

# Foresthill Union School District

## WHAT'S WHAT SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023



### SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A message from  
Dr. Camille Taylor, Superintendent

Communities across the nation are grappling with the loss of young people who have succumbed to suicide. Foresthill is not immune to the impact of youth suicide. Sadly, suicide and suicidal/self-harm ideology is on the rise everywhere. Too often, students who seem to be thriving are actually struggling inside and seek input and support from the wrong sources. No parent wants to talk to their child about suicide, but all parents should know that the subjects of self-harm and suicide are prevalent on digital messaging and social media. If your child has a smart phone, it is highly

likely that they are being exposed to these topics in unhealthy ways.

We want to help parents explore this topic, along with related topics on bullying/cyber bullying, cyber safety and substance abuse in a safe and well-informed way with their children. At FUSD, we have established board policies to address some of these concerns. Here are a few:

- Bullying ([BP 5131.2](#) / [AR 5131.2](#))
- Mental Health ([BP 5141.5](#))
- Suicide Prevention ([BP 5141.52](#))
- Nondiscrimination/Harassment ([BP 5145.3](#) / [AR 5145.3](#))
- Sexual Harassment ([BP 5145.7](#) / [AR 5145.7](#))
- Hate-Motivated Behavior ([BP 5145.9](#))

There are many resources available to help families with these difficult topics; here are a few:

- [Digital Awareness for Parents](#)
- [CDE Bully Prevention Training & Resources](#)

We urge you to have a conversation with your child(ren) about letting a trusted adult know if they think a friend or classmate needs help. Most suicides and suicide attempts are preceded by some kind of communication (often digital messaging) of an intent to self-harm. Too often these communications do not reach

the adults who can help; instead they are read by peers who don't know how to help or who to talk to, so they don't do or say anything. The outcome can be tragic. It is strongly encouraged (and acceptable) that students and peers speak up when they or someone they know needs help.

## THE LODGE

### **The Lodge at Foresthill Divide School**

The Lodge at Foresthill is a new suite of four classrooms offering student services and supports. All students, regardless of placement, start each day in their general education classrooms and are members of the classroom community of peers. Throughout the day, some students may shift to one or more spaces in the Lodge for additional supports. The objective is to cultivate a sense of community and belonging for all students, and break down social-emotional and academic barriers without creating a sense of exclusion for students whose needs call for additional supports. To make the Lodge welcoming, we've named each space using woodland animal names:

- **The Bunny Burrow House (Room 20)** offers Mental Health and Speech/Language Pathology supports.
- **The Lion's Den (Room 19)** is a learning center model that infuses special day classes (SDC) with specialized academic instruction (Resource), supporting students with individualized education plans (IEPs).
- **The Bear Cave (Room 21)** hosts Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) and Response to Intervention (RTI), engaging individual students and small groups in targeted academic instruction and alternate testing environment.

- **The Eagle's Nest (Room 22)** is a space available to any student to take a break or reset. Staffed by Wellness Warriors, the Eagle's Nest offers compassionate listening, strategies for facing challenges, and tools to reset. A student may be sent or may choose to visit the Eagle's Nest with a goal of positively and proactively help students develop their own strategies for self-regulation and return them to their learning environment as quickly as possible. Before and after school, the Eagle's Nest also serves as a Kids Club space.

In addition to supporting The Eagle's Nest, our Wellness Warriors support in classrooms and will soon guide some students in completing a lap on our new Sensory Path, lovingly painted by volunteers from the Foresthill Lion's Club.

## THE LIBRARY

### **A Note from Mrs. Harper, your friendly Library Specialist**

I'm so excited to welcome classes to the library, with an updated look including new spaces, fresh paint, and more, the week after Parent/Teacher conferences! Visits to the FDS Library include fun story time and an opportunity for students to check out a library book to enjoy in the classroom or at home. I try to pick books for the story time that are as fun to listen to as they are to read aloud. So, hopefully, it will be an enjoyable time for all. On the first visit, we review library expectations together, and a "contract" goes home for parent/guardian to sign. I ask that the books be returned weekly so the students can check out new ones. The book can be "renewed" for another week. I look forward to seeing all the students when classes come in!

## STAFF WELLNESS

Cathy Ratliff, our Health Clerk, has taken on the role of district Wellness Coordinator. In partnership with Schools Insurance Group (SIG) the district's wellness program includes the Grokker platform, a premium video network with thousands of expert-led fitness, yoga, mindfulness, and healthy cooking videos and a vibrant online community of experts and enthusiasts. Grokker helps participants transform spare minutes, whether 5 minutes or 50 minutes, into a "wellness break" to help make healthy living a habit.

At FDS we want to promote healthy habits and improved wellbeing! Our first wellness challenge starts September 25! You know what they say...*If you can't take care of yourself, then how can you take care of others!*

and academic planning. The School Site Council meets at the FDS campus the last Thursday of the month from 3 to 4 pm. For more information, please reach out to our School Site Council Chairperson, Mira Wordleman at [mwordleman@fUSD.org](mailto:mwordleman@fUSD.org).

## ATTENDANCE HERO

### Who are the Foresthill Attendance H.E.R.O.es?

**H.E.R.O.** is an acronym for **H**ere **E**veryday and **R**eady to Learn **O**n Time! Students who maintain an attendance rate above 96% are Foresthill Divide School Attendance HEROs. At Foresthill Divide School, we want the best for our students, and just by showing up, we can help them achieve their potential! Attendance is critical for each student's success, and together, we can be HEROs. Did you know...

- Each student absence reduces our school/district's general revenues by approx. \$90, plus reduction of ELOP, Child Nutrition, transportation, and other revenue sources based on prior year attendance?
- Last year's overall attendance rate was 92% which means that this year, we're operating on \$225,000 less than we originally projected and \$600,000 less than we could potentially have received.
- As of 9/12/2023, our attendance rate is **94.03% WE CAN DO BETTER!**

If your child has already had several absences this year, our Community Liaison, Bryan Tidwell, may be reaching out to you to see how we can partner with you to improve your child's consistent attendance at school.

## STUDENT SITE COUNCIL

FDS School Site Council has two vacancies and is looking for a parent or community member from each of the following categories:

- Low Socio-Economic
- English Learner
- Foster Youth/Homeless

The School Site Council works with the school/district in assessing the program's current needs, including an analysis of data, make recommendations related to the school's Title I program, and participate 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



# ENRICHMENT CLASSES

**Enrichment Classes** for Cycle 1 have launched! Students are showing tremendous enthusiasm for five classes being offered in Cycle 1: The Wonderful World of Music, Cooking Adventures, Jewelry Making and Macrame, Nature Connections, and American Sign Language. Cycle 2 begins October 10. Be sure to watch for a text on October 2 with a link to information on Cycle 2 enrichment class offerings and how to sign your student up for a class.

# KIDS CLUB

**Kids Club is so thrilled to be of service to our Foresthill Community!** With increased demand in the Kids Club Program, please note the following important details:

- Current ELOP Registration must be on file before your student can participate in any ELOP program.
- Without a current monthly Attendance Calendar on file, your child is not guaranteed a space in Kids Club. If there is space available, but you haven't given at least 24-hour notice, you will be charged a \$20 drop-in fee. If space is not available or your child is not registered, you will be called to pick up your child from the school office. These conditions apply to all FDS students, regardless of FRPM or child-of-staff status.

Please refer to our ELO-P handbook for full details and information. For questions, please contact Heather Monsen at [hmonsen@fusd.org](mailto:hmonsen@fusd.org) or 530.367.3525

Minimum Days are on Oct 2 through Oct 6 and Kids Club will be able to provide care!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events:

- Fall Book Fair - September 25-29
- Picture Day - October 10
- Harvest Festival - October 20

For more information on school events, check out the PTO page on our website! Our community is important to us, and we strive to create a school that is collaborative and engaging for our students and their families. We look forward to seeing you this fall!



**Monthly Coffee+Chats with Dr. Taylor resume in October, with the first Coffee+Chat on Thursday, October 5 at 7:45 in the Staff Lounge on the FDS Campus. Bring your own mug and we'll provide the coffee!**

**Superintendent September 12, 2023 Board Update**

