



# Forest Park Press

May 2010

A Publication of the Forest Park PTA

## From the PTA President's Desk...



The talk around school has been about Mr. C's announcement that he will be leaving Forest Park Elementary at the end of June to be principal at Arleta School in Southeast Portland. My first reaction was surprise. How could he, or anyone, want to leave this fabulous school? My dismay quickly disappeared. Although Mr. C expressed sadness for leaving FPE, he also showed excitement about taking on a new opportunity and growing professionally. Mr. C has been at Forest Park since my children started attending FPE, 7 years ago! I suppose it is time for a change.

Mr. C has been a huge supporter of the PTA, and I hope that his successor will be, too. But I can do more than hope. I can stay informed and become involved – and so can you. Mr. C's announcement kicked off the hiring process for a new principal. Portland Public School's search process is open and inclusive. At a community meeting on April 22nd, representatives of PPS asked each attendee to name qualities they'd like to see in our future principal. These qualities will be considered in the search for candidates who would be a good match for our school. Staff and parents will be part of an interview team that will make recommendations to the hiring authorities. Information about this process can be found on the Forest Park website. PPS hopes to have a new principal on board before the school year ends in June. You can contact me at [lauraklambert@comcast.net](mailto:lauraklambert@comcast.net) if you have questions.

Another major change recently announced is the high school redesign plan. "High school?" I hear you asking. "But our children are in elementary school," I hear you saying. As we all know, time has a way of zipping by and before long, our children will be entering high school. The redesign process is gradual and will start to be implemented in 2011, so the changes will fully impact all of us and our children. Check <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/news/3528.htm> for information about the entire plan. After gathering feedback, the school board will deliberate and vote on key aspects of the plan in June. Also, please come to the General PTA meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>, when Bobbie Regan, a PPS school board member and Forest Heights resident, will brief us on the redesign plan and be available for questions.

Also at our May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, next year's board members and budget will be approved. This meeting will be full of useful information. I urge you to attend.

There is a lot of change afoot at Forest Park Elementary. Change is hard and makes the future feel uncertain, but with a positive attitude and hard work, our school community will continue to be strong.

*Laura Lambert*

The Forest Park Press is a "green" Publication. Paper copies are available in the classrooms and the school office for those who want or need them. Thank you!

## Mark your calendars!

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Mon-Fri	5/10-5/14	Traffic Town in the Gym
Wednesday	5/12	General PTA Meeting - 6:15-8:00p.m. (upper alcove)
Wednesday	5/19	2 hour late opening, 10 a.m.
Wednesday	5/19	Waste Free Lunch Day
Monday	5/31	Holiday—No School
Friday	6/4	Carnival—5:00-8:00 p.m.

Comments or suggestions about the FP Press are welcome: Sue Anne Bravo, [susanbravo@yahoo.com](mailto:susanbravo@yahoo.com) or 503-880-1390

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## From the Principal's Desk

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It seems truly impossible to believe! Is it really May? The mixture of budding flowers, Monday morning rain, and occasional sun confirms it. Watching kids run the track a couple weeks ago for Run for the Arts and seeing parents prepare for the carnival is only further evidence. May is upon us and with it many events and activities not to be missed. Fields trips and outdoor school are scheduled school-wide. A 2nd/3<sup>rd</sup> grade evening performance on May 13th and the spring Carnival on June 4th are just a few highlights of our fun-filled end of the school year!

May is that time of the year when we encourage parents to provide input into their child's classroom placement for the 2010-11 school year. To do so, complete the Parent Input for Student Placement form. This three-question form can be found in the main office or on the school website. Please read the front page completely before commenting. All parent input forms must be turned in by May 28th for timely consideration. Student placement planning begins in June and continues throughout the summer months. While teachers are obviously involved in student placement, much of the final work is done during the summer months. Therefore, talking directly with the teacher is not always your best option for ensuring proper communication.

I would like to invite all of our parents and community volunteers – and their kids-- to come to our Volunteer Thank You Ice Cream Social on June 1! Teachers and staff will serve you and your children an ice cream sundae. Hang out on the playground and enjoy time with other volunteers as we cheer your hard work, energy, and endless time given to the children at Forest Park.

Last week was National Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers, staff, and I thank you all so much for making us feel so valued and cared for. The week was wonderful, filled with coffee, flowers, lunch, and a special end-of-the-week gift. Thank you for your words, cards, kid drawings, and emails.

Sincerely,

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>



## Spring Carnival

Forest Park Elementary School

Friday, June 4th 5-8 p.m.

Cotton Candy ~ DJ/Music ~ Train rides  
Dunk Tank ~ Cake/Candy Walk ~ Caricature Artist  
3 Bounce Houses\* ~ Shaved Ice ~ and MORE

### AWESOME FOOD!

Quinn's Prime and Vine - Sweet Ambrosia - Sandoval's Mexican food -Pizza Schmizza

Carnival Tickets go on sale May 24th before and after school

Purchase in advance and save! 4 tickets for \$1.00

Tickets available at the Carnival 3 tickets for \$1.00

This is a community Event. Everyone is welcome to come clown around!!

Special Thanks to the FHHOA for their continued support.

Questions: [Juliichin@hotmail.com](mailto:Juliichin@hotmail.com)

**\*Parent Signed Participant Waiver** required for Bouncy Houses

Waivers available where tickets are sold.

NO EXCEPTIONS

## HELP WANTED

The Forest Park Press is a great way to keep our school community informed and allow parents to see some of the wonderful work our students are creating.

Would you like to contribute your time to publishing the Press? If you like writing, editing or just spending some time on your PC then you'll have a great time being the Press publisher. For more information contact Laura Lambert at

[lauraklambert@comcast.net](mailto:lauraklambert@comcast.net).

# From Sara Johnson in the Counseling Center

We have just heard good news about our Project Second Wind canned food drive. With all of the support from the Forest Park families, our school brought in the most food per student for all of the elementary schools that participated. Congratulations to everyone for their efforts!



## Kelso's Choice *9 Ways to Solve Small Problems*

1. Go to another game
2. Share and take turns
3. Talk it out
4. Walk away
5. Ignore it
6. Tell them to stop
7. Apologize
8. Make a deal
9. Wait and cool off

Grade levels continue to work on different subjects during classroom guidance times. The kindergartners and first graders have been working on how to manage strong feelings. The students brainstormed a list of ways to relax, calm down and feel better when they are really angry or upset. Hopefully, they are able to take a few of these options with them throughout the day to help themselves self-regulate. The second and third graders continue to build their problem-solving toolbox by learning more ways to solve their own small problems. The fourth and fifth grade students have been working on listening carefully in order to hear all of the details of a message correctly, as well as what are rumors, how they get spread and how each individual can stop them. Until the end of the year, the students will continue to work on each of these topics, as well as play cooperative games to build classroom unity.



Last week, we celebrated Mismatched Shoe and Sock Day. With this spring-like weather, it was great to see the creativity in the kids' shoe and sock choices.



Our final school spirit day will be on Field Day, scheduled for June 11. The students will decide by classroom how they would like to show their spirit—maybe everyone will wear the same color or have wacky hair. When the students participate in Field Day activities, each class will look like a united team. Look for more details as Field Day approaches.



If you have any questions or concerns, I am at Forest Park all day Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, as well as Friday mornings. Starting on May 17<sup>th</sup> until the end of the school year, I will not be at school but can be reached by email. I will try to respond to emails as soon as possible, but it might take me a few days or longer. If there is a problem that needs to be handled more immediately, please contact Mr. C. My email is [sjohnso1@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:sjohnso1@pps.k12.or.us).

~Sara Johnson

# FPE News

## News from the Forest Park Chess Club



Congratulations to the Forest Park Chess Club, which collected some impressive prizes in recent tournaments.

The team won second place at the regional Chess for Success tournament in February. Ten players from Forest Park participated: Alisha Zhao, Leo Deng, Andrew Sheiman, Bryce Lutz, Paige Lutz, Alex Pham, Aman Shah, Ryan Premi, Tyler Honn and Marshal Xu.

The second place win, out of 17 teams, meant the team qualified to play at the state level. In addition, four players qualified to play at the state level as individuals: Alisha Zhao, Tyler Honn, Alex Pham and Leo Deng.

At the State Chess for Success tournament in March, Alisha Zhao tied for second place in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade section and Leo Deng tied for third place in the K-4 section. Outstanding!

The team -- represented by Alisha Zhao, Leo Deng, Tyler Honn, Paige Lutz, Andrew Sheiman, Bryce Lutz and Marshal Xu -- tied for third place. It was an amazing success because, as one parent pointed out, seven of last year's top ten players moved on to middle school.

Congratulations to the team and coach April Lutz!



Top row: April Lutz, Andrew Sheiman, Alisha Zhao, Alex Pham, Tyler Honn

Middle row: Ryan Premi, Aman Shah, Leo Deng, Bryce Lutz

Bottom row: Marshal Xu, Paige Lutz



Top row: Alisha Zhao, Tyler Honn and the tournament director

Middle row: Andrew Sheiman and Leo Deng,

Front row: Bryce Lutz and Paige Lutz

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# More FPE News

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## Families Fill up the School on Write Night

Write Here Write Now, Forest Park Elementary School's Family Write Night, was a huge success. Thank you to all who joined the writing celebration. Our guest, Jon Bernstein, was blown away by the reception he received and was truly impressed by our talented students.

What a sight it was to see families writing together, tucked into corners all over the school. The journal prompts - some thought-provoking, some hilarious - got everyone started. Here is one of the magnificent entries from that evening. (The family of writers granted us permission to print, although the names have been changed to protect the innocent.)

*Prompt: Your family is navigating a ship through outer space. Describe your adventure.*

*Our adventure begins somewhere near Mars. There are five of us aboard our intrepid spaceship, The Frying Saucer, plus our dog Barley and our guinea pig Whiskers. There is Captain Dad. He is stunningly handsome and frighteningly manly. There is Commander Mom. She is very stylish and good-looking. Then there are the sisters, One and Two. They are slightly sinister; they must be watched. Finally there is Lieutenant Son. Lt. Son has large rippling muscles. He also excels at knitting and crossword puzzles.*

*The Frying Saucer is a magnificent spaceship. It looks a bit like a giant dish of tater tots. The bottom is made of a shiny round slab of titanium. On top of the slab sit numerous chambers, for the engine room, the bridge, sleeping quarters, etc. Each looks like a crisp, crunchy, tasty, golden brown tater tot.*

*The Frying Saucer is on a secret mission. It is searching the universe for a healthy but tasty alternative to fried foods. Perhaps it is a hopeless mission, but our intrepid crew will try their best.*

*As we pass Mars, we scan the surface of the planet for delectable edibles. An alarm sounds! Something has been found! Captain Dad sends Lt. Son to the surface to investigate.*

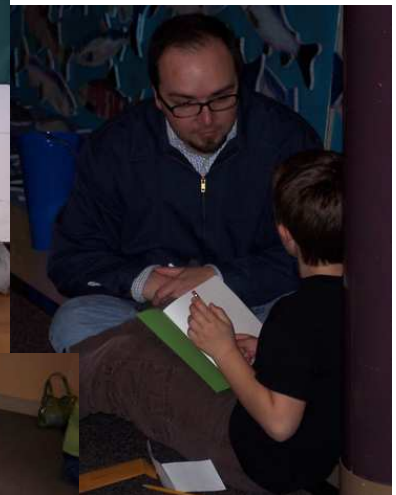
*On the surface Lt. Son discovers a fascinating growth. He touches it. He tastes it. He is amazed! It is a breakthrough! It looks and nutritionally tests as broccoli.... But... By heavens... it tastes like French Fries!*

*Lt. Son is amazed. He can now bring healthy food to the junk food crazy hobgoblins in the schools back on Earth.*

Keep On Writing!

Best wishes and thank you to all,

Mirka Jablonski



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## More FPE News

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### Here a chick, there a chick...

The kindergarten classes announce the arrival of 10 babies in their classrooms.

Ten baby chicks, that is.

The Chick Watch began with 20 eggs in an incubator in the kindergarten classrooms. All of the action was recorded by a special Chick Cam. Every child in kindergarten was able to watch at least one chick hatch during the school day.



The process was wonderful. The children compared the chicks with two 2-day-old ducks. We watched them swim and play. What did we do with 10 chicks and 2 ducklings? We made posters about the chicks and ducks and wrote letters to farmers on how to care for the animals should they decide to purchase them. The letters were so cute that the ducks sold in the first 30 minutes on display. The chicks are finding nice homes with rural and urban farmers. The money we made selling the chicks and ducks will go to [Heifer International](#) to purchase two flocks of chickens and one flock of ducks for a family in Africa. The animals will provide eggs for food or income.

If you would like to see one of our chicks hatch, go to see the [YouTube video](#) Pete Oliver recorded on his camera at 1:30 a.m.

It was a great experience for everyone in the school.

*The Kindergarten Team*

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## Community News

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### Field Renovation to Begin in 2011

The Field Improvement Team, with the support of PPS, has decided to push the start of the Forest Park sports field renovation to summer 2011. This will provide more time to work further with the city of Portland, continue private donor fundraising, and apply for more financial grants.

The team has already raised more than \$170,000 and is confident that with the extra time, we will be able to raise the funds needed to make this important community and school improvement project a reality. The renovation, which will include installation of a proper drainage system and artificial turf, is estimated to cost \$400,000.

For questions or if you are interested in contributing to the field renovation project, please email Brad McMahon at [brad.mcmahon11@gmail.com](mailto:brad.mcmahon11@gmail.com). Go to [www.fitfp.com](http://www.fitfp.com) for details of the project.

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# More FPE News

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Several 4th graders participated in the Honoring Our River 2010 Student Anthology, sponsored by PGE and SOLV. Here are a few examples of our students' work. Congratulations!



## "Reflections"

By Rhusha Arramreddy

I sparkle in the bright yellow sun  
I move slowly and quietly under bridges  
And between the city  
Dividing it into East and West  
Small boats speed across me like a rocket  
Bigger ones slowly drift across  
I stare up at the light blue sky  
Clear white clouds stare back at me  
I keep flowing and watch the birds fly above me  
Leaves on trees sway back and forth  
A few inches under and above me  
I am very deep and very cold to the touch  
The day is over  
The sunset reflects off me  
As if it were looking in a mirror  
Soon the Sun looks like it is going under me  
I am a River  
The Willamette River

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# More FPE News

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The Elixir of Life  
by Nikita Lalwani

The quiet river lazily flows,  
While birds chirp and leaves rustle gently in the breeze.

I see my reflection shimmering in the current,  
As the crisp scent of foliage wafts through the air.

The river bubbles frantically between the rocks,  
And the sounds of the forest fill my ears.

Born in the mountains, guardian of the plains,  
A silent witness to history.

It twists and turns, carrying its load of liquid life,  
To scorched fields and parched mouths.

So seedlings can rise from the ground,  
And feed the world around.



Wonderful Willamette  
by Julia Patridge

The orange hues of autumn leaves fall on the river's banks.  
Soon winter will leave the trees bare uncovering white flakes of snow.

The salmon and steelhead fight their way up the river to lay their eggs.

Winding along the Portland skyline various bridges lie. Each one of them is unique and beautiful.

This great river is our river. The Willamette River.

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# More FPE News

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Our Beautiful River  
by Caresse Smit

The beautiful river, shimmering and shiny  
A majestic white bridge sitting above it  
Little fish diving here and there  
High and low  
What a beautiful view!

Cars driving across the FREMONT BRIDGE – “Beep! Beep!”  
Speed boats racing, like a competition

It's sometimes just so nice  
Here in the city, even just  
Driving and looking at the views.



The River  
by Emma Donchi

A beautiful streak  
Of hues;  
Green, purple, blue.  
It looks like a whirlpool,  
Like an amazing, perfect painting.

The trees hanging over it are  
Shaggy, green, with  
Wildlife everywhere  
Flocking to the river like  
The geese that roam its shores.

The Willamette River is a  
Picture-perfect example of  
Nature at its best.

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# Mrs. Ford's and Ms. Steffens' Buddy Poems

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Help other people out  
Everyone works together  
Leaving other people alone while working  
Play when someone asks  
Fixing friendship  
Usually **helping** hands help  
Ladybugs eat aphids  
By Lauren and Michelle



Helping the poor  
Everybody helps at least once in their life  
Let the trees grow and don't cut the trees down  
Put other messes away  
Filippo is **helpful**  
Use lots of garbage to make things instead of throwing it away  
Lift other people's things up so you can go to recess faster  
By Brant and John

Helping the poor  
Eddie is **helpful**  
Leah is helpful  
Put things that come from trees into the composting bin  
Filippo is helpful  
Use  
Less gas in cars and trucks  
By Alex and Calvin



Helping people  
Everybody has to be helpful  
Love people who are **helpful**  
Palin is helpful  
Friendly people are helpful  
U.S.A. is helpful  
Leah is helpful  
By Mayumi and Annika

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# Mrs. Ford's and Ms. Steffens' Buddy Poems

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Hunter is helpful  
Everybody is **helpful**  
Love to help  
People pick up toys  
Fixing toys  
Usually people clean up  
Like to clean up  
By Connor and Jacob



Helping kids  
Everybody can be helpful  
Lets be helpful  
Palin is helpful  
Friends are **helpful**  
U.S.A. is helpful  
Leah is helpful  
By Moses, Leah, and Hunter

Helping  
Everybody should help  
Love helps sad people  
Palin is helpful  
Families are helpful  
U.S.A. or the government is **helpful**  
Love is helpful  
By Ella, Palin, and Emily



Helping kids  
Everybody helps  
Less pets help  
Parents help too  
Feel hard work  
Us kids **help**  
Let friends help!  
By Ellie and Isadora

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# Mrs. Ford's and Ms. Steffens' Buddy Poems

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Helping is a good thing to do  
Everybody should help at least once in their life  
Lucas is helpful  
Pick up trash to be **helpful** to our Earth  
Filippo can be helpful  
Use your free time to be helpful  
Lauren is always helpful  
By Anya and Sarah



Hunter is helping  
Everybody is having fun **helping**  
Love to help  
Putting toys away  
Fixing your friends things  
Using people's things without asking is not helping  
Little people can help  
By Joe and Brock

**Help** somebody get a bandaid  
Everybody can help  
Live without polluting  
People are picking cherry trees  
Usually people need help  
Let someone get ice if they need it  
By Filippo and Matt



Helping to clean up toys  
Everybody is helping out  
Little people can help out too  
Putting things away  
Fixing toys  
Usually people help  
Love to **help**  
By Connor and Rohan

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# Mrs. Ford's and Ms. Steffens' Buddy Poems

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Hunter is helpful - Juanito and Daniel too  
Everyone can be helpful  
Lots of people love to be **helpful**  
Pick up a mess  
Fun  
Usually everyone helps  
Loving people love to help  
By Juanito and Daniel



Helping people  
Everyone is **helpful**  
Love to help  
Pick up trash  
Friendly  
U.S.A. is friendly  
Lanie loves to help  
By Claire and Marisa

**Helping** friends  
Everyone included  
Love to help  
Picking up garbage  
Friendly  
Understanding  
Lending a hand  
By Amanda and Zia



Help  
Everybody can **help**  
Laugh and  
Play  
Fun all day  
Up toys go  
Lend a hand  
By Marshall and Lucas

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# Mrs. Ford's and Ms. Steffens' Buddy Poems

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Help other people  
Everybody help clean up  
Lots of people help  
People **help** each other  
Fabulous kids  
Use stuff again  
Lend a hand  
By Tony and Emma



Helping hands  
Everybody can do it  
Lunch helpers  
Picking up toys  
Friends who help clean  
Umbrellas can help people not get wet  
Learning **helps** your brain  
By Chloe and Olivia

Helping people  
Even help clean up  
Loving and asking to help  
Pick up things for people  
Feeling **helpful**  
Usually helping  
Loving to help  
By Briana and Grace



Happy  
Everyone is **helpful**  
Love to help  
Pick up trash  
Fun  
Usually good  
Like to pick up things  
By Susan and Nova