

Forestville Schools

News from the Superintendent - 707/887-9768

Of Special Note to the Community:

As a requirement of promotion, each student in grades 7 & 8 are required to complete eight hours of Community Service each year. We are looking for local groups or businesses that would be interested in supervising students for a few hours, or on a particular project. Examples of community service projects include (but are not limited to): cleaning a park, collecting much needed items including clothes, shoes, food, blankets, etc., reading to the elderly in nursing homes; assisting local fire, police or other agency; helping out at a local library; and providing school activities that benefit community.

In addition to the clear benefits to the community, a recent study found that students who maintain a weekly community service record are more likely to succeed in school, and have higher grades, than those who are not involved at all. Please call Fran Oliver, Forestville Academy at 887-2279 ext. 3, if you can provide community service opportunities for our students..... everyone benefits.

Shared Leadership and Decision-Making:

As a follow up to an earlier article, I thought it might be nice to provide a quick update on our efforts to tap into the much valued talent pool and expertise of the teaching staff. Teacher- and administrator-led forums have been working diligently to help sharpen the school's commitment to enhance programs and services to our students and parents. Programs are being reviewed, revamped and rejuvenated, with the purpose of maximizing efforts to support each child in their efforts to be successful at Forestville School and Academy.

Spring Play/Musical: As many in the Forestville community know, each Spring provides another wonderful opportunity to enjoy an outstanding play performed by the students of Forestville School. Last year was Aladdin, Jr. and this year will be The Music Man, Jr. The

Music Man is a musical with music and lyrics by Meredith Wilson. The show is based on a story by Wilson and Franklin Lacey. In 1957, The Music Man became a hit on Broadway and is still frequently produced by both professional and amateur theatre companies.

The success of a revival in the year 2000 prompted a 2003 television movie starring Matthew Broderick, who starred as Professor Harold Hill; a character who came to River City to con unsuspecting families out of their hard earned money.

We are very pleased to announce that this year's Director will be Rob Olmsted, a parent of students who have graduated from, and currently attend, Forestville School. Rob was raised in Sonoma County, and while he attended Montgomery High School he performed in a number of plays and musicals including Miracle on 34th Street, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, 12 Angry Men and West Side Story. After graduating from high school, Rob became a founding member of "General Amazement Theatre Unlimited", a company of actors, directors and writers all under the age of 18. The company found great success with their productions of Godspell, The Fantastics and an original musical production of "Alice", based on Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. While obtaining his BFA in acting, at the California Institute of the Arts, Rob performed in a number of plays, and student films, and found he enjoyed Directing as well. His first production as a director, Table Manners, received great reviews.

Please mark your calendar for **April 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20**. We look forward to great performances in this truly memorable production. Don't be surprised if you hum tunes from this musical on your way home!

Thanks again for your continued support! Please call (887-9767), write or e-mail me (dhack@scoe.org) if you need more information on any of the items mentioned here.

Don Hack, District Superintendent

Oak Grove Messenger

Oak Grove Elementary School
Willowside Middle School
District Office @ Willowside
707/545-0171



Registration for the 08-09 school year continues.

We began registration of new students for the '08-'09 school year in December. In our first lottery we had received applications for 39 sixth graders and 43 seventh graders. We have room for 45 sixth graders and 75 seventh graders. We have held our first lottery and have accepted all sixth, seventh and eighth grade applicants. Our next Lottery will be held on the 8th of February. If you know of anyone who is interested in having their child attend either one of our schools, please encourage them to apply ASAP.

Instructional Assistant Openings

If you are interested in becoming an instructional assistant at Oak Grove School, there is an immediate opening. The position is for 2.75 hours in the morning for four days a week in the fourth grade. If you're interested in this position, please contact the district office at 545-0171.

Technology Committee Working Hard

The Technology Committee has been meeting over the last couple of months, putting together a tech plan for the district. This committee has been trying to envision what our schools needs will be over the next five years with regards to technology. We have been looking at equipping every teacher in the district with a computer powerful enough to be able to access the web and run the grading and attendance database program called Aeries. In addition to the teachers, the committee has been looking into their crystal ball regarding student needs. They believe a computer lab needs to be in place at Oak Grove School and the district needs to hire a technology teacher to support our students using the computers. In addition to the hardware issues, the committee has identified the skills at each grade level that they believe our students should master and programs that they should be adept at using. Training for all of our staff is a must and will be included in the plan. This plan will be finalized in the next two months and presented to the Board of Education for their adoption. The next issue will be looking for the funding to support this ambitious plan.

Data Director training begins

On January 15th, a group of teachers and administrators received training on a software program called Data Director. This program was purchased by the district this year to help us manage our students' academic growth. We are able

to construct the answer sheets for the tests that we give to our students, scan those answer sheets in seconds, and score them instantly. We will be able to identify who is mastering the standard, who needs additional instruction and what needs to be re-taught for all of our students to succeed.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

As I noted on this page last month our annual kindergarten registration period will begin on February 1st for the 2008-2009 school year! Your child is eligible for kindergarten if he/she was born on or before December 2, 2003.

You may begin your registration process:

- by calling our office at 823-5225
- by stopping by our office on any school day between 8 and 4

(A proof of birth document and immunization records will be needed in order to complete the registration process for your child, but are not necessary to begin the process.)

District residents as well as those who live outside the Oak Grove District are encouraged to register as early as possible in February. If you live outside the Oak Grove District and wish to have a new incoming Kindergartener considered for placement, please call Christine in the district office at 545-0171. Christine will answer any questions you may have about the Inter-district Attendance Agreement process and send you the necessary paperwork.

We are looking forward to meeting you and your soon-to-be kindergarten student. We also thank all of you ahead of time for your efforts in registering your child early!

Ecology Club Update

I am excited to report on the progress of the Ecology Club and to commend the dedicated students and parents involved. We have established our working partnership with the Bodega Bay Marine Lab. Our work is being guided by Research Data and Education Manager, Vic Chow and Land Manager, Michelle Cooper. I am thankful that they see the value in this outreach program and or their willingness to participate. With every meeting, Vic and Michelle express their admiration for our students' conduct, intellect and enthusiasm. Together we have decided to conduct an experiment in restoration ecology. The students have marked plots and will run treatments that will test methods in invasive and native grass restoration. Thanks also to Mr. Kornfein and Ms. Langerman for their support on this project. - Deb Grima-Lowe

Willowside Nursery PLANT SALES

Plant Sales help support the garden program at Willowside School as well as teach students. Always on SATURDAYS from 9 AM to 2 PM. Volunteer help always appreciated, call Jan Lochner 823-3265. Donations of pots welcome. Any size.

March 1, March 22, April 12, May 3, May 24
Willowside Road at Hall Road.