

FOREST FORUM 10/29/09

Teaching and Learning Highlights from the Forest...

Making Connections In Reading

How can you help your children gain deeper meaning from the literature they are reading? One essential strategy that can deepen meaning is to make connections to what you are reading. Good readers draw upon prior knowledge to help them understand what they are reading and relate it to their own experiences. There are several ways to make connections while you read and below you will find the ways in which we most often encourage your children to think.

Text to Self: these occur when a reader makes a personal connection between their own experience and the reading material. These will often begin with "This reminds me of a time when..." thoughts.

Text to Text: these occur when readers are reminded of other things that they have read, other books by the same author, or other stories from the same genre. These will often begin with "I remember a story/character like this..."

Text to World: these occur when a reader makes larger connections to experiences outside of their own life. These will often begin with "This is like the story that was on the news/in the paper..."

Making connections helps readers to understand how a character feels, gives the reader a clearer picture in their head, sets a purpose and facilitates discussions. Try using these connections in your own reading and model them for your child so that they see this strategy in action by the people who are most influential to them!

Top Sellers for the PTA Candy and Gift Wrap Sale

1st place—Brandon Mauze, 2nd place—Michele Pennycooke... Thank you!!!

Progress Reports

Your child will be bringing home progress reports this week. Please read over your teachers comments and look to see if a conference is requested. These reports should be signed and returned to the teacher. Please note there is a space on the back for you to make comments.

WELCOME ON BOARD!!

We welcome two new staff members to our Forest Road Community. Ms. Celina Taylor will be replacing Emilia Kister in the Music Department while Mrs. Kister is on Family Leave. Ms. Taylor worked closely with Mrs. Kister and is very much looking forward to working with your children. The Chorus Club will continue as scheduled under Ms. Taylor's direction.

Now that we know the "show must go on" we have to focus on staying healthy enough to sing! To help us with that we welcome Mrs. Michelle Vitalo who will be the permanent replacement for our Health Office. Mrs. Vitalo has years of experience as a School Nurse and is off to an amazing start with the help of Mrs. Friedman, our covering nurse since Mrs. Kaplan retired. If you have any questions or just want to introduce yourselves to these staff members, please phone the Main Office.

PTA Updates

10/30 6th Grade Halloween Party 7-9 PM
11/2 Cookie Dough Sale
11/4 PTA Exec. Bd. Meeting 7 PM
11/6 Reflections Submissions Due
11/18 PTA General Meeting 7 PM

Upcoming Events

11/16 & 17 5th Grade Social Studies Test
11/23 BOE Meeting @ Shaw Ave. 8 PM

Costume Parade

Tomorrow, 10/30, is a **FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION**. We will be participating in our Costume Parade in the afternoon but prior to 2 PM, important teaching activities will be taking place just as on any other school day. Our parade begins at approximately 2:15 and leaves from our Gym door. The parade route follows Jasmine to Forest Road (front of school) and we re-enter the building through the library. Families are welcome to watch and take pictures at any point on the route but should not be inside the building. **If your child is unable to dress AND you do not want them to watch, please let their teacher know. Alternate activities will be offered.**