



Forest PTA Footnotes ...

February 2010

PTA Presidents Corner

Thank you to all who attended our January meeting. We certainly had lots to talk about. For those, of you who could not make it, here are a few topics we discussed: Bookbinding project (Anyone handy with a sewing machine? Any crafters? We could use your help. If interested contact me or Lisa Sukenik); Cultural Arts Day (we are in need of a few more volunteers for this); and a special visitor. Tom Herbster, newly elected to the School Board (and former Forest PTA President) joined us. He plans on attending all meetings that he can. Stop by February 16th and meet him.

Mark your calendars for the final classroom parties of the year. Thursday February 11th will be the Valentine's Day Parties. More information will come from the Head Room Parents soon.

For those of you who don't know, PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association and that is truly what we have at Forest- a great team of teachers and parents! When PTA gets involved, all children benefit. When you get involved in PTA, the child who benefits most is yours!

Thank you,
Shari Kasarcik
PTA President 2009-2010
skasarcik@hotmail.com
(440) 779-9608



Calendar of Events

February

- 2 Parent / Teacher Conferences
- 12 Teacher Comp Day – No Students
- 15 Presidents Day – No School
- 16 Forest PTA - 7:00 PM – Media Center
- 22 Interim Reports go home

March

- 16 Forest PTA - 7:00 PM – Media Center
- 26 End of 3rd Nine Weeks
- 29 Spring Vacation 3/29 thru 4/5

Principal's Corner *From Mr. Monnin*

Greetings and hello from Forest! We are off to a great start for our second semester of the school year. Did I say second semester? Where did the first semester go? WOW. Time flies when you are working hard and having fun. Our staff and students are working harder than ever in their classrooms. As we continue to help our students reach their potential, we ask for your continued support at home. We truly are a team and together we can help our students achieve the most growth.

I wish you a great February. Please call or email if you have any questions.

School supply kits

We are contracting with a company for the purpose of buying school supplies for students. You as a parent can either go shopping to all of your favorite stores over the summer to buy your child supplies, or you can buy a school supply kit through EPI. It's convenient and saves time. You'll spend a little bit more for the kit, but the headaches of lines and time and shopping aren't there. Look for info coming in the near future.

Donate Those Old Cell Phones and Other Items!

The North Olmsted High School Computer Club and Science Olympiad are conducting a recycling fundraiser. There's nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to protect the environment by donating your used cellular phone(s), ink jet cartridge(s), laptop / notebook computer(s), iPod(s), digital camera(s) and digital video camera(s). Your used item(s) may be tax deductible and will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and sold. 100% of the proceeds will help fund competitions and activities to enhance our students' knowledge of science and technology. Donations may be brought to Forest School and placed in the donation box in the mail hallway. We greatly appreciate your support!

Parent / Teacher Conferences

At the time you are reading this, we have already held our first night of conferences. Our 2nd night of conferences is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2nd. Please make plans to attend at the time your classroom teacher has scheduled for you. Your involvement in your child's education is crucial. Your communication with the teacher is equally as important. Thanks in advance for blocking out this time and attending conferences.

New Student Teacher

We have a special guest joining us for the next few months. Ms. Denise Deccola is a student at Cleveland State University, and is in her final semester towards a teaching license. Her final step is to complete her student teaching experience, and Mrs. Ann Benik has accepting her into her 3rd grade classroom with open arms. Ms. Deccola will be assisting in the classroom over the next few weeks, taking on more teaching responsibilities as time goes on. She is excited to be here and we're excited to have her. Mrs. Benik will be a fantastic model teacher for Ms. Deccola, and are students will truly benefit from the experience. She'll be with us until the beginning of May. Welcome Ms. Deccola!

All School Field Trip

On January 13th, all of our students had the opportunity to go and see a special stage performance titled, "**The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites**," at the Ohio Theater. Our students represented North Olmsted well. Over 700 students were present to see the show. The actors brought three different books to life, and the show was very interactive, which the children loved. At the end of the show, the actors answered questions from the children. They also demonstrated how they made their puppets move and work. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the trip down, and to all of our parent volunteers who helped chaperone the event. It truly was a super experience.

Making a Difference! (January)

Below is a list of the students who have received the “I Have Made a Difference” Award during the month of January! They have been recognized by their teacher or by another staff member who caught them making good choices, treating someone kindly, etc. Their names are on display on our family tree outside the gym. CONGRATULATIONS!

Yahia Allan	Leah Allen	Yousef Ayad	Faris Ayyad
Sarah Biddulph	Sofia Buckley	Evan Bunch	Alec Campana
Gabriella Croston	Melissa Crunk	Daniel Donovan	Ava Fabian
Om Heer	Brandon Huebler	Etedal Jaber	Evan Johr
Natalie Kennedy	Steven Lappe	Gillian Lewis	Fatima Malkieh
Collin Mergel	Emily Osborne	Kyra Pallotta	Nicole Perkins
Amanda Powers	Kollin Reddinger	Ayat Shahin	Tasneem Shoman
Conessa Stout	Ericson Stout	Marissa Suhayda	Sydney Sukenik
Emily Wasen	Alexander Wellman	Jack Wiebusch	Seneen Yasin
Sidhanth Venkatasubramaniam			



Forest Physical Education (*Mr. Korinchak, PE Instructor*)

The students at Forest have been doing an outstanding job participating in their Physical Education classes. They have been learning many skills, lead-up games and activities that will make them successful in their future education. Along the way, they are gaining valuable lessons in cooperation, teamwork, how practice is necessary to improve and the importance of physical fitness in their lives.

January is one of my favorite teaching months due to the fact that I enjoy teaching a 2-week basketball unit. In this unit, the students are taught proper dribbling and passing skills that are needed the game of basketball. They are taught correct form and practice using varied dribbles (right hand, left hand, cross-over etc.) both to music and during various lead-up games such as “Dribble Knockout”, “Dribble Freeze” and “Dribble Elimination”. The “bounce pass” is worked on both as an individual skill and one used during a dribble. Students then enjoy taking their learned skills into a game setting and participate with enthusiasm in the above lead-up games.

In the upcoming month of February, Forest students will be working on throwing skills using kooshballs, then proceed to very basic Hockey related skills and finally an Aerobic fitness week where students will move to music to increase physical fitness. During this month, students will play games such as Squad Tag, Hockey Lane Relays, Cage Ball Kick Over and Target Ball Throw.

Lastly, a quick plug for the year ending school “Fun Day” scheduled at years end. It will be here before we know it and I hope you would consider volunteering for this special day that all Forest students look forward to. Further information will be provided in the near future. Thank you for your support.



Music Notes... *(Mrs. Ruple, Music Instructor)*

Thanks to all the parents who supported the activities of our musicians before the holiday break! The second grader's concert brought smiles to area seniors with their songs and "kisses" (the candy kind!). The dreidle game was a huge hit with all classes thanks to the generosity of parents who provided prizes.

Now, the spotlight will be on our third graders who will present the musical, *Compose Yourself* on Feb. 25 at N. Olmsted Middle School. Great composers from the past will come to life on stage to help students with a music class report. This excellent program will hopefully bring classical music to life for everyone in the audience. Chorus members will look "Classical" in their black pants and shirts with false tuxedo fronts pinned on. Composers will have authentic looking costumes that give us a glimpse of what life was like centuries ago. Join us for this "historic" event!



Art Education *(Mr. Cherney, Art Instructor)*

Art Class continues to be an exciting place and time with learning taking place in many areas. All classes have been learning about famous artists of the month and I am very happy to say that a large majority of the students already have some familiarity with famous art. Parents, families and friends have a lot to do with this and I believe many would be quite surprised by their knowledge of artists such as Eric Carle, Maurice Sendak, Alexander Calder and Auguste Rodin (who made the famous Thinker statue at the Cleveland Museum of Art).

Along with learning about famous artists, the popular ARTIST OF THE MONTH program continues to recognize students who are working hard to be creative, kind to others and responsible children. The art room has a growing 'art library' consisting of all types of books that students may use when they finish projects early. I strongly encourage reading along with art as positive ways for students to spend time. A recent library book sale has allowed me to personally add more books and I always encourage donations of appropriate reading material for this age group.

At the art tables themselves students have been busy with a wide variety of projects. First graders have been doing many seasonal projects and are now working on creating their own ART CLASS MEMORY CARD GAME and the excitement and learning is progressing at very high levels right now. The second graders have been working on projects that involve book-making, big imagination and even making gifts for others that were used in conjunction with music class and a field trip. Upcoming second grade projects involve a lot of art that focuses on color and the use of new art techniques. The third graders have been working especially hard and show some of the most positive and grown-up attitudes I have seen in a while. We are busy learning about landscapes, light in the day and the night and what our world really looks like. Just around the corner is one of the favorite group projects of the year where teams of third graders must solve a creative puzzle and build a project within one single class period. Results of that will soon be in the office display case at the front of the school.

As always I work very hard to have math, reading, social studies and healthy habits to be a core or what happens here in the art room. While the outward signs of what we do here may show themselves in paint, clay and paper, my goal is that the best new creations show in what all of these fine children become as they grow toward becoming adults.



Thanks to everyone who ordered in January. Your purchases really make a difference for our fundraiser. This February Market Day is having a raffle for a **\$25 Market Day gift certificate** for all those who purchase cookie dough. Get your cookie dough order for after school snacks, weekend treats, or special events. They are easy to prepare and no fuss. Just place them on a cookie sheet, bake and *OH! SO GOOD!*

Market Day pick up is on **February 11th** at 6pm. Have your order forms in by **February 3rd** and internet orders in by **February 6th**.

We are also offering to our frequent buyers a chance to earn a *Mite n' Mighty Stool*. If you buy 3 times between February and April and spend at least \$40, you will receive a free Mite n' Mighty stool at your May sale.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist at Market Day pick up. Please call Mindi at (440) 716-3262 if you can help.

Thank you

Mindi Doucette - 716-3262 Kim Rahm - 777-1002 Colleen Bengele - 777-2341



Box Top News

The Box Top contest was a real success for the students of Forest. The school collected over \$500 in Box Tops for the contest. I will post the winner in March's newsletter as well as sending a note out the first week of February. The current leaders after 3 weeks are Mrs. Horning's class, Mrs. Phillip's, Mrs. Dailey, and Mrs. Jamieson. Thank you to all who contributed to the contest, we really appreciate your support.

Giant Eagle is having a 15 and 20 Bonus Box Top promotion during the month of February. To receive 15 Bonus Box Tops, you must purchase 4 boxes of Cheerios any variety in a single transaction. To receive the 20 Bonus Box Tops, you must purchase any 5 Kleenex brand products in a single transaction.

Thank you

Colleen Bengele
Box Top Coordinator

NORTH OLMSTED STUDENT WINS NATIONAL WRITING CONTEST

Madison McDermott, a First Grade student at Forest Primary, has won the December prize of the national Exquisite Prompt writing contest sponsored by Washington, D.C.-based Reading Rockets and AdLit.org.

The Exquisite Prompt contest features monthly writing challenges inspired by the 18 authors and illustrators participating in the Exquisite Corpse Adventure, a rollicking new serial story conceived by the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance that's unfolding on the Library of Congress website, www.read.gov.

"Our Exquisite Prompt contest was designed to give kids a chance to flex their writing muscles," says Tina Chovanec, director of Reading Rockets. "It's also a great way for them to learn more about some of the best children's authors and illustrators around."

Madison's work will be published on the two websites and she will receive a collection of books. Madison's name will also be entered into a grand prize drawing for an author's visit to her school via Skype.

The Exquisite Prompt contest is a series of monthly writing challenges designed for kids in grades K-12. Students can select just one of the monthly challenges or try a new challenge every month. The prompts are based on the works or the lives of the 18 participating authors and illustrators and the project can be used in conjunction with, or independent of, the Exquisite Corpse Adventure.

The writing prompts for December were inspired by Susan Cooper and James Ransome. Madison's winning entry was inspired by author Susan Cooper and work done in the classroom where students practiced using descriptive words and analogies in their writing.

There are still more chances to participate. A schedule of monthly prompts through June 2010 is available. For more details, rules and submission requirements, visit http://www.adlit.org/fun/writing_contests/exquisite_prompt_challenge

AdLit.org and Reading Rockets are national multimedia projects that offer information and resources to the parents and educators of struggling readers and writers. Both projects are educational initiatives of WETA Washington D.C., the flagship public television and radio station in the nation's capital.

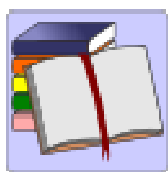
AdLit.org, which targets adolescent readers and writers, is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and by the Ann B. and Thomas L. Friedman Family Foundation. Reading Rockets, which focuses on helping beginning readers, is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

From Fund Raising Committee

Looking for a fun night out or a gift for that hard to buy for person? Dave & Buster's \$10 and \$20 Power Cards will be available soon. As a bonus, there is no activation fee (for those of you who have been there, that's a savings of \$2.00 per card); they never expire; they are good at any Dave & Buster's in the United States; and most importantly - a percentage of sales benefits our school directly! A more detailed letter and order form will come home within the next two weeks, so use this time to make a list of who would like to have some fun. Please keep an eye out for the info.

Thanks,

Shawn Kolesar



Forest Spring Book Fair by Usborne Books

The Usborne "Reading Is A Gift" Book Fair is coming to Forest Elementary in March. Usborne Books are entertaining and educational. Their interactive style increases reading comprehension and makes learning fun!

The "Reading Is A Gift" Book Fair starts on Monday, March 15th and runs through Thursday, March 18th. Hours are 9 am - 4 pm daily, with additional evening hours on Tuesday, March 16th, from 6:30 - 9 pm. Students will visit the Book Fair during their library classes, and may purchase books at that time. Parents, family and friends are welcome at any of the above times! A percentage of the profits from this sale will benefit our Forest School Library. Teachers will also create their own "Wish Lists" providing parents and visitors an opportunity to make donations to the classroom libraries.

You can preview the entire collection of Usborne Books, as well as make purchases online, at www.thejoyofreading.com. Be sure to select **Forest Elementary in the upper right-hand corner before shopping**. Please forward this link to your friends and family. Every purchase will provide additional funds for our school. There will be a small shipping charge for books ordered online.

The goal of Usborne Books is to encourage reading and promote literacy while raising money and/or books for our school. Usborne offers commercial free quality books at great prices!

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Book Fair. If interested, please contact Shari Kasarcik at 440.779.9608.

Newsletter

Submissions for the March newsletter are due February 16th. Please E-Mail them to:

dbengele1@gmail.com