



# PTA Express

## Forest Park PTA Newsletter

### October 2007

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

### Get Smart, Stay Fit and Join PTA!

<p style="text-align: center;">2007-2008 <b>Executive Board &amp; Committee Chairs:</b></p> <p><u>President</u> Shobana Ramamurthi</p> <p><u>Vice President</u> Janet Thompson</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> Lalitha Sakleshpur</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Sridevi Ganti</p> <p><u>Auditor</u> Ketki Thanawala</p> <p><u>Financial Secretary</u> Nivi Gupta</p> <p><u>Historian</u> Aditi Honawar</p> <p><u>Parliamentarian</u> Kavita Agrawal</p> <p><u>School Administration</u> Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Evans Mrs. Munro &amp; Mr. House</p> <p><u>Fundraising</u> Anupama Saraf &amp; Jyoti Patel</p> <p><u>Membership</u> Chantel Costello &amp; Karla Nema</p> <p><u>Reflections</u> Sharmila Roy &amp; Chitra Jayaraman</p> <p><u>Hospitality</u> Reena Balse &amp; Shelly Dunn</p> <p><u>Health &amp; Safety</u> Hiu Ng &amp; Phil Humphreys</p> <p><u>Harmony</u> Meenakshi Umesh &amp; Sonal Minawala</p> <p><u>Volunteer Coordination</u> Monica Vazirani &amp; Poonam Sahani</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u> Ciny Joy</p> <p><u>Event Photographer</u> Sanjay Vazirani</p>	<p><b>PTA Calendar 2007 - 2008 :</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                 October 16 November 13 January 15 February 19             </td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                 March 18 April 15 May 20             </td> </tr> </table> <p>Forest Park PTA is now online !</p> <p>Forest Park PTA has a brand new website at <a href="http://www.forestparkpta.org">http://www.forestparkpta.org</a>. From here, you can access information about Forest Park PTA news, upcoming school events, membership benefits, view the different programs PTA supports and download the JumpStart Fundraiser form. You can also send in any issues/comments/suggestions you have about the PTA, sign up to volunteer at different events, take the PTA survey and contact any PTA Officer or Committee chair. Visit us on the web and stay connected !</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Forest Park PTA Executive Board.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Membership News</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome Parents and Teachers to our new school year 2007-2008.</p> <p>The Forest Park PTA has sent information to you inviting you to join PTA and ensure your children and you receive the valuable benefits that are offered to better your child's education. This year PTA will focus on learning about health. You can join PTA by enclosing the membership fee of \$9.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple in the membership envelopes included in your child's Friday folder last week. Membership should be renewed every year. We have received many memberships and we thank you, but we are still not at our goal. Please take advantage of becoming a member so our school and your children will have a healthy year at Forest Park!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chantel Costello and Karla Neema Membership Co-Chairs</p>	October 16 November 13 January 15 February 19	March 18 April 15 May 20	<p><b>Upcoming Events, October 2007:</b></p> <p>7 – PTA Fitness Walk 8am –11:30am 9 - Coffee with the Principal in Library @ 8:30am 16 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm 19 - UN Day Celebration 22 - 26 - Red Ribbon Week 26 – Science Camp Fundraiser @ Kids Castle 6pm -10 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>President's Message</u></p> <p>Welcome back to another terrific year in Forest Park Elementary. PTA has planned many new programs for our children this year. Our first major event for the year is "Family Fun Fitness Walk" on Sunday, October 7th, 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Our aim is to create awareness about healthy life style amongst our students and our community since our goal for this year is to promote health and fitness. Look out for three more new events this year "Muffins For Moms", "Fruits For Fathers" and "Family Fitness Nights". If you have not joined PTA yet, please join us immediately and make use of all the benefits that PTA offers you and your family. I hope everyone took the opportunity to help the PTA and your classroom teacher by sending in your generous contribution to Jumpstart. If you have already turned in your contribution please accept our sincere gratitude, If you have not done so we strongly urge you to send in your donations soon. 80% of all the jumpstart funds go directly to your teacher and they need this money to provide your child with all the materials for their instruction. Thanks for turning in your survey, it will help us serve you better. If you have any questions please feel free to contact any one of our board members or me. For more information kindly visit our web site at <a href="http://www.forestparkpta.org">www.forestparkpta.org</a></p> <p>Sincerely, Shobana Ramamurthi President</p> <p>A special thanks to all our sponsors for their generous contributions, without whom the Family Fun Fitness Walk would not have been possible.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Kaiser Permanente, Joyce He ( Bay One Real Estate ), Kids' Castle, Namaste India, Lifestretch Yoga, Safeway</i></p>
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### PTA sponsored Reflections program

Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Making art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents.

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted. Students may enter more than one work of art. The six areas are as follows:

- \* Literature
- \* Photograph
- \* Dance Choreography
- \* Musical composition
- \* Visual art
- \* Film/Video Production

**To receive an entry form and informational packet, please contact the school office.**

For additional information please visit  
[www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm](http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm)

Thank you,  
Sharmila Roy & Chitra Jayaraman  
Reflections Co-Chairs

Forest Park will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week this month. It is never too early to teach our kids to say No to Drugs. According to the annual study funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, illicit drug use among students has declined significantly in the past five years. But drug abuse remains a serious problem. In many cases the young people are not fully aware of the risks involved. So we should try our best to educate them, to ensure they make the right decisions growing up. As with any topic, while talking to your child, it would be good to follow the 4 steps of effective communication as stated by PTA Parent Talk publication – Listen, Reflect, Share your own views and Discuss.

### FAME-ous

This year we have another fun filled year ahead enriching the kids with art and music.

In October, Grades K-2 will learn about Paul Klee a Swiss artist and George Frideric Handel a famous composer. They will also get a chance to work on a fun project where they will learn how to create abstract painting using textured paint. This experience will be enhanced as they listen to famous works by Handel. Grades 3-6 will learn about Claude Monet a French famous artist and listen to the compositions of Georges Bizet. They will also get a chance to work on a watercolor project recreating one of Monet's famous masterpieces. In November the presentations will be switched.

- Anjana Desai & Sharmila Roy  
FAME-ous Co-ordinators

Our Jumpstart Fundraiser continues to get a lot of support from many wonderful giving parents, because of whom we have reached 60% of our goal so far. This fundraiser is especially beneficial to the teachers and funds other important events and activities at school for your children. So, if you haven't donated yet please do so now! It's not too late...

We are going to give each Jumpstart Supporter a cool calendar magnet that has all the important days related to school highlighted. Classes with 100% Jumpstart donations are awarded a Pizza Party, yummy!! So far, we have had only one class qualifying, and we are hoping to have some more 100% participation classes ...

Thank you,  
Anupama Saraf & Jyoti Patel  
Forest Park Fundraising Team

### Students' Section

Here is the first ever Forest Park PTA newsletter students' section. It was the sixth graders turn this time. We did not receive many entries. Congratulations and thank you to all the participants for their wonderful work!

#### **Summer Days by Revati Kapshikar**

Summer days, long and sunny,  
Selling lemonade, making money  
When the sun shines, around the clock,  
Where the kids play throughout the block, but  
It's all too good to last.

Summer twilight, beneath the starlight,  
Camping out in the open,  
Roasting marshmallows, on a blazing campfire,  
Of this, we will never tire, 'cause  
It's all too good to last.

Summer days, pass by swiftly,  
It's back to school, much too quickly,  
It's true that summer goes too fast, 'cause  
It's all too good to last!



## TIME TROUBLE by Adrija Darsha, Room 505

Ahh. I just sat down with a cup of steaming hot cocoa and turned on the TV, when I heard a peculiar noise. Zoom! I jumped up startled. The hot cocoa spilled on my new mini skirt. "Oh man! This cost \$75," I sighed. I slumped up to the front door to find out what the noise was. "Hmm. That's weird." All I saw was some dust weed tumbling across the street. I went back to the TV to watch Pirates of the Caribbean when I heard the noise again. This time I rushed to the door, but unfortunately, I tripped over my brother's dumb blocks. I limped all the way to the door and saw what looked like a time machine! I ran to the contraption thing. I knew I swore to stay in the house while my parents and brother were out of town, but I just couldn't resist. I hopped into the vehicle and pushed a few random buttons. The next thing I knew, a group of Stone Age people were surrounding me. "I think I blacked out," I said to them. "Huh?" they said in unison. "Ie theenk iie blaaked owt," I tried to translate. "Ooh ooh ah ah ohh," one hairy looking guy shrieked at the top of his lungs. "O-K now it is time for bye-bye." A Stone age guy shouted and danced like a maniac! I was on my way back to the time machine, when I realized it wasn't there. I searched frantically looking under every stone and rock I could find. After a few hours or so, I just gave up. I dropped to the ground and dozed away. When I opened my eyes, I found myself tied to a long stick, on fire! The Stone Age people were going to fry me up like a turkey! As they were rolling me about the fire, I gasped at the sight of the time machine all the way in a cave across the amazon River. Good Lord, I'm in Brazil! Guess the geography homework paid off after all. I started to swat, when I thought of an idea. "Look behind you, a precious gold nugget." I laughed as I jumped and ran towards the cave. I sprinted through the forests and jungles and thought, "NOTHING is going to come between me and the time machine, except for that." I had come to a deep canyon and just across it was the time machine. "Wait a minute, I could pole vault across this canyon!" I remembered I still had a long stick stuck to my back. I backed up for a second and prayed that I would make it to the other side in one piece. I took a running start and jumped. "Whooh, I'm flying!" I screamed. Suddenly I began to drop. "I am going to die," I cried. I made my way to the other side of the canyon and grasped a ledge. Nice to see rock climbing can save a life, I thought. I finally made my way to the top of the barrier, and pulled myself up. I was relieved to see the time machine in perfect condition. I studied the controls and figured out I had to press the date I wanted to go to and pull the crimson knob to the year. Then press START. I typed in 09/27 but something must have gone wrong because I ended up in the year 3007. "Not again," I groaned. All the people around me were dressed in snow-white jump suits and shimmering belts. Everybody stared at me as if I am from some other planet. One girl about two or three years older than me came up to me and said, "That is my time machine, I lost it some where in the ancient times of the 21<sup>st</sup> century!" "Um..can you give me a ride to the so called ancient times of America?" I asked. "Oh! How rude of me, I forgot to introduce myself. I am Emma Elizabeth Janet," said the girl in a deep British accent. She was very well-mannered. "I am Savannah," I replied. "Now could you give me a ride back to the 21<sup>st</sup> century?" I was beginning to become impatient. "Oh but wouldn't you like a tour of the 31<sup>st</sup> century," Emma offered. "Well, it wouldn't hurt," I said, "I've got all the time in the world." Emma showed me the Auto shop where you could buy time machines and space cars. She also showed me Justice 3000 for Girls, a shop where girls buy their electronic wardrobe organizers and stylish clothes. My personal favorite store that Emma showed me was Glitter, Sparkle, and spice. Everything there was shiny and sparkly, even the floor! At last, Emma gave me a ride back to home sweet home. I suddenly awoke. My mom was right beside me! I began to blabber about the Stone Age and Emma and the time machine. My mom told me that I must have had a crazy dream. When she left the room, I felt something hard on my back. It was a long stick. "Oh, brother!" I flopped back into bed and slept for a long long time.

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### Note:

Next month it is the **fifth graders** turn to submit material for the PTA newsletter students' section. All submissions must be done by the **26<sup>th</sup> of October**. We hope to get a better turn out next time. Once again, the categories are Poetry, Comic strip, Drawing & 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.

Last but not least, a big "thank you" to all the volunteers who make Forest Park School and Forest Park PTA function so well. Thank you to Sridevi Ganti, Meenakshi Umesh, Shelly Dunn, Monica Dunn, Natalie Dunn, Kavita Agrawal, Trisha Agrawal, Saisha Agrawal, Shobana Ramamurthi, Aditi Honawar, Ria Marathe, Richa Marathe, Rathika Verma, Anupama Saraf, Vihan Saraf, Arul Saraf, Ram Selvan, Akhil Ganti, Lata Yegappan, Gautam Yegappan, Aditya Umesh, Chantel Costello & Jason Costello for first day packet preparation.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped out with the hearing and vision test and with Picture day!