

Foresthill Union School District

WHAT'S WHAT SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023



SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A message from Dr. Camille Taylor, Superintendent

Olympic athlete Kristin Armstrong lives by the tenet, “[w]hen we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out and the tide of love rushes in.” As we pause to catch our collective breaths this week, I just want to express my own gratitude and love for the Foresthill community who have made the first 18 months of my superintendency feel welcome, meaningful, and filled with promise for the future. I am truly grateful for every moment, every challenge, every success, and every person; collectively these combine into an extremely rewarding endeavour. I can’t wait to see what lies ahead for our district and community!

FUSD FACILITIES COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

(via Zoom) 11/28 at 5 pm.

As many of you may have heard, FUSD recently hired SchoolWorks, Inc. to help us in developing a Facilities Master Plan. The reasons we are doing this important work now include various federal, state and local school facilities funding opportunities for which our district may be eligible in the coming year, and the fact that we’re feeling increasingly crowded on the FDS campus with consecutive years of increased enrollment (which is projected to continue).

We asked SchoolWorks, Inc. to evaluate strengths and needs on both the FDS and FES campuses, estimate costs for various facilities improvement/modernization needs, analyze birth rates and real estate developments to establish enrollment projections, and come up with one or two options for our district. The Facilities Master Plan was prepared and presented at the October board meeting ([click here to access the plan](#)). The plan highlights how birth rates and real estate development in the Foresthill community are on the rise and projecting that our incoming TK class for the 2025/26 school year will likely be at least double in size. The plan also points out that the state of California plans to include a public school facilities bond in the November 2024 election cycle which, if it passes, will increase the Modernization Funds to which FDS is likely entitled.

The plan highlights two primary possibilities:

- **OPTION A** - Continue the improvements which have been started on the Foresthill Elementary Campus (now closed to students) with the plan of re-opening the campus to serve students in TK through 2nd grade, and adding a preschool to our district program.
- **OPTION B** - Keep all grades at the FDS campus and develop a single campus modernization/expansion plan.

The FUSD Board will consider taking action on one of the two options proposed in the plan at the December 12 regular board meeting. In preparation, we are reaching out to district stakeholder groups to gather opinions, questions, and information so that the board can make a well-informed choice. Thus far, we've consulted with the PTO, School Site Council, primary grade teachers, all FDS teachers. In the next two weeks, we hope to meet with community members at the Lions Club and the Foresthill Forum, as well as consult with partners at the Placer County Office of Education, and are hosting a virtual Zoom Workshop on Facilities Master Planning to share questions and collect input from FUSD families. This virtual workshop will be held Tuesday, November 28, from 5:00-6:00 pm. To Join the Zoom meeting, go to:

<https://fusd-org.zoom.us/j/87301268699?pwd=OW94Q1ZWQ3RTMVFKSkd3UjFQc1JQdz09>
Meeting ID: 873 0126 8699 Passcode: 899970

We are working on a FAQ document which will continue to be updated as more information is gathered. The FAQ document can be viewed by [clicking here](#).



ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP

Often, we are faced with challenging situations where we remain silent when we or others witness bullying and are silent about the hurt bullying causes.

Foresthill Union School District is hosting an interactive Anti-Bullying Workshop for FUSD/FDS parents/guardians and staff. Bullying is a very real challenge in schools across our county, state, and nation. At Foresthill, we want to connect with our partners at home to tackle this issue with collective wisdom. We've set aside an hour on Wednesday, December 6, from 5 pm to 6 pm to continue this process, and hope many of our families will join us. Participants can join us in person on the FDS campus or can participate by ZOOM (see Zoom link below). At the workshop, we will spend a few minutes discussing what bullying is, and then engage in conversation to explore questions, share ideas, and identify resources.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to let us know if you will participate and to share question(s) you may have on the topic of bullying.

Thanks in advance for your partnership!



M&O PROJECTS

Our Maintenance and Operations team continues to fix, improve, and strive to keep our facilities both beautiful and operational. We know that weather can create significant obstacles for us all, and our M&O Team is committed to maintaining safe grounds. For example, last spring, parents shared that the path between the ranger station and FDS parking lot has dips that become puddles during the wet season. Our M&O team will be leveling out the path with gravel to help keep students' feet dry when it is raining.

PTO SHOUT-OUT

At the November district board meeting last week, we honored the leadership demonstrated by Jeryn Blanchar in keeping the PTO active throughout the pandemic and beyond! Jeryn is stepping out of the PTO Presidency after her tenure of over 3 years. We are so very grateful for her efforts in leading an amazingly active group of parents and teachers in bringing our cherished school/district/community events back to life.



The PTO recently elected a new Executive Board, who are committed to continuing the PTO's mission of supporting FDS with events and fundraising to enhance our students' learning experiences. The new board includes:

Interim President-Carolyn Jackson

Vice President-Mandy Props

Secretary-Kayla Passmore

Treasure-Abbey Vander Veen

Mychaelene Black- email account manager



ATTENDANCE H.E.R.O.S!

Foresthill Divide School recently sent more attendance letters to families who have students whose absence rate is over 10% this year. Attendance for the month of October was at **92.14% while our goal is 95%**. Consistent school attendance is critical to your student's academic growth and is a collaborative effort. FDS asks families to:

- **Establish Consistent Routines:** Children thrive with consistency and maintaining a regular bedtime and morning routine can make a significant difference in their physical and emotional well-being. A good night's sleep and a calm morning set the tone for the day. Remember: students are welcome to come arrive as early as 7:45 am to enjoy a free and nutritious breakfast.
- **Plan Ahead:** Schedule medical appointments and family vacations outside of school hours, later in the day, or during school breaks. This ensures that your child won't miss essential instructional time. If your child will miss an extended period of school, reach out to their teacher about independent study options.
- **Stay Engaged:** Regularly check in with your child about their school experiences and keep in touch with their teachers or counselors. This can help you identify any potential issues that might be causing reluctance or hesitancy in attending school.
- **Emphasize the Importance of Consistent School Attendance:** Talk with your children about why going to school every day is crucial. Help them understand that apart from learning, school attendance also nurtures other essential life skills such as responsibility, determination, and the importance of working toward worthy goals.
- **Reach Out for Help:** Let the school counselor, teacher, or principal know if you are experiencing barriers or hardship in getting your child to school; there may be assistance or resources available to help you.

Life might throw a curveball in the form of an illness or an unforeseen event. While we understand that not all absences can be prevented, our joint efforts, understanding, and proactive planning can minimize them. We look forward to working together to ensure all of our students can be Attendance H.E.R.O.s!

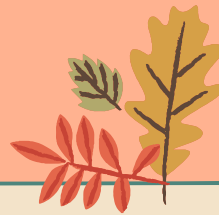
Speaking of Attendance H.E.R.O.s, the following grade levels had improved October attendance rates:

K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 8th

2023/24 Attendance Numbers:

- Year to Date = 92.65%
- October = 92.02%
- September = 91.88%
- August = 94.07%

JOG-A-THON



Jog-a-Thon

This year's Jog-a-Thon, coordinated by Mrs. Lori Johnson, was a hit! Even though we were disappointed initially that we had to postpone due to rain, the weather could not have been more perfect on event day. It was so great seeing all of the students' smiling and determined faces as they jogged around the track. Runners were encouraged with Mr. Peres' giant speaker blasting tunes, class-made signs, noise makers, and jog-along friends, family, and classmates. Speaking of supporters, we had a fantastic turnout of parents and family members cheering on their students, helping to pass out the lap bracelets. It is always heartwarming to watch the interactions between the kids and their families at school events!

Also super wonderful was seeing all of the donations that the students raised through pledges from friends and family. While Mrs. Nokes tells us that donations are still coming in, this year's Jog-a-Thon has raised... drum roll, please...

\$8,600

These funds will be used to update and replenish our PE program and athletic department equipment and uniforms!!

I want to send a special shout-out and thank you to Mrs. Nokes for all of her hard work leading up to and following the Jog-a-Thon, Mr. Peres for his speaker, M & O for setting up and breaking down each day, our amazing teachers for collecting the paperwork and donations AND for having your students visit the track at various times to motivate their peers, the parents/families for their support/help on the track and for collecting donations, and of course a HUGE thank you to all the Foresthill students who gave their all on the track!



REMINDER: BUSSING IS BACK

We've partnered with Mid-Placer Transportation for limited student bussing before and after school. It started Thursday, November 2, 2023.

Signing up to ride the bus is simple, go to www.midplacer.com and click on the **bus application** button. If you have questions, the Mid-Placer Transportation Team is available to help! Because the Mid-Placer system handles all aspects of student bussing, our district and school office personnel will be unable to answer your bussing questions.

Riding the bus is a privilege. Speak with your children about representing your family and our school district well by starting and ending the day with a pleasant greeting to your bus drivers and by always behaving respectfully, responsibly, and safely when riding the bus. Please also read the FUSD Board Policy 5131.1 and Administrative Regulation 5131.1 for information on student conduct on the bus.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Changes - Because bussing services are resuming, the FDS bus circle will no longer be available to vehicles for drop-off and pick-up purposes.

Dates for Thanksgiving break, Winter Break, Holiday Performance at school, Honors assembly, and any fundraising events we may have happened between now and December 31.

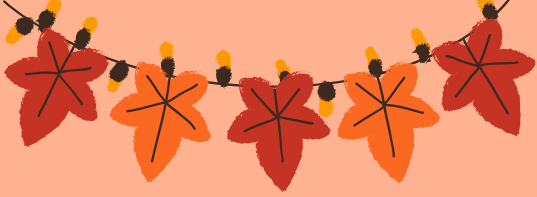
DISTINCTION IN THE COMMUNITY



Distinction in the Community:

On November 6, 2023, FUSD District Board Member (and former Superintendent) Timothy Justus received Placer County School Board Association's Special Recognition for Outstanding Service Award which was presented at this year's Annual Trustee Dinner.





GRATITUDES FOR COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

Huge thanks to the Foresthill Timber Company for donating tree service in our FDS student garden area, and clearing trees/branches to let a little more sunlight in!

Our Foresthill Lions Club partners provided vision screening to 421 FDS students this month. The Foresthill Chapter of the Lions Club also helps Foresthill families with transportation and fees for eye exams, and assists families with the cost of student glasses..

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 20-24 Thanksgiving break. December 25-8 Winter Break.
December 21, 5:30 pm FDS Winter Program.



**The next Coffee+Chat with
Dr. Taylor is Thursday,
December 14 at 7:45 am in
the Staff Lounge on the FDS
Campus. Bring your own mug
and we'll provide the coffee!**

**Superintendent October 10,
2023 Board Update**

