



PTA Express

Forest Park PTA Newsletter

November 2007

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<http://www.forestparkpta.org/>

Get Smart, Stay Fit and Join PTA!

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Great News! National PTA has awarded a certificate of achievement to our Forest Park PTA in recognition of its outstanding commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle in the school community. The Family Fun Fitness walk was a huge success. We thank all the parent volunteers and our event organizer ANUPAMA SARAF who worked hard to create awareness about health and fitness. Without them, the Family Fun Fitness walk would not have been possible.

Special thanks to all the parents for your generous contribution towards our Jumpstart fundraiser, we were able to raise 60% of the target amount. As a small token of our appreciation we have sent our school calendar magnet to all those who participated in our Jumpstart fundraiser. Hope you find it very useful. Congratulations to Mr. Hogan's class for 100% participation in the Jumpstart. PTA will host a pizza party for his class.

It is not too late to join the PTA. If you are not a member yet, please join us immediately. PTA will sponsor many exciting events such as Movie night, Science Night, Bagels for Fathers, and Muffins for Moms, etc. in coming months. Join PTA and enjoy the events with your family for FREE.

United Nations Day celebration went well and all the kids looked awesome.

Our event pictures are available on our website <http://www.forestparkpta.org>

Have a great Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,
Shobana Ramamurthi
President

Upcoming Events, November 2007

- 1- Coffee with the Principal at 2:15pm in the Library
- 8 - Science Lab Open House in MPR - 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- 12 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- 13 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm in Room 304
- 13 - 16 - Sixth Grade Science Camp
- 19 - 20 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- 21 - 23 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Fundraising News

Holidays are around the corner and PTA is glad to help you make your shopping a little easier. By shopping with Great American Opportunities you can also help us raise money. It is a WIN - WIN opportunity. Our goal is to raise \$17,000.00 in profit, with which we can reach our fund raising target for this year. They have exciting prizes for the top winners like the Ipod Nano, lunches with Principal and pizza parties. Please buy with confidence, as GA is a reputable and trustworthy company. Even your friends and family from out-of-state can buy online and part of the funds would go to your child's classroom and PTA. Their website is <http://www.gafundraising.com>, and the online school code is 456376. Catalogs will go home on Nov. 1st, the orders will be due on Nov. 16th and the items will be delivered in the week of Dec. 10th.

Also, don't forget to cut and turn in the BoxTops.



Have fun shopping.
Email anusaraf2000@gmail.com for any questions.

- Anupama Saraf and Jyoti Patel
Forest Park PTA Fundraising Team

Volunteer News

Special thanks to the following parents for their valuable time and help at the Family Fun Fitness Walk: Janet Thompson, Sridevi Ganti, Anjana Desai, Lalitha Saksleshpur, Ragu Saksleshpur, Hiu Ng, Aditi Honawar, Chantell Costello, Nivi Gupta, Ketki Thanawala, Chitra Jayaraman, Kavitha Agrawal, Reena Balse, Sharmila Roy, Jyoti Patel, Sonal Minawala, Poonam Sahani, Monica Vazirani, Sanjay Vazirani, Krishnaveni Dhamodharan, Nithya Dhamodharan, Selvan Rajan, Nallaperumal, Sneha Salunke, Sharmilee Santhanaraman, Karla Nema, Ria Marate, Richa Marate, Saloni Thanawala, Suveena Thanawala, Lakshmi and Sravya Bhamidipati, Anju Narang, Rehana Roy, Dhiru Patel, Sofia Kooner, Mrs. & Mr. Kooner, Parul Desai, Sangita Baviskar, Beena Nawani, Vama Jhumkhawala, Vanshi Jhumkhawala, Dhurma Jhumkhawala and Mohua De

Also, a big thank you to Priyanka Patel and Hemali Gondhalekar from Stepz Inc. Bollywood dance exercise classes

<http://www.mystepz.com/>

-Forest Park PTA
Fun Fitness Walk Co-ordinators

Harmony Committee News

Harmony committee had its first event for the school year 2007-2008, "United Nations Day Celebration". It was a huge success. Children came dressed in gorgeous, colorful costumes of their heritage and carried flags of different countries from around the world. Students from Mrs. Munro's, Mrs. Ordonez's, and Miss. Young's class and Forest Park chorus performed in the assembly.

We celebrated "Red Ribbon" week from the 22nd to 26th of October. Students made posters and learned about the adverse effects of drugs, in the classrooms. PTA decorated the school with red ribbons and Anti-drug banners. PTA distributed red band for kids to wear at the beginning of the week and red licorice at the end of the week.

We would like to thank the following parents for their help during the United Nations Day celebration and Red Ribbon Week:

United Nations Day -

Shobana Ramamurthy, Sonal Minawala, Meenakshi Umesh

Red Ribbon Week -

Shobana Ramamurthy, Sonal Minawala, Nimesh Minawala

Meenakshi Umesh, Umesh Jagannatha, Sharmilee Santhanaraman, Dheeraj Patel, Jyothi Patel Farzanah Riaziat-Sharifi

- Sonal Minawala & Meenakshi Umesh
Harmony Committee

Membership News

This year, Forest Park has a healthy number of members in the PTA so far! YOU have helped us exceed our membership over last year and your children's classrooms and school activities will be enriched by your joining. It is still not too late to join, if you have not had a chance to do so yet. Please use the envelope that was sent home with your child at the beginning of the year, or bring a check or cash into the front office and complete your forms there. We look forward to your joining!

Chantel Costello
Karla Nema
Membership Committee

Students' Section

Here are this year's fifth grader entries for the PTA newsletter. We did not receive many entries this time either.

We hope to have better participation from the fourth graders! All **fourth grade entries** for the December PTA newsletter are due by **Friday, 30th of November 2007**. Once again, the categories are Poetry, Comic strip, Drawing, and Fiction. Entries must not be longer than half a page. Cartoons and drawings must be done on plain white paper, preferably in black or blue ink.

Congratulations and thank you to this month's participants for their wonderful work!

Trick or Treat, by Sanika Paranjape, Room 406

Witches, ghosts, and goblins too
Ring our doorbell and say, "Boo!"
I am so scared, I jump a mile,
Then start laughing, with a big smile.
I reach in the bowl and pull out some sweets,
Then they smile and say, "Trick or Treat!"

The Advice of a Life Time, by Sanil Gupta, Mr. Ford's 5th Grade class

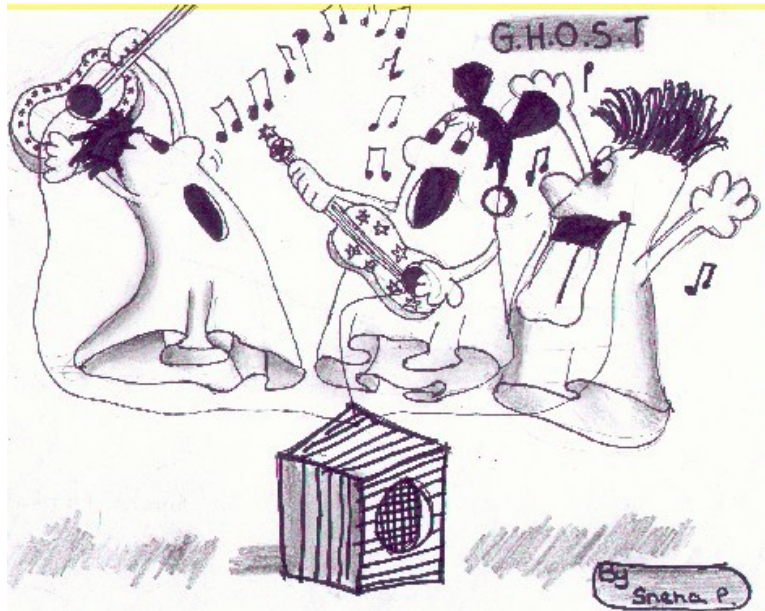
"At this early age you cannot have well defined goals but only dreams". That is what my grandfather, Arvind Appasaheb Deshpande, taught me. My Aba (what I call my grandfather) was born on June 3, 1936 when India was ruled by the British. He was home schooled till the age of 10 and then sent to a boarding school. While in school, he met Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India.

During his lifetime, he traveled to Europe and USA for a Liberal Party Conference. He was asked by Jayaprakash Narayan, the great Indian Gandhian leader, to work for Trusteeship Foundation and for his Movement. He was also invited to be a member of a team selected by the Ford Foundation to visit South East Asia to study the practice of philanthropy and public charity there. He also was a witness to the horrible Hindu-Muslim riots in Mumbai. He spent his 60th birthday with the Dalai Lama, the extraordinary leader from Tibet.

Aba has made a very profound effect on my life and being a Gemini like him, he says that persistence is something we have to cultivate since a Gemini would like to do ten things at the same time. Concentration, integrity, patience and application can work wonders is what he says. I am indeed blessed to have this great man as my grandfather.

As he has told me, "Life is a game of cards. You did not invent the game nor did you frame the rules. You have no control over the cards dealt to you. But you are there to play. A good player even with a bad hand of cards will play well and emerge a winner. A bad player with the best of cards will play badly and lose."

Cartoon, by Sneha Patkar, 5th Grade



If Wishes Could Fly, by Tanya Berry, Room 404

Sitting lone in this cage
Beyond anybody's gauge,
How I wish I could fly free
High over land and over the sea.

I long to hop from tree to tree
To see the world's paradise around me,
To soar high towards the glorious sun, and
Meet my friends and have some fun.

I yearn to see waves crash on the shore,
Fluttering and searching for food evermore.
I hope to breathe a fresh, new place, or
Perhaps take a journey through space.

I dream of gliding over the towering city, but
I shall not cry and seek no pity.
I wish for luck upon a falling star
For just one chance to fly high and far.

I will wait for my day of delight
While I seek solace in my plight, and
Forget all about life's worry, and
Say yes to life and be forever merry.