



Forest Park Press

September 2008

A Publication of the Forest Park PTA

GO BANANAS AND HELP OUR SCHOOL PUT MR.C. IN A MONKEY SUIT!

It's that time of year again; time to help our school reach its goal of raising \$10,000 towards our PTA budget through the Innisbrook Wraps fundraiser.

Look for your student's sales packet in his/her backpack on Monday, September 15th, the day of the kick-off assembly. The sale runs from September 17th through October 1st. During that two-week period students are encouraged to share their sales packets with friends and family (or email out-of-towners with the link to the website) and encourage them to choose an item or two (or three...). All kinds of items are available: chocolates, craft projects, chocolates, kitchen items, chocolates, gift wrap, and more chocolates! Delivery of orders is expected by the first week of November, so this is a great opportunity to shop for your holiday gifts.

Too green for gift wrap?

- Innisbrook gift wrap is printed on recycled paper and is recyclable (except for a few specialized papers)
- Lots of reusable gift bags are available
- Page 4 of the catalog is full of sensible solutions including an "I am going green" shopping tote

About that monkey suit...Mr. C. is such a good sport – and supporter of teamwork – that he has agreed to dress in a monkey suit for a day if we can get 50% participation from our students. This means if half of our students sell at least one item Mr. C. will reward their teamwork by dressing up like a primate AND our school will fund part of the PTA budget along the way.

Your support is needed and very much appreciated.

- What is a group of monkeys called?
- troop
 - pod
 - barrel
 - flock



Answer: a) troop

Safety is our #1 concern. NEVER sell to strangers!

Questions? Contact tammywilhoite@comcast.net or miabarnett@comcast.net

The Forest Park Press will be "going green"! Starting next month copies will be emailed to FPE families, which will save trees and PTA funds. Paper copies will be available in the classrooms and the school office for those who want or need them. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Saturday	9/20	FPE PTA Pancake Breakfast: Village Cntr 7-10AM
Monday	9/22	Volunteer Orientation and Welcome Coffee 8:15 AM
Wednesday	9/24	School Picture Day & Back to Sch. Night 6-8PM
Saturday	9/27	Kindergarten Parent Social
Tuesday	10/7	1st-5th Grade New Parent Social
Wednesday	10/8	International Walk or Ride Your Bike to School Day
Wednesday	10/8	PTA General Mtg & State of the School 6:15 PM
Friday	10/10	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS: In-service Day
Mon-Fri	10/13-10/17	Fall Book Fair!!!

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Comments or suggestions about the FP Press are welcome: Jayne Calkins 503-297-5579 or djqpcalkins@comcast.net

To use the email hyperlinks in this issue see the FP Press online at: <http://forestpark.pps.k12.or.us>

From the Principal's Desk



Wow! What an amazing first few days this has been. School is off to a fantastic start. It is truly wonderful to see the kids, teachers, and parents back in the building, out on recess, and in the lunchroom. Welcome back! Forest Park missed you.

The Forest Park website has undergone a number of changes this summer which we hope parents and students will find helpful in our continuing effort to improve communication between school and home. The most significant of these changes is the new "Blog and Notes" link on the main menu bar. This link will bring you to teacher and school blogs. Teachers will be updating their News & Notes blog at least once a month with news and information, documents and pictures. Parents can subscribe to any blog by entering their email address into the subscription field found in the right column of each blog. The blogs are independent, so be sure to subscribe to those you are interested in including PE, Music, and Technology. All blogs are RSS feeds and thus can be easily used with handheld devices, blackberries, iPhones, and smartphones. This is a new tool for our teachers and thus our use of them will develop throughout the school year.

The school website also offers some key communication features aside from classroom blogs and direct classroom communication contact lists. Members of the Forest Park eList receive weekly updates on the happenings at Forest Park from the office and the PTA. You can also find copies of the Forest Park Press, PTA minutes, Foundation and Auction News, and Site Council / School Improvement updates. Be sure to take a look around and find other interesting news and information.

The number one key to a successful year for your child is communication. Never hesitate to contact your child's teacher, the office staff, or me, as we work together to create the best elementary experience for all of Forest Park's children.

Kevin Crotchett
Principal, Forest Park Elementary
9935 NW Durrett
Portland, OR 97229
Ph: 503.916.5400 Fax: 503.916.2730
<http://forestpark.pps.k12.or.us>

From FPE Nurse Tori Wilson



Just a reminder: Please do not send your child to school wearing flip-flop/thong-style sandals. They are not safe or appropriate footwear for school. We want to safeguard their feet and ankles. Any kind of shoe that supports the entire foot and covers the toes works well. Have a safe and happy September! Any questions, please call--and thanks.

To reach Nurse Tori call the school at 503-916-5400

CAFETERIA NEWS

Did you know you can pay for your child's school lunches online? Checkout MyLunchMoney.com for more information.

From the PTA President's Desk and PTA News



The Prez Says

Welcome back to all our returning families; I hope you had a great summer! It goes by so fast. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new families to our school. Please see Page 5 for details about opportunities to meet the principal, our teachers, and the PTA board, as well as to learn about our foundation (whose sole purpose is to finance additional teachers, teaching assistants, music, gym and technology) and PTA (which provides community outreach, and social and enrichment opportunities as well as supplementing teaching material funds). We hope by taking these opportunities you can become familiar with the inner workings of our school. We need your commitment to help keep it great!

\$crip supporters please note that we have made a small change to our program. After-school and event sales (which netted few sales) have been discontinued in an effort to make more efficient use of our terrific volunteers. Please continue to purchase \$crip through our convenient order system. For more on \$crip, please see the article on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Lastly, PTA general meetings are held in October, January, March, and May on the second Wednesday at 6:15pm at the school. Minutes of these meetings are available through the school website.

If you have any questions, please let me know. My email address is Sue_Tees@comcast.net.

Thanks,

Suzanne

***NOTICE to All 5th Grade Parents:
5th Grade Legacy Parents Meeting Wednesday Sept. 17, 8am at Starbucks***

Back to School PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join us for a yummy time with neighborhood and school friends!

Proceeds benefit the *Fifth Grade Legacy Project*



Saturday: September 20th - 7 to 10 am Forest Heights Village Center

Adults: \$10 - Kids ages 2 to 12: \$5 (under 2 free)

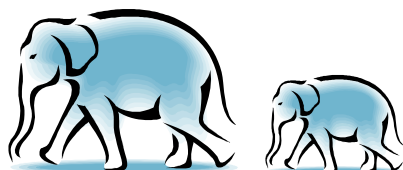
PANCAKES + BACON + SAUSAGE + BEGNEITS + SCRAMBLED EGGS + COFFEE + JUICE!

Very special thanks to Quinn's Prime + Vine for providing food
+ Starbucks for providing beverages

More PTA News

Save-the-date!

Book Fair Safari October 13th-16th, 2008



To volunteer, contact;

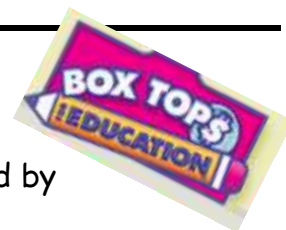
Lisa Rice, danlisarice@yahoo.com or 503-336-0778

For more information visit;

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/fpe>

CALLING ALL BOX TOPS!

Target will double all Box
Tops for Education submitted by
Halloween*!



Please gather together all those Box Tops for Education that you have been collecting over the summer, put them in an envelope with your child's name, and drop them in the big pink box in the school lobby as soon as you get a chance. This will allow us to take advantage of Target's "Push a Cart filled with Smart" campaign. For every 30 Box Tops submitted we will earn an additional 30.

From 3/1/07 through 2/29/08 our PTA collected \$497.40 just from clipping and submitting Box Tops. Why not do it again this year!?!?

** For every 30 submitted with a postmark of no later than 10/31/08 we get another 30.*

Contact Tammy Wilhoite at tammywilhoite@comcast.net with questions.

TEAM SPIRIT

Interested in forming a Lego Robotics Team or a Junior Lego Team? Check out: <http://www.ortop.org>

What about Destination Imagination (DI)? Information about forming a DI team is at: <http://www.idodi.org>

Final Call for PTA Packets

If you have not yet completed and returned your PTA packet, *please* complete it over the weekend and return it on Monday. Many important forms are included in the packet, and they are a vital way to stay connected (e.g., school directory, PTA membership, and volunteer opportunities, just to name a few).

If you have questions about your packet, or the forms included, please contact Tammy Wilhoite: tammywilhoite@comcast.net or Mia Barnett: miabarnett@comcast.net.

SCRIP SCRIP SCRIP!!!

\$scrip raises money that goes directly into the classrooms. Last year we raised \$7,400!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

\$scrip is simply buying a gift card from the school for your shopping trips to grocers, restaurants, clothing retailers, etc. For each gift card you buy for yourself or someone else...your kids win. We get a percentage of each and every card you buy. For example: **STARBUCKS** (a personal favorite) gives 4% for **EACH** card you buy. You pay \$25 for the card, and Starbucks gives \$1.50 to our school. Just look at some of the percentages of donation! : **New Seasons 4% or \$4 for a \$100 gift card... Kaady Car Wash 26% or \$1.17 for each \$4.50 car wash!**

It's very easy and a win-win deal...but our kids really win! Make it a regular habit (coffee?...hello!) Keep the cards in the cash part of your wallet and you'll use them. Think of where you shop, look at the \$scrip order form, send it and your check in a back pack to school on Monday, and VOILA! Friday you have your gift cards. Buy some today! Try it out!

The \$scrip Committee thanks you.

More PTA News

Call the babysitter!

The KINDERGARTEN PARENTS' SOCIAL is Coming!!!

Parents of kindergartners, this is *YOUR* night out...

The PTA welcomes you to Forest Park with your very own meet & greet & eat social. Here are the stats on your big event:

Who: Kindergarten Parents (adults only)
Where: The home of Michael & Loralie Farnell
1228 NW Park Ridge Lane
When: Saturday, September 27th, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beverages and a great time for all with Principal Kevin Crotchett, kindergarten teachers, PTA & foundation members, and other kindergarten parents!

Questions: Julii Chin: juliichin@hotmail.com or 503-432-8738
Erin Vick: erin.vick@comcast.net or 503-806-5200

A formal invitation will be sent home in your child's backpack.

Volunteer Policy Information

Volunteers are asked to use the copier and workspace across from the library rather than the one in the interior office to help maintain student and parent confidentiality. There is also an adult restroom next door and the key is labeled and kept in the workroom.

Please plan to attend the Volunteer Welcome and Orientation Coffee on Monday, September 22nd at 8:15 AM. Thank you!

Calling Parents; New to Forest Park Elementary with 1st to 5th grade students:

We would like to welcome you to Forest Park School!

Who: New Parents of 1st to 5th Graders (adults only)
Where: The home of Erin Vick
2721 NW Avocet Lane
When: Tuesday, October 7th, 7:00 – 9:00pm

The kids are back in school and it's time to celebrate!

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and beverages and get to know other parents new to Forest Park Elementary.

****Enjoy an evening with Principal Kevin Crotchett, chat with some teachers, and hear all about the activities offered for the parents and children of Forest Park****

****We would like to ensure that the coming years are memorable and exciting for your entire family.****

Questions: Julii Chin juliichin@hotmail.com or 503-432-8738
Erin Vick at erin.vick@comcast.net or 503-806-5200

A formal invitation will be sent home in your child's backpack

News for Students (and Parents)

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY: Wednesday, October 8th

Question: What winds down Miller Road from both ends, has hundreds of feet, and meets at Forest Park School?

Answer: The sixth annual Walking School Bus!

Join thousands of schools from around the globe as we participate in Walk and Ride Your Bike to School Day on Wednesday October 8th. This is a fun event with about 90% of Forest Park students participating every year.

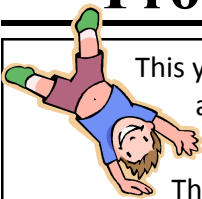
Just as in the past, the Walking School Bus will form along Miller Road and proceed to school, with "pick-up times" scheduled at a dozen points. Students, parents, younger siblings and teachers can "hop on the bus" at any convenient spot. For instance, walkers coming down Bartholomew could join the "bus" at the intersection of Bartholomew and Miller around 7:43 a.m. If the walk from your home is too far or too hilly, consider driving to one of the "bus" stops on Miller and starting from there. Please use extreme caution driving and parking.

To make the trek up/down the hill less nerve wracking, Mr. C. has promised that no walker will receive a tardy slip.

This event needs volunteers to make it happen! If you can help organize, or develop a flyer with "walking bus" stop times and crossing locations, or you can be a "walking bus driver" or crossing guard, please contact Suzi Pahl, FPE PTA Volunteer Coordinator at s.pahl@yahoo.com or 503-203-1891. To learn more, visit the official web site at www.walktoschool-usa.org.



From Sara Johnson in the Counseling Center



This year is off to a great start. It has been so nice to see all of the familiar faces returning this fall. It has also been wonderful to meet the new students and families. If I haven't yet had a chance to meet you, please feel free to stop by and introduce yourself. You can find my office inside the library.

There are already a ton of exciting things planned for this school year. We are going to try and have one school spirit day a month this year so that we can all come together to celebrate how much we love our school. Plus, with the First Annual Variety Show being such a hit last year, we are starting to plan this year's show. Be thinking about your act so that when the time comes you will be ready to show off your stuff!

We will also have a character word of the month again this year. Each month we'll focus on one social/emotional characteristic. Classrooms will do age-appropriate activities that explore the word. The students will also get an opportunity to listen to Mr. C. read a story that focuses on that month's word at our monthly morning meeting. This month's word is "responsible". Maybe try finding some activities at home that promote being responsible.

Throughout the year we will be continuing our community service work in order to practice being contributing members of society. Be looking out for opportunities for you and your family to participate.

Starting next week I will be working with some fourth and fifth graders who will be trained as peer mediators. These students will be outside during lunch recess to help other students solve their conflicts. Look for more information in next month's FP Press about the peer mediators.

And finally, October is the time when I start putting together social groups. If you have a student who might benefit from a group that focuses on friendship issues, family changes, and/or social skills, please let me know. Please feel free to e-mail, call, or stop by.

My e-mail is sjohnso1@pps.k12.or.us, the school phone number is 503-916-5400.



Vacation One-liners from Mrs. Morris' Class

I aimed the 20 gauge at the pigeon but hit the fish below.
-Gavin

Good friends returned home this summer.
-Steven

Thirteen people and three dogs sat in a big deep hole, flew kites, built sand castles, waded in the water and had fun.
-Olivia

Running wild boy tries to catch cat going crazy during mayhem at the rest stop.
-Tommy

A student swimmer is harassed by a loose dock and other (three centimeter) students.
-Rachel

Car deprived family is baffled by Capitol taxi drivers.
-Ian

Moving on to Skagway from Juneau, a girl visits the most horrible place in the world... the Gold Rush Cemetery!
-Ruhika

Dolphins and multi-colored foot long fishies surrounded our boat in the Mediterranean.
-Alex

While camping I didn't help but notice all of the mosquitoes were biting me and my mom but not my sister.
-Cassie

Frightened fifth grader is lost on Pike Street at midnight after a lazy pedicab driver failed to return us to the hotel.
-Austin S.

Long drive, big thrill, lifeguard splash, aching back, quick line, two excited girls.
-Quinn

A board, a wave, and three jellyfish stings.
-Anna

Ginger suffered a seizure and died this summer now sweet and sour Candy has come to stay.
-Austin M.

Moving from Shanghai to America we discovered huge, fun places.
-Amber

Lights turn off and suddenly a scream as covers pop up and laughing rings through the air.
-Hadley

Eldest child with chicken brothers survives island of boredom and being towed by powerboat!
-Joseph

An excited girl holds the bright lights and sweating athletes fighting for the gold cup of victory in her eyes.
-Sophia

Whoever wore the dark red top hat controlled the circus!
-Wendy

Looking behind me to find an adult, the next thing I know I'm tumbling into a tree!
-Tess

Nervous child nearly falls off a hamster wheel while trying to pose for a photo.
-Mike

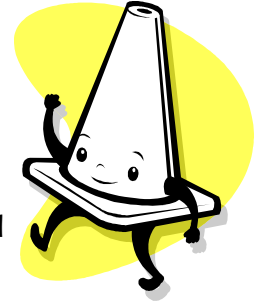
Miles of trains, 11:00 p.m., bright lights and no ZZZZs.
-Zoe

When my 15" baby sister was born I held her in my arms and knew she was special.
-James

Community News

SAFE TO A "T"

Are you ever concerned about cars that seem to be going too fast through your neighborhood? Does your stomach ever go "flip-flop" when you see kids trying to cross the street where there are no crosswalks? Do you ever feel nervous proceeding through an intersection with low visibility due to an abundance of parked cars? Why not put all that stress and worry aside by taking some action! The Forest Heights Homeowners Association Safety Committee is searching for some likeminded residents to meet once a month to develop and guide the implementation of safety plans for the Forest Heights community. The committee's priorities for 2009 are:



1. Stop signs and marked crosswalks at the Miller Road/Thompson Road intersection.
2. Crosswalk markings at specific sites along the Miller Road corridor, where trails are located, where crosswalks end on one side and begin on the other, and where foot traffic normally flows. These would include the Boulder Creek, Sword fern and Miller Hollow trails; Woodrose Loop/Hazeltine; and Bartholomew.
3. Installation of a traffic island and crosswalk at the city park, north of the school, similar to the crossing at Durrett. Many children already cross Miller near the city park.
4. Modify Miller Road between NW Cornell Road and NW Mill Ridge Road. This would be similar to the structuring of Miller north of the Village Center, where the uphill lanes are wider and the downhill lanes are narrower, as this tends to cause traffic to slow down naturally and mitigate speed.
5. Repainting of yellow curbs in the community; there are a number of places where the curbs were previously painted by the city but most of the paint has worn off.

If you are interested in joining, or learning more about how you can support the work of this committee, please email FHHOA Board Director Patrick Jones at pandsjones@comcast.net, or contact the FHHOA office at 503-297-9400 or contactus@fhhoa.com. Thanks for caring about the safety of our kids!



WATCH FOR INFORMATION COMING HOME IN BACKPACKS SOON ANNOUNCING AN OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE USED BIKES TO A WORTHY CAUSE IN OCTOBER!

LINCOLN DANCE CLINIC FUNDRAISER IS COMING!

Join the Lincoln Dance team for a fun 2 day dance clinic on Monday and Tuesday, November 10 and 11th (school holidays). The clinic will be held at West Sylvan Middle School from 9:00am - 4:00pm daily. Cost is only \$80.00 for the two days, and includes a healthy snack. No dance experience is necessary... students will be grouped by grade level. Registration forms are available from your school or may be downloaded at <http://www.lhsdanceteam.com/>. Questions? Please contact Kelly Holtz at 503-296-9321 or email to kbholtz@juno.com. Registration is limited so register early!

SUPPORT EAST/WEST SYLVAN: READ MAGAZINES!

This year the East/West Sylvan Middle School magazine drive will be held October 1-15. This annual magazine sales drive will once again be the only EWS PTA Fundraiser. The sale's proceeds help fund many needs, as well as providing funds to the Foundation to help reduce overall class size.

Although the official sale runs October 1-15, all orders placed online until June 30, 2009 will benefit the school!

Your magazine subscriptions can easily be ordered/renewed online by visiting www.QSP.com. Subscription rates are comparable to those you already receive (and sometimes less!) PLUS your middle school, East/West Sylvan, automatically receives 50% of the proceeds! (note: the website mentions a 40% profit, but we have negotiated an extra 10%)

When placing your order, make sure you select "West Sylvan Middle School" when prompted and you may also list a student at the school you would like to receive credit. East Sylvan and West Sylvan thank you for your support!

Questions? Contact Christy Wall, East/West Sylvan Magazine Chairperson: christywall1@comcast.net.