders will attend Evermore, a Foothill Theatre performance of Edgar Allen Poe works; both groups of students will participate in a full-day ropes course; and we will continue last year's Tribute Trail Project with the Natural Heritage Institute and Friends of Deer Creek, by taking two hikes along the proposed trail and creating some artwork for the trail brochure.

FCS Chess Class

The game of kings has come to FCS! Mr. Ross is now teaching chess on Fridays from 2-3pm at the office in Nevada City. Chess class at this time has 8 members but we have room for many more. No prior knowledge of chess is required, just a desire to learn and have fun. Students are learning the tactics of forks, skewers and discovered attacks. Each week students also have time to play several games. Mr. Ross has an ongoing challenge to any FCS student, beat him a game of chess and win a gift certificate to the ice cream shop, Cold Stone Creamery! If chess is an interest of yours come and check out the class. Students can join at anytime.

FOREST CHARTER FIELD TRIPS:

Students attending the Allegheny Mine tour raved about this wonderful trip. First-hand experience of exploring a real working mine was a rare opportunity that these students enjoyed.

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:

October- 12	Sacramento Zoo/Fairy Tale Town, Sacramento
October- 22	Bishop's Pumpkin Farm, Wheatland
November-28	IMAX Theater, Sacramento (Mystery of Egypt) (Mystery of the Nile)
December- 12	Nutcracker Ballet, Sacramento
December-	It's A Wonderful Life", Foothill Theater Co.- Grass Valley
January-	Ski/Snowboard Boreal/ North Star
February-	Ski/Snowboard Boreal/ North Star
May-	Six Flags Discovery Kingdom



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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR STUDENT SERVICE TEAM:**Teaching Tip of the Month****Establish Routines**

Homeschooling and Independent Study tend to be a very freeform environment. Most new students relish in this new found freedom. This is not always, however, the best learning environment. Keep in mind the following information:

- A daily routine helps children and young adults learn to manage their time efficiently.
- It promotes independence and self-confidence.
- It relieves stress by adding a measure of predictability to a chaotic world.
- Most students who fail to complete their work report a lack of routine in their daily lives.
- Most students resist it in the beginning but eventually come to appreciate it.

So, Parents; Be strong and take heart that your efforts now will bear wonderful fruit in the future.



PLAN and PSAT Testing Dates and Details

Test	Location	Dates/Times	Cost*: Pay by check (preferred) to Forest Charter or cash.	Sign Up
PLAN	Truckee Pioneer Site (10655 Pioneer Trail) Nevada City (224 Church St.)	October 10, 2007 9am to 12pm	\$15/test	If you will test in Truckee contact Janice Eggers at 550.7205 x21 If you will test in Nevada City contact Nancy Nobles at 265.4823
PSAT	Truckee Pioneer Site (10655 Pioneer Trail) Nevada City (224 Church St.)	October 20, 2007 9am to 12pm	\$15/test	If you will test in Truckee contact Janice Eggers at 550.7205 x21 If you will test in Nevada City contact Nancy Nobles at 265.4823

* Need based scholarships are available; please contact Steve Canavero (265.4823) if you wish to apply.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Recommended Book of the Month for October: (thanks to ES Mentor, EleniRice) *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace. . . One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin



In 1993 a mountaineer named Greg Mortensen drifted into an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karkoram Mountains after a failed attempt to climb K2. Moved by villagers' kindness, he promised to return and build a school. *Three Cups of Tea* is the story of that promise and its extraordinary outcome. Over the next decade Mortenson built not one, but 55 schools, especially for girls, in the forbidding terrain that gave birth to the Taliban. His story is a riveting adventure and a testament to the power of humanitarian spirit.

For Younger Students: *If You Give T-Rex a Bone* by Tim Myers (Dawn Publications)

This book presents the magic and mystery of dinosaurs in a fun, educational and informative style. The dinosaurs come to life on each page, and the ancillary notes and activities provide parents and teachers with creative teaching ideas.



Forest Charter School
Harvest Party
K-8th Grade



When: Wednesday, October 31st

Where: St. Canice Center – 326 Reward Street, Nevada City

Time: 12:00-2:00

Please Bring A Snack To Share
Costumes Are Optional



Earth Capades Environmental Vaudeville

“Waste Reduction Production”

Learn simple things everyone can do to REDUCE waste at school and at home; conserve natural resources, enjoy nature, and explore ways we can live in balance with Planet Earth.

Highly developed skills including juggling, magic, comedy, storytelling and music keep students and teachers on the edge of their seats. The audience participates throughout the show while learning the 4R's REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE and RESPECT.

When: Monday, October 29th at 9:30-11:00

Where: Miners Foundry

If you are interested in attending contact by October 22: Johanna Stephan at (530) 265-4823 or email at jstephan@forestcharter.com

COST: FREE

