



# The PTA Express

Small Investment, Big Rewards. Join the PTA!

## *PTA President's Message*

Four weeks into school and Forest Park Elementary PTA is already 600+ members strong! Thanks all for joining the PTA as members this year!

Your contributions to jumpstart fundraising are propelling the classrooms to a great start.

With an approved budget we are ready to publish our calendar of events and programs for this year.

With various programs and events planned for this year, we are looking forward to work with you all as volunteers and have fun serving our kids.

Forest Park PTA relies a lot on the ideas from parents. So please share your ideas too by sending your feedback ([feedback@forestparkpta.org](mailto:feedback@forestparkpta.org)) on the kind of programs you want to see PTA support for your kids.

An involved parent, a dedicated teaching staff and a strong PTA provide our kids with all the support and guidance they need to outdo themselves this year again.

Sincerely,  
Jyothi Bhattaram  
PTA President, 2011 - 2012

## Upcoming Events

- Oct 12: Math Olympiad  
Registration due  
(5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Only)
- Oct 13: Jamba Juice with  
Principal (6 to 7  
pm) in MUR
- Oct 17-21: Red Ribbon Week
- Oct 22: E-Waste Collection  
at Forest Park  
(9AM – 4PM)
- Oct 24: UN Day
- Oct 26: Early Release  
1:30 grades 1-3

## **2011 - 2012 Executive Board Members:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Jyothi Bhattaram	President	<a href="mailto:bhattaram@yahoo.com">bhattaram@yahoo.com</a>
Jaydeep Marathe	Vice President	<a href="mailto:jmarathe@gmail.com">jmarathe@gmail.com</a>
Shevon Korth	Secretary	<a href="mailto:shevon.korth@comcast.net">shevon.korth@comcast.net</a>
Ciny Joy	Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:ciny@kairali.org">ciny@kairali.org</a>
Harish Arora	Auditor	<a href="mailto:harish791@yahoo.com">harish791@yahoo.com</a>
Padma Rani	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:pl_rani@yahoo.com">pl_rani@yahoo.com</a>
Archana Garg	Historian	<a href="mailto:aru_garg@yahoo.com">aru_garg@yahoo.com</a>
Aditi Honawar	Parliamentarian	<a href="mailto:aditi_honawar@yahoo.com">aditi_honawar@yahoo.com</a>
Geetha Ramu	Membership	<a href="mailto:geetaramu@yahoo.com">geetaramu@yahoo.com</a>
Samitha Shetty	Membership	<a href="mailto:suisam@yahoo.com">suisam@yahoo.com</a>
Widya Ishananto	Fundraising	<a href="mailto:widya.ishananto@sbcglobal.net">widya.ishananto@sbcglobal.net</a>
Christine Szeto	Fundraising	<a href="mailto:cbszeto@yahoo.com">cbszeto@yahoo.com</a>
Sonali Desai	Newsletter	<a href="mailto:sonali1desai@yahoo.com">sonali1desai@yahoo.com</a>
Janaki Kowtha	Volunteer Coordinator	<a href="mailto:janakikowtha@gmail.com">janakikowtha@gmail.com</a>
Anu Bala	Health and Safety	<a href="mailto:anubala72@yahoo.com">anubala72@yahoo.com</a>
Maithreyi Anna	Health and Safety	<a href="mailto:maithreyi.anna@gmail.com">maithreyi.anna@gmail.com</a>
Hema Sharma	Harmony	<a href="mailto:hema_sharma75@hotmail.com">hema_sharma75@hotmail.com</a>
NookaSree Ponamala	Harmony	<a href="mailto:sreeponamala@yahoo.com">sreeponamala@yahoo.com</a>
Amrita Chanchani	Reflections	<a href="mailto:amritachanchani@yahoo.com">amritachanchani@yahoo.com</a>
Ritu Arora	Reflections	<a href="mailto:ra_rituarora@yahoo.com">ra_rituarora@yahoo.com</a>
Sreekumar Menon	Event Photographer	<a href="mailto:msreekm@gmail.com">msreekm@gmail.com</a>
Bruce Dughi	Hospitality	<a href="mailto:bdughi@att.net">bdughi@att.net</a>
Tyler Allison	Hospitality	<a href="mailto:tja82@comcast.net">tja82@comcast.net</a>
Mai McGahan	FAME	<a href="mailto:mcgahanmai@yahoo.com">mcgahanmai@yahoo.com</a>
Pooma Rangaswami	FAME	<a href="mailto:pgrs1@hotmail.com">pgrs1@hotmail.com</a>

## **Hospitality**

***By Bruce Dughi***

***Meet and Greet***--On the first day of school, there must have been about 200 parents that came to chat with each other and listen to Mr Gomez, new school principal, announce that Forest Park API score improved 12 points to 975/1000 for the 2010/11 school year. Jyothi Bhattaram, the new PTA president, also gave a quick address. Everyone celebrated with tea/coffee and assorted treats provided by PTA. The PTA membership team provided their services in answering questions regarding PTA and accepting applications for membership.

***Kindergarten Sneak Peek***--Around 60 anxious kindergartners accompanied by parents and

siblings came to school the day before it started to get an idea of what to expect on their first day of school. PTA provided some kid friendly snacks including fruit, cheese/crackers, juice and granola bars. The PTA membership team provided their services in answering questions regarding PTA and accepting applications for membership.

***Teacher Welcome Back Luncheon***--Many, many thanks to Mr Humphreys for catering the Friday, September 9 luncheon. He donated massive amounts of time to make this event a success while PTA provided the materials. He really out did himself with a popular BBQ along with salads and desserts. I, for one, require the recipe for the excellent bean salad--fantastic stuff! Also thanks to the other volunteers that helped decorate the room with table clothes, beautiful roses donated from home, welcome back collage sign and all the great clean up. This event was a large undertaking and important in setting a positive tone between teachers and parents--I believe it was a great success.

Upcoming events include Muffins for Mom (Jan), Donuts for Dad (Feb), Tea/Coffee with our new principal (periodic--lets hammer him with all of your great questions), Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (March). The success of all of our events depends upon the effort from all of us volunteers--give us a hand and let us make this a fun and great year!

## **Reflections**

***By Amrita Chanchani***

Reflections is a unique PTA sponsored program which gives each child an opportunity to unleash their creativity. It gives students a chance to be recognized for their talents. Students are encouraged to submit an original work of art based on the 2011-2012 theme: "**Diversity means...**"

Entries can be submitted in any of the following six areas:

- \* Dance choreography
- \* Film production
- \* Literature
- \* Musical composition
- \* Photography
- \* Visual arts

The Reflections Program awards are given at local, council, district, state and national levels. Watch out for the detailed flyer in your child's Friday folder. Entry forms will be available in the school office or at the PTA website shortly.

**The last date for submission of entries is November 1st, 2011.**

For details contact Ritu Arora at [ra\\_rituarora@yahoo.com](mailto:ra_rituarora@yahoo.com) or Amrita Chanchani at [amritachanchani@yahoo.com](mailto:amritachanchani@yahoo.com)

## **Become FAMEous!**

***By Mai McGahan and Pooma Rangaswami***

*FAMEous Chairpersons 2011-2012*

F.A.M.E...did you know that this word stands for **Forest Park Art & Music Experience**? It's a PTA funded program meant for all students at Forest Park. Parent volunteers, this year it's Pooma and myself, organize the program and enlist the help of many other parent volunteers to deliver art lessons to students six times a year.

Some of the projects we've done in the past include making African masks, doing action art like Jackson Pollock, and creating henna designs. This year, we've got six fun lessons planned! The first is learning about and drawing cave art.

In addition to being introduced to different types of art and artists, we also introduce different music genres with each lesson. So, students get to listen to music to help inspire their creativity while they create their art.

None of this would be possible without the help of our parent volunteers...there are many and we are happy to report that the majority of classrooms have at least one parent volunteer this year...THANK YOU!

We always need more volunteers, so join us...no artistic talent or knowledge is necessary to be a presenter...seriously! The lessons are pre-written and the materials prepared in advance. All it takes is for you to volunteer one hour of your time about once every 5 weeks to help your children become excited about art and have fun expressing their creativity.

We look forward to working with you all this school year!

**More Ways to Save and Help Forest Park:**

**Forest Park PTA E-Waste Collection Event (October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010; 9AM – 4PM)**



Forest Park PTA is holding a Free E-Waste collection event in the Forest Park school parking lot on Saturday, October 9th, between 9am and 4pm.



We will be accepting ALL electronic waste, EXCEPT: light bulbs, mercury switches, non-rechargeable batteries, & large kitchen appliances. Please bring in your unused or old electronic waste and help keep the environment green.

**Box Tops for Education**



Keep Clipping those Box Tops!

Please remember to check your packages for Box Top labels. Box Top labels can be found on many items such as Kleenex, refrigerated rolls and cookies, disposables, Ziploc bags, etc. Remember every box top collected is worth 10¢ for our PTA. It may seem small at first, but it really adds up quickly. Turn in your Box Top clippings to your classroom teacher or the specially marked box in the office.

<p>Shop online at your favorite stores like Gap, Best Buy, Old Navy, Pottery Barn, Kohls, Avon, Limited Too, Chefs, Nordstrom, Office Depot (and MANY MORE). Forest Park PTA earns up to 8% of each qualifying purchase. There is no additional cost to you and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found.</p> <p>Buy books through the Box Tops Book Club and you can earn one Box Top for every dollar spent. Make sure to REGISTER Forest Park Elementary School PTA as YOUR group!</p>	<p><b>Box Tops for Education Market Place and Book Club</b></p> 
<p><b>eScrip Shop and Earn Program</b></p>  <p>Visit <a href="http://www.escrip.com/">http://www.escrip.com/</a> for easy online registration.</p> <p>Group name: Forest Park Elementary School PTA – Scrip.</p> <p>Group ID : 139190026</p>	<p>Would you like to have a portion of the money you spend shopping throughout the year help Forest Park? Then, sign up with eScrip at <a href="http://www.escrip.com">escrip.com</a> and register your Safeway Savings Card, your Macy’s retail credit card, or other credit cards you use to shop. Once enrolled, every time you shop using one of these cards, up to 4% of your purchases will be credited to Forest Park PTA.</p> <p>Simply use your registered cards every time you shop at the numerous local and online stores such as Safeway, Macys, Eddie Bauer, Round Table Pizza, Claim Jumper Restaurant, Barnes &amp; Noble etc.</p>

Have questions? Visit the PTA Fundraising page at <http://www.forestparkpta.org/Fundraising.html> or email the PTA Fundraising Chairs

***PTA Membership***

*By Geetha Ramu and Samitha Shetty  
Membership Chairs*

600+ members in 4 weeks of school! A big thank you and welcome to all the new members of Forest Park PTA.

To all the parents who are thinking of joining the PTA as members for 2011-2012 school year, please join the PTA and invest in your child’s success.

Why Join the PTA? PTA membership is an excellent way to stay connected with the school and the community.

Forest Park boasts of a very active PTA that invests in several educational activities for children, keeping the community healthy and fit, relevant funds to classrooms, keeping art enrichment alive via FAMEous, volunteering opportunities for parents and fun activities to get the parents, teachers, and children together.

Stay connected via the PTA and be a role model to your child.

## **Math Olympiad**

The classes will be held in Forest Park school every Tuesday 7 – 8 pm. Please drop off the registration forms with details and fees at drop box labeled “Math Olympiad” in school office or send it to the class teacher. Registration deadline: Oct 12<sup>th</sup> (NO EXCEPTIONS)  
For more details contact: Laxmi Sreedasyam ([laxmismita@gmail.com](mailto:laxmismita@gmail.com))

## **Editor's Note**

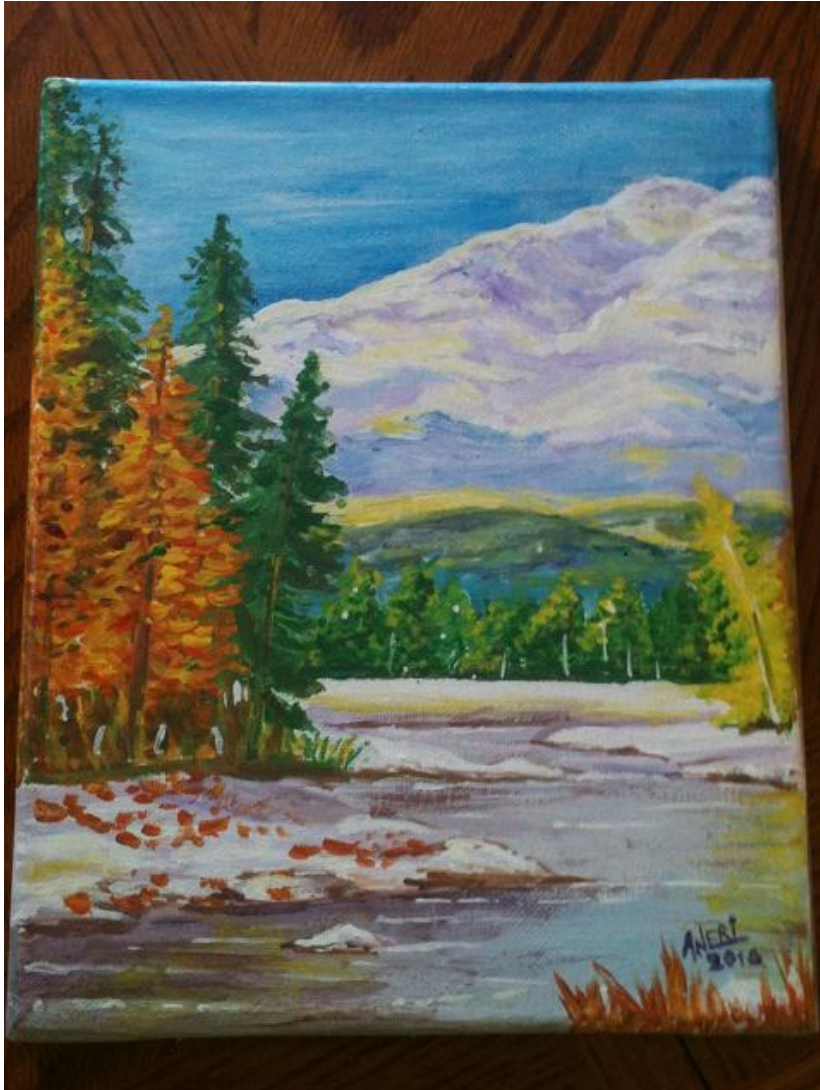
*by Sonali Desai*  
Newsletter Chair

In the following pages you'll find the work of the talented Forest Park students, appearing in the order they were received. Thank you to all those who contributed to this month's newsletter! I hope you enjoy their work and that it inspires other students to contribute each month.

Thank you!

Please scroll down...





Aneri Shah, 6th grade



Elizabeth Cai, grade 1

## POEM

By Aashna Nilawar, 5th Grade

### Sunrise to Sunset

*Written By Aashna Nilawar, 5<sup>th</sup> Gr  
Mr. Gallagher, Rm # 408*

*A poem to describe the Diversity of Nature!!!!*

*We just eagerly wait for the sun up and moon totally down,  
Then set our eyes on that yellow twinkle in which we drown.*

*Sunrise, a glorious glory to start the day with a shine,  
But never too soon for a treasured sunset, so very fine.  
Forcing a gleaming diffusion of many focal, bright colors,  
Sunrise to Sunset,*

*A very magnificent SYSTEM OF SOLARS!*



Aashna Nilawar, 5th Grade



Shilpa Munjuluri, Grade 2



Ishani 1st grade