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2012 First Quarter Edition

**Mrs. Sherman’s AWESOME **

Hello and welcome back to school! For those of you that might not know me, my name is Mrs. Sherman, and I am the art teacher at Forest Pines. We have been busy working on our first of the year art projects. The students have been creating beautiful work while at the same time learning lots of art terms, history, science, and math. We had 6 amazing 5th grade dragon themed mock stained glass windows entered in the N.C. State Fair art exhibition. Those student participants were: Chandler Beasley, Alara Weems, Madeline Wright, Bella Soluri, Mira Valentino, and Caroline Wilkerson. Congratulations to Alara, who received special recognition from the judges on her work. Our next art show will be the Young Artist Exhibition at the Marbles Museum, and the three students that have been selected to represent our school are: Anna Beckom, Mackenzie Canaday, and Sophia Hlavenka. I am still in search of the Artists of the Month for each of the grade levels. We have just begun to create project number two, and several students will have their artwork on display at our local SECU for the month of November.

**Project 1:**

 **Kindergarten:** Element of Design: Shape, Projects: “The Geometric Shaped Person” and “Self-Portrait in a City of Shapes”

 **1st Grade:** Element of Design: Line, Project: “The Jazzy Jungle Cat” inspired by the artist Henri Rousseau

 **2nd Grade:**  Element of Design: Color, Project: “The Tropical Rainforest Bird”

 **3rd Grade:** Element of Design: Form and color, Project: “3-D Amphibians” inspired by the artist Wassily Kandinsky. **4th Grade:** Elements of Design: Line, Texture, and Shape, Project: “The Texture/Pattern Sheet”

 **5th Grade:** Element of Design: Color and value, Project: “Dragon Themed Artist Proposals”.

**Mrs. Dunn’s MARVELOUS Media**

Welcome to a new school year in the Library Media Center! Students have been very excited to check out books and read! Please encourage reading at home each night either on their own or with an older sibling or parents. As Dr. Seuss said, “The more you read, the more you grow. The more you read, the more you know.”

For more information on reading and your child or any information about the library, check my wiki page at;

 <http://forestpineslmc.pbworks.com/w/page/30746737/Forest-Pines-Drive-Library-Media-Center>

The students have been busy in the Library Media Center this quarter. Here is what we have been working on:

**Kindergarten:** How the Library works, Library Book Care, Fiction and Nonfiction

**First Grade:**  How the Library works, Library Book Care, Fiction and Nonfiction, How to check in and out books

**Second Grade:** How the Library works, Book Care, Library Call Numbers and Fiction and Nonfiction, How to check in and out books

**Third Grade:** How a Library is organized, How to check in and out books, Library Call Numbers and Dewey Decimal System.

**Fourth Grade:** How the Library works and How to check in and out books

**Fifth Grade:** How the Library works and How to check in and out books

**Mrs. Eubanks’ MAGNIFICENT Music**

Greetings from the Music Room!! For those of you new to Forest Pines, my name is Mrs. Eubanks and I will be your child's music teacher this school year. We have many great opportunities for students to participate in musical activities this year. Throughout the year each grade level will be participating in a program for parents. Our first program is for our second grade and AU students called the **Festival of Lights** on December 18th at 2:45pm in our gymnasium. I hope that many of you will be there to hear your children sing and share about many of the holidays that people celebrate in December.

Here are all the things we have been discussing in class so far:

**Kindergarten:** singing voice, talking voice, whispering voice, calling voice, and loud and soft singing voices

**First Grade:** steady beat, silent beat, high and low sounds called so and mi.

**Second Grade:** quarter note, quarter rest, eighth notes, pitches: so and mi, half note and half rest

**Third Grade:** rhythm and melody, and recorder introduction

**Fourth Grade:** rhythm and melody, and recorder introduction, NC Symphony Introduction

**Fifth Grade:** American Patriotic Music: conductors, dynamics, tempo, rhythm, melody, texture/tone color.

**Mrs. Elliott’s PHENOMENAL PE**

Hello and welcome back! My name is Karen Elliott, and I am your child’s Physical Education Teacher. The Shift to Common Core has made it all the way to PE. Although I have 15 years teaching experience, I feel as though I’m a first year teacher all over again. I will be working very hard with your children this year to be sure they have mastered the required skills and content knowledge for my class.

We started the year learning about the 5 Components of Physical Fitness and how they relate to the *Fitnessgram Fitness Tests*. You may have noticed your child coming home with beads on their shoes. That means they met the National criteria for a Physical Fitness Test! Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students participated in the Flexed Arm Hang, Flexibility, and Pacer Tests. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students participated in the Push-up, Curl-up, Flexibility, and Mile Run Tests. All students will be tested again at the end of the year and have the opportunity to earn more fitness beads.

Below is a list of the additional activities each grade level participated in during the first quarter.

**5th Grade *Basketball:*** Classes have learned the skills of ball handling, dribbling, passing, shooting and basic game play.

**4th Grade *Softball*:** Classes have learned the skills of throwing, catching, fielding, pitching, batting, base running, and basic game play.

**3rd Grade *Soccer:*** Classes have learned the skills of dribbling, trapping, passing, throw-ins, goal tending , and basic game play.

**Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade *Locomotor Movement Skills***: These classes have worked on the locomotor skills of walk, run, hop, jump, leap, skip, gallop, and slide and have practiced these skills in a variety of pathways.

**Ms. Slonac’s SENSATIONAL Science and EXTRAORDINARY Explorers**![C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\N270RCGX\MC900355945[1].wmf]()

**Explorers** started off smoothly. The kids are learning logic puzzles, deductive thinking and convergent thinking skills. They get time to work alone and in small groups to show their high order thinking skills. It is a challenging class, but the students seem to be EXPLORERING new learning territories.

**Science** is so much fun. We started the quarter off with inquiry based labs. What’s in the Middle, Saving Fred and Bubble Blowing. Each time the students got familiar with their lab notes books and the process of being a good scientist.

Currently 4th grade is learning about Rocks and Minerals, Landforms Earthquakes and Volcanoes and 5th grade is discussing Ecology, Biomes, climate changes and conservation.

If you are a scientist and are interested in performing an experiment in our lab please contact me asap. We would love to have you☺

PTA has given me a mini-grant to implement a school garden.

Some garden ideas in place are: **Journey North Tulip Test Gardens: Tracking seasons and weather changes around the world. 4th grade will be focusing on NC plants and 5th will focus on butterfly garden.** Benches will be assembled and installed

**Tracking Change in Seasons and Climate Around the Globe**
In this international [science experiment](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/tulips/AboutFall.html), students across the northern hemisphere plant [tulip bulbs](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/tulips/AboutFall.html) in their Journey North Test Gardens each fall. When the plants emerge and bloom, children announce that spring has arrived in their part of the world.

One garden at a time, the relationship between climate, geography and the arrival of spring is revealed. Students make observations in their own hometown, and watch the wave of spring as it moves across the globe.

This project enlists the help of students as citizen scientists to monitor seasonal change in a scientific way. As plants develop and grow they reveal the effects of the local climate. Over time, the timing of plant growth can be used as an indicator of climate change. Students contribute valuable observations to a long-term database.

See Journey North’s Website for More information <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

**Donations to our School Garden are needed: Shovels, compost, rakes, hand tools, gloves, hoes, etc.**

Lastly My Science Lab has adopted a Bearded Dragon “Chunk” He is docile and quite entertaining to watch. Chunk does take a lot of care and I am in need of some things to maintain his good health and wellbeing! He eats large crickets and super worms, both can be found at Petsmart. I also need Lizard bedding (looks like mulch) and it is sold in the lizard section of Petsmart . Thank you to the parents that have sent in crickets and super worms…. Chunk is so happy!!!!

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to participate in science….Please email me at jslonac@wcpss.net

**Mr. LeRoy’s TERRIFIC Technology**

We have had a great start to the year in Technology.

4th and 5th Grade classes are working on a typing program called Dance Mat Typing (which can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing) for those who want to practice at home) as well as creating Power Point presentations with the Vocabulary terms that they are defining using internet searches.

3rd Grade has also been working on the same typing program as well as typing narratives they completed during their writing time in their homeroom classes. Very soon we will begin typing Vocabulary terms and definitions.

2nd and 1st grade are doing excellent job learning to type using Dance Mat Typing. Very soon we will begin typing Vocabulary terms and definitions.

Kindergarten is still getting used to the computers and will begin Dance Mat Typing at the beginning of the next quarter.