



# SFCS Weekly Bulletin

Principal Mindy Bolar | Office Phone: 209-742-6222

[sierrafoothillcharterschool.org](http://sierrafoothillcharterschool.org)

Monday, January 8, 2018

VOLUME 6, ISSUE #17

## ***Happy New Year!***

We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Best wishes for a wonderful 2018!

### **YOSEMITE BUG FUNDRAISER SUCCESS**

Thank you to all who attended the Yosemite Bug Spa and Dinner Fundraiser on December 9th. A good time was had by all! The event raised \$2,070 for SFCS thanks to the tremendous generosity of Caroline McGrath and the Yosemite Bug staff.

### **OPEN ENROLLMENT & INTENT TO RE-ENROLL**

Enrollment for 2018-19 is now open! Attached to the bulletin you will find an Intent to Re-enroll form that we ask be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible. If this form is not returned before the enrollment window closes on April 11th, spots for the 2018-19 school year cannot be guaranteed. For new students, Intent to Enroll forms are available on the SFCS website ([sierrafoothillcharterschool.org](http://sierrafoothillcharterschool.org)) or in the office. If more forms are received than spots available, a public lottery will be held on April 13th. Please pass on this information to anyone who may be interested in enrolling students for next school year. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

### **DICTIONARIES FROM ROTARY**

On December 14th, our grade 3 students had an exciting visit from members of the Mariposa Yosemite Rotary. Every year Mariposa Yosemite Rotary members go to each school in the county to give each third grade student a beautiful dictionary of their own. Students had a great time getting to know the members of the organization and looking through their new dictionaries. Thank you, Rotary!

### **NO SCHOOL NEXT MONDAY, JANUARY 15th**

There is no school next Monday for Martin Luther King Day. Enjoy the three-day weekend!

### **SFCS HOLIDAY FOOD AND TOY DRIVE**

The SFCS Holiday Food and Toy Drive, coordinated by Ms. Contreras and her students, was a huge success. SFCS collected 555 items, with Ms. Miranda's class winning the competition by bringing in the most items. Thank you to all who donated food and toys!

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Please see the attached letter regarding SFCS chronic absentee rates and the updated attendance policy. Please contact the office with any questions.

### **WALK-A-THON PLEDGES**

Not all walk-a-thon pledges have come in, so please know that we still welcome donations pledged for the event.

### **TWO HOUR DELAYS AND SNOW DAYS**

If weather conditions ever warrant school starting late or a "no school" snow day, you will receive a phone call. Please make sure to update the office if your contact number changes. For late starts, the bus will run exactly two hours later than the regular schedule and students will line up to start their day at 10:25AM. Delays and snow days are aligned with MCUSD.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Mon., Jan. 15 - No School, MLK Day**
- **Wed., Jan. 17 - Governance Committee Mtg., 3:30PM**
- **Tues., Jan. 23 - SFCS Board Mtg., 6PM**
- **Fri., Jan. 26 - Core Virtues Assembly at 1:30 and Fun Friday at 2PM**



## Home School Enrichment: Week of January 8th, 2018

### Core Virtues for January: Service and Courage

#### 8 Monday:

TK/K	11:40-2pm	Lunch and Rotations: Garden, Tech and PE.
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#### 9 Tuesday:

5th/6th 5th-8th grades	11:40-3:15 Music	Lunch and Rotations: Garden, Tech, PE Rotation Various times, please contact me
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#### 10 Wednesday:

3rd/4th	11:40-2:00	Lunch and Rotations: Garden, Tech, PE Rotation
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#### 11 Thursday

7th/8th	11:40-3:15	Lunch and Rotations: Garden, Tech and PE
1st-8th	1:10-1:40	Piano - Please see me if you are interested
TK/K	1:50-2:20	Music Lesson
1st/2nd	2:30-3:00	Music Lesson

#### 12 Friday

1st/2nd	11:40-3:15	Lunch and Rotations: Garden, Tech and PE
3rd-8th	2:30-3:00	Glee Club - a fun choir

#### Coming Up:

Friday, Jan 19th	Monterey Bay Aquarium Field Trip, Arrive at Monterey Bay by 11AM. Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information.
Friday, Jan 26th	Service and Courage Core Virtues Assembly and Fun Friday

#### SFCS Blogs and Web Sites:

Subscribing to classroom blogs and websites is a great way to get ideas from what is happening at school.

- The Home School Blog: <http://sfcshomeschooling.wordpress.com/>
- Mrs. Stillwell's TK/K's blog: <http://kindergartenfuninroom1.blogspot.com/>
- Mrs. Baumann's 1st and 2nd grades' Website: <http://mrsbaumannsclass.snappages.com>
- Ms. Starchman's 3rd and 4th grades' blog: <https://starchmanroom3.wordpress.com>
- Ms. Miranda's 5th and 6th grades' Blog: [msmirandas5thand6th.com](http://msmirandas5thand6th.com)
- Mrs. Contreras's 7th and 8th grades' Blog: <https://mscontreras7thand8th.wordpress.com>
- The SFCS Garden Blog <https://sfcsgarden.wordpress.com/> - all grade levels
- The SFCS Tech Blog: <https://sfcstech.wordpress.com/> - all grade levels



January 8, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The California Department of Education released chronic absentee data for schools and districts for the first time in December. This measure is now included in the new school and district accountability system, and is a priority districts must address annually in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The reason for the increased emphasis on this metric is that studies show a strong correlation between attendance and student achievement. Missing 10% or more of school increases the likelihood that students will not perform as well as their peers and are more likely to drop out in high school. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing more than 10% of the school days for any reason - excused, unexcused, or suspension.

The chronic absentee rate reported for SFCS is 19.9%, nearly double the state average of 10.8%. SFCS will address this concern in accordance with state guidelines. Attendance is already closely monitored, and staff members work with families to address factors that may be contributing to poor attendance. We also use schoolwide and classroom incentives at SFCS to emphasize the importance of arriving to school on time each day, and Excellent Attendance Awards are presented each trimester to students with 98% or better attendance. Since SFCS is a project-based school, it is particularly challenging for teachers and the class when a student is not present to participate as expected in the group. The benefits of hands-on, interactive learning cannot be replicated with make-up work, so we clearly see the effects of absences on student learning. An additional significant concern is that school funding is based on average daily attendance. SFCS loses money each time a student is not in school unless a completed Independent Study packet is on file in the office.

The SFCS Board adopted a revised Attendance Policy in the fall which is aligned with the new state guidelines. This policy can be found on the SFCS website ([sierrafoothillcharterschool.org](http://sierrafoothillcharterschool.org)), or copies can be requested in the school office. SFCS will strictly adhere to state requirements, including parent/guardian attendance notifications and progressive steps to resolve persistent irregular attendance. It is our hope that an increased awareness of the consequences of poor attendance and greater efforts to address the causes will decrease our chronic absentee rate, further benefiting student achievement and the school budget. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the school office to speak with me. We appreciate your support for your children's education by prioritizing full-time daily attendance.

Sincerely,

Mindy Bolar

Principal/Superintendent



# Sierra Foothill Charter School

## Re-Enrollment 2018-19 For Students enrolled 2017-18

### Student Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

StreetAddress: \_\_\_\_\_

City&ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Male/Female

### Parent information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sibling Information:

Name of Sibling: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

This form demonstrates your intention of attending SFCS and guarantees re-enrollment if returned by January 26, 2018.

**NOTE: If this form is not returned by January 26, 2018 your spot is not guaranteed.**

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Satisfaction Survey**

Please indicate your level of overall satisfaction with SFCS: Very Satisfied Satisfied Not Satisfied

Comments/Kudos/Complaints: \_\_\_\_\_