

FOREST FORUM 11/19/09

Teaching and Learning Highlights from the Forest...

Recycling is on the Loose!

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We have a new recycling system for the cafeteria! After the kids finish their lunches, they can go to three different recycling bins to decide where to put everything.

The first bin is used to recycle the clean cardboard lunch tray. We learned that if we are using ketchup or bar-b-que sauce, we should squeeze it out on the food, instead of on the tray. That way we can save the tray from being another piece of garbage on a landfill!

The second bin is used for plastics and cans. We can recycle our plastic water bottles, plastic cups used for pasta salad and tuna, and containers that salad comes in. We can also recycle empty milk and juice cartons!

The last bin that we use to collect recycled materials is for Capri Sun containers. This is the best one because we are receiving money when we collect these! For each Capri Sun juice box, we get 2 cents! We have already collected 480 juice boxes. You do the math! That's a lot of money!

The LAST place we go is the garbage can. Everything else can be thrown away, but we are trying our best to keep the garbage cans empty and the recycling bins full!

Just think of the amazing impact Forest Road students and staff are making on cleaning up the earth!

Just a fact to keep you thinking...Did you know that every second 1,500 bottles get added to our country's landfills? Go green! It's not only YOUR home!

Yes, We Know the Muffin Man!

We have a big Shout-Out going to Mrs. Wood's class for their continued kindness and focus toward social responsibility. They have once again demonstrated that the efforts of a few can benefit many! Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Howland, and students organized the Great Bake Off this week with many volunteers from their peers in other classes. The goal was to spend time talking about the issues facing homeless persons and then to provide homemade corn muffins to four shelters in the NYC area for distribution. The students enjoyed the cooperative learning experience and in addition to the mixing, measuring, pouring and baking, they are writing notes to accompany the muffins on their journey. Thanks so much from your friends in the Forest for this Act of Kindness and Empathy!

PTA Updates- We had a terrific turn out at our last PTA Meeting. Please continue to join us and share your enthusiasm and ideas. The Cookie Dough Fundraiser went very well thanks to your salesmanship skills. Though we prefer you attend without your children so that you can give a committed focus to the meeting, we do understand that sometimes that is just not possible. Come out and join us, we are a very accommodating group.

*****Report Card Schedule...12/7 Report Cards to parents...12/9 Parent-Teacher Conferences*****

Homework Help

Homework is often the most important way a parent has for assessing a child's progress in school. It provides opportunities for a parent to act as a role model and resource to their child as well as a partner to the teacher.

There are many ways parents can work with their child to meet with success in this area. Make homework part of your children's regular routine. It isn't always possible to have exactly the same schedule, but you can tie it into the daily schedule in other ways. For example, make homework time 30 minutes after getting home or 10 minutes after dinner. Try to complete assignments while your child is "fresh" and you can guarantee their best level of attention to their work. Also, if you see consistent areas of struggle or ease, make sure to let the teacher know so that work can be appropriately modified. Try to build independence while doing homework by having your child be responsible for using their agenda or homework book to organize materials and usage of time. If homework seems to be taking too much time, please check with your child's teacher about how long it *should* be taking. Homework should be a priority and families may want to have a comfortable homework "spot" that is quiet, well-lit and free from distractions.