

# Foresthill Union School District

## WHAT'S WHAT SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



### SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A message from Dr. Camille Taylor, Superintendent

With our district's trend of increased enrollment in the last couple of years, and several district facilities improvement/modernization needs, we reached out to SchoolWorks, Inc. last spring to help us develop a Facilities Master Plan for the district which considers community birth rates, property development and the district's current facilities. The plan was presented to the board last week at the October board meeting.

In addition to two facilities option recommendations, the plan also identifies funding opportunities that are projected to be available in the coming year. The plan can be found on the FUSD district website. The next steps in this planning process include exploratory discussions with staff, stakeholders and community members. Feedback sessions have started with staff and will continue with School Site Council, PTO, Foresthill Forum, and the November Coffee+Chat. Other feedback opportunities will be posted so that anyone in the school or community who has input to share is given an opportunity to do so. If you can't make it to any of the public meetings for this purpose, but have thoughts to share, please send an email to me at [ctaylor@fUSD.org](mailto:ctaylor@fUSD.org). I'm interested in what you have to say on the matter!

Once we've collected feedback from all of our stakeholder groups, we will bring the input forward to the FUSD Board of Trustees to make a well-informed decision on the best course of action to meet the facilities needs of the district and Foresthill community. I hope to hear from many of you on this exciting subject!





# HARVEST FESTIVAL

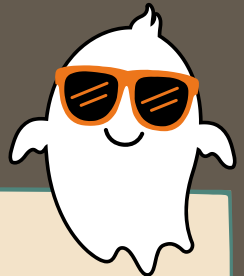
The Foresthill Divide Fall Harvest Festival is TONIGHT! Join the family fun with food trucks, games, a cake walk, a silent auction, face painting, a DJ, a costume contest, and more! Doors open at 5 p.m., and the evening will wrap up by 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join!

Entrance to the Harvest Festival is free. Tickets for festival games, booths, and activities can be purchased at the door on the evening of the event or ahead of time in the school office or at the PTO table at school pick-up. Classrooms are collecting baked goods for the harvest festival cake walk, and the class that brings in the most goodies will earn a class party!

The Harvest Festival would not be possible without our EXTRAORDINARY PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO), who have poured heart and soul into planning and preparing for this event. The PTO is a non-profit group that gives parents, community members, and staff the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the students' educational experience. Haven't you always wanted to become part of a PTO? It's one of the great ways to be involved in your child's elementary school years! The PTO meets on at 3 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month and they'd love for you to come to the next meeting!



## BUSSING RETURNS



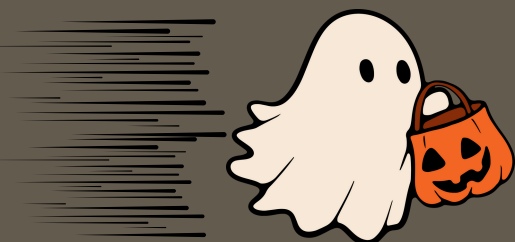
### Bussing Option Returns to Foresthill Divide School!

We've partnered with Mid-Placer Transportation for limited student bussing before and after school starting Thursday, November 2, 2023. Based on community interest, we anticipate Mid-Placer establishing two routes: (1) above-town Foresthill and (2) through the Todd Valley/Hillcrest neighborhoods. For morning riders, the early route will be dropped off at FDS and will join the Kids Club Before-School Program. To maintain appropriate staffing ratios, we remind you to **complete the required ELOP/Kids Club Registration form and submit your monthly calendar of participation to avoid being charged a drop-in fee!**

Signing up to ride the bus is simple, go to [www.midplacer.com](http://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. Watch for more details on this from Mrs. Lawson in the coming days. Please be patient and kind as we adjust to these changes.



## JOG-A-THON

Family and friends! Join us in raising funds for our after school athletics program, recess equipment, and PE program. Jog-a-Thon participants will raise funds by asking family and friends to make pledges based on the number of laps they complete or with a flat dollar amount. Students who collect \$30 or more in pledges earn an FDS T-shirt! On Thursday, Oct 26, students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 complete their Jog-a-Thon laps. On Friday, Oct 27, students in grades K, 2, 4, 6, and 8 complete their laps! The FDS Jog-a-Thon is a great way for students to contribute to their school, make connections with community members, and engage in a great exercise activity!



## ATTENDANCE



Foresthill Divide School recently sent over 100 attendance letters to families who have students whose absence rate is over 10% this year! One way to remedy low attendance is to call the school in the morning when you know your child will be absent and ask for Independent Study for the day(s) they will be out. Their teacher will put together a packet of academic activities that you can pick up in the afternoon. Each student can have up to 15 independent study days per school year. By completing Independent Study activities on days when your child cannot come to school, they will keep current with some of what they have missed, and will earn academic credit for the day(s). For more information about Independent Study, call our amazing FDS Office Team. **Please help us achieve our goal of higher than 95% attendance for the year by taking advantage of this option!!**





# SCHOOL/CAMPUS SAFETY

**Vape detectors-** School safety is more important now than ever! Vape detectors have been installed throughout the Foresthill Divide School campus. These smart sensors monitor 24/7, detecting smoke, THC, nicotine, and other vaping products. The detectors also identify loud percussive or shouting sounds. When a sound or a scent is detected, alert notifications immediately go to school and district personnel to investigate.

**Emergent 3 (E3) -** When there is a possible threat on campus, time and communication is of the essence. FUSD is using the E3 platform for campus threats. The system not only quickly identifies where on campus the threat is, but also checks in with staff members to confirm staff and student location, safety and (if appropriate), plan of action to remain or establish a safe location. This quick notification system has the capacity to reach beyond district employees to include fire protection and law enforcement partners. Our staff has received an initial training and will begin incorporating this resource in our monthly emergency drills.

## SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL



FDS School Site Council is wrapping up their fall election of members and is looking forward to a fantastic year with a great team. The School Site Council works with the school/district in assessing the program's current needs, including an analysis of data, making recommendations related to the school's Title I program, and participating in the development and approval of the district's local control and accountability plan. Having a diverse School Site Council is important so that the needs of various student populations are identified and included in our budget and academic planning. The School Site Council meets at the FDS campus on the last Thursday of the month from 3 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and welcome to provide input during public comment, but only SSC elected members may vote. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to SSC Chairperson Mira Wordelman at [mwordelman@fUSD.org](mailto:mwordelman@fUSD.org).





# KIDS CLUB



**Kids Club-** With the increasing success of Kids Club, we have seen major growth. Growth requires additional staffing and planning, which relies on families to submit monthly participation calendars! We need monthly calendar in advance for ALL students who attend Kids Club **regardless of student status** (FRPM qualifiers, children of staff). Previously, calendars were due by the 10th of each month. Beginning November 1, 2023, calendars will be due by the 5th. A \$20 late fee will be applied to your family's monthly statement if calendars are received after the 5th of the month.

If Kids Club does not have a current monthly calendar for your student, and your child has not requested and been approved for Kids Club at least 24 hours in advance, a \$20 drop-in fee will be charged, regardless of student status. The \$20 drop-in fee applies to the Morning session and Afternoon session individually and per student, including school bus riders who are dropped off before 7:45. Drop-in fees will be applied to your family's monthly statement.

Kids Club Monthly Calendars are available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday at the FDS gym entrance. If you have questions, please refer to our Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Handbook on our website [www.divide.fusd.org](http://www.divide.fusd.org), or email Heather Monsen at [hmonsen@fusd.org](mailto:hmonsen@fusd.org).



The next Coffee+Chat with  
Dr. Taylor is Thursday,  
November 16 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