

## WHAT'S WHAT

### SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE FORESTHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STATUS

A message from Dr. Camille Taylor, Superintendent

FES Falcons are returning to the FUSD nest! At the December 12 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to proceed with Option A of the Facilities Master Plan, reopening the Foresthill Elementary School campus next fall! Here is a quick update on what's actually been happening at the FES campus this month.

In December, we hired Jacob Dann to join the M&O team. He will be our GO-TO person for bringing the FES campus back to life. Our amazing TK-2nd grade teaching team toured the campus in early January to help decide which classes will go where. We also inventoried the huge accumulation of STUFF stored in various classrooms, went through the process of surplusizing them, and had them removed. We have applied for a CDS code (which notifies the state that the campus is re-opening), and the process of giving the campus a good scrub and facelift has commenced. Not all of our efforts and resources are focused on the FES campus! FDS also needs some TLC! In addition to kitchen renovations (see article below), we are planning improvements to the middle school bathrooms, lighting and HVAC upgrades for the gym, and telephone/bell system upgrades in the coming year.

To make sure we are ready for students on the first day of the 2024/25 school year (August 15, 2024), we've split the campus beautification project into phases: Phase 1 will focus on the lower campus, including the main buildings, grounds, and bathrooms. Phase 2 will focus on the upper campus, including classrooms 11-14, student bathrooms, and the grounds in that area. Phase 3 will focus on the Transportation Lot.

While we are eager to bring a preschool program to our FES campus, we do not anticipate it opening in August. We will keep families and the community informed on the timeline and specifics of the preschool program as they are developed.

While our crew is busy with all of these tasks, our partners at SchoolWorks, Inc. are continuing the work of getting us on the list for state modernization funding.

Watch for information on Campus Beautification Days when we will invite our families and community members to help out with Campus Beautification Days on each of our campuses!

## COMMUNICATION COLLABORATION



FUSD is committed to engaging the exchange of accurate, timely, and relevant information with our students, staff, parents/caregivers, and the entire community. By focusing on intentional communication and engagement, our hope is to increase the understanding of the district's directives (Strategic Directions) and the community's needs while fostering a strong sense of partnership. Collaboration, with PARENT/GUARDIAN/COMMUNITY involvement in all aspects of planning for the 2024/25 academic year, is a significant focus. Opportunities for involvement include:

- Student Council
- District Monthly Newsletter
- Foresthill Messenger Articles
- Superintendent Coffee + Chat
- School Site Council publication of meeting agendas and minutes
- Community Workshops will continue (the next one is February 21)
- Foresthill Forum Meetings (first Monday of every month at Memorial Hall)
- Lions Club Meetings (second and fourth Tuesdays of the month)
- Law Enforcement / Fire District
- PUHSD Partners
- Neighboring Small School Districts
- PCOE Partners
- PTO Meetings
- Telephone conversations and in-person meetings



## SAVE CLUB

Are you interested in being a leader at FDS? Do you want to help our campus be a safe and inclusive place for all students? Have you thought about helping and teaching others? The Mountain Lion SAVE Club is part of the SAVE Promise Club, which creates lasting change that leads to safer schools. Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Club is the youth leadership initiative of Sandy Hook Promise. The aim is to empower young leaders to take an active role in increasing school safety and preventing different forms of violence in schools. If you are interested, please [click here](#).

Our SAVE Club had its first meeting on January 24. We are excited to get this club up and running at FDS. Students can still sign up by picking up a flyer from the front office or Ms. Jeni's office. This club is for 5th, 6th, and 7th Grade students and is sponsored by Mrs. Lawson and Ms. Jeni, our mental health specialist. Feel free to reach out to either of them if you have any questions.

# IM.POSSIBLE



On January 26th, FDS students attended an IM.POSSIBLE school assembly with youth motivational speaker Eddie Cortes. Eddie Cortes is a highly engaging speaker who inspires students to be resilient problem-solvers and dream-chasers. During this fun, high-energy, and interactive presentation Eddie shared inspiring stories of overcoming challenges. Students learned practical strategies and actionable steps to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. Through interactive activities and thought-provoking discussions, students explored ways to gain the confidence and tools they need to build resilience and positive self-worth. Eddie Cortes empowers students to do hard things, believe in themselves, and chase their dreams. For more information, visit Eddie Cortes website at [www.eddiecortes.com](http://www.eddiecortes.com).



## COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

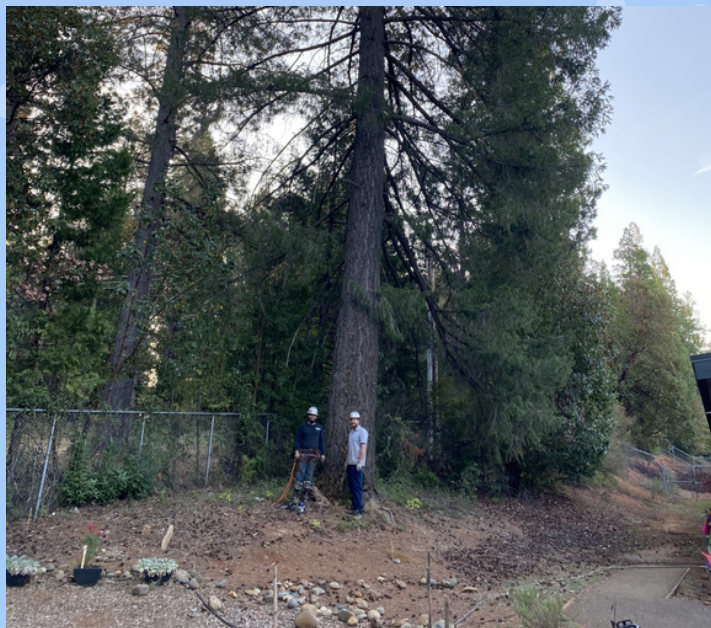
A monthly gathering to discuss and strategize critical issues and opportunities at FDS. Last December, we hosted our initial community workshop focused on bullying prevention. It was well attended, both in person and virtually. The feedback and experience were so positive that the group decided the workshops should continue the rest of the school year. The second Community Workshop, on January 31, returned to the topic of Bully Prevention solutions. Among some of the questions we explored were...

- How can we better understand the definition of bullying, understand what is not bullying, and teach children (and adults) the difference?
- When bullying behavior occurs, what strategies are we using to hold the offender accountable while also teaching them better ways to express their needs and opinions?
- How can we increase a sense among students having a trusted adult on campus to talk to?

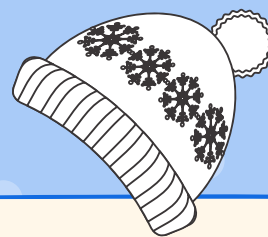
Our next FUSD Community Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21 at 5:30. We'd love to know what's on your mind to help guide the focus for this next gathering. Should we continue to talk about bully prevention, mental wellness and school culture -- there's certainly a lot to cover in this area -- or are there other areas you'd like to explore? We hope to connect with our partners at home to tackle school and district concerns with our collective wisdom.

Help us keep our workshops relevant by completing this quick 3-question survey and create a hyperlink for the survey to: <https://forms.gle/PRA1bwKzeVvJtMN88>





## COOL THINGS



### **Timber Co**

Recently, Timber Co. came to our FDS site and took care of a few trees that would soon be challenging for us. They did this with care and grace and kept our kindergarten area safe for us. These trees are located next to our preschool garden, and now we receive more sunshine for our plants and the kids who use this space. THANK YOU, Timber Co and crew!

### **Kitchen Upgrades**

Exciting and new things are going on in our FDS kitchen. Nicole Gallagher, our very own Child Nutrition Lead, wrote a grant and was awarded grant money this year for all new equipment. We are slowly receiving the equipment that will be installed during Spring Break. Two new warmers replaced the 20-year-old units. The new dishwasher will replace the old 32-year-old unit; this will be able to hold more trays for quicker cleaning times. The new convection oven will be able to hold ten trays instead of only five, which will allow us faster cooking times. The 32-year-old range will be replaced with a new one. Our next goal is to get air conditioning for the kitchen.

The kitchen has also transitioned from foam to plastic trays, saving money and the environment.

### **TK and Kindergarten Registration**

TK and Kindergarten registration is open and registration is available **ONLINE ONLY**. If you are unable to register online or need help, please call the office team at FDS for support. All incoming TK or Kindergarten students will need to register for the school year. Please go to <https://divide.fusd.org/>. Please note if you have student already enrolled at FDS, you do not have to reenroll them.

We are not accepting preschool enrollments just yet as we are not sure when our preschool program will be up and running. Watch for information on preschool information later this spring.

# EMPLOYMENT OPPURTUNITIES

Foresthill Union School District is a growing TK-8 district located in the highly desirable community of Foresthill in the foothills above Auburn, California. Our community bridges the serenity of the mountains with high-quality living in a healthy and beautiful environment, connecting people with natural and global resources. With a mission of delivering outstanding instruction and meaningful experiences to enable all students to reach their full potential in a safe and supportive environment, FUSD is a team of innovative and dedicated educators who focus on student-centered learning, using environment, community, and innovation to ignite curiosity and cultivate joyful learning at all ages. If you are looking to join a district team that values people, encourages innovation, and centers on students, we'd love to hear from you! Here is a list of our current vacancies:

- Substitute Teacher, TK - 8th grades (Current Substitute Rates: \$160/full day and \$80/half day)
- Substitute - Custodial Maintenance I (\$18.21/hour)
- Campus Supervisor (\$16.50/hour)

Please go to <https://www.edjoin.org/foresthill> if you are interested in applying for our listed positions.

Place County Office of Education Job Fair is SATURDAY MAR 9 at PCOE Seavey Center 655 Menlo Dr. Rocklin 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## Important Dates

No School on Feb. 12

No School on Feb. 19

Board Meeting Feb. 20

## Important Notices

High School Games - no tickets to unaccompanied non-high school students.

No wandering during games at FDS



**The next Coffee+Chat with Dr. Taylor is Thursday, February 22 at 7:45 am in the Staff Lounge on the FDS Campus. Bring your own mug and we'll provide the coffee!**