



# Forest Park Press

June 2010

A Publication of the Forest Park PTA

## From the Principal's Desk

The end of every school year is an exciting time. It is a time that we ready ourselves for Oregon sun, a change in our routines, and a close to the current school year with summer vacation goodbyes to friends and teachers. The end of the school year is also a time of growth. It is a time when our children and teachers reflect on the success of the past year and the end of the current grade level. It is a time of celebration, passing our fifth graders on to middle school and welcoming the joy of friends, family, summer, and sun into our lives.



We'll Miss You Mr. C!

For Forest Park, this summer is one of change. I say a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to Anne Hasson and Pat Smith. After a combined 74 years of dedicating their lives to children, Anne and Pat have announced their retirement. We will greatly miss seeing Anne and Pat in the halls of Forest Park, at staff meetings, on lunch duty, eating in the cafeteria and teaching the 4th grade. Know you will be greatly missed and that we all wish only the best of every day in your newfound lives.

This year I also say goodbye to Forest Park School, students, teachers, staff, and parents. After seven years at Forest Park, it is time for me to experience the next move in my own professional life. My decision to leave was not a simple one. For the past seven years, I have had the true honor and pleasure of working alongside Portland Public Schools' finest! I have collected and saved many stories from my time at Forest Park, stories that make me smile, laugh and cry. Stories that inspire me as a teacher, a parent, a friend, and a lifelong learner. I thank you for all those stories and wish, as I have for seven years, that your summer (and the years ahead) are filled with family, friends, sun, and laughter. May your summer days be safe and warm.

All my best,  
Mr. C  
aka Kevin Crotchett

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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Friday	6/11	Field Day
Tuesday	6/15	Last Day of School for Students!

Have a safe and fun Summer! See you September 7th—First Day of School!

Any questions over the summer? Refer to the new school website:  
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/forestpark/>

# From the PTA President's Desk and PTA News



It seems as if I just wrote my first letter of the school year for the Forest Park Press. But now the end of the school year is upon us. The children seem to have a little less homework, there are lots of field trips and excited talk about end-of-the-year activities, and I am asking myself every school morning, "Do I have to make lunches again?"

By this time of the year we are all ready for a different routine. Summer will soon be upon us. The kids will be playing outside, hopefully in the sunshine. We will go on our vacations, we will have to drive our children to their various camps, the house will be a mess because the kids are there all the time, they will start to get on each other's nerves and our own. Wait, did I just say I was looking forward to the end of the school routine? I guess there are pros and cons to every situation.

I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the school carnival. The carnival represents what is best about Forest Park Elementary. The major event is possible because of many, many volunteers planning it and working at it. It is a community, not just a school, event. Every year we see young families as well as neighborhood middle schoolers enjoy the festivities. Local businesses get involved and offer food. Each year the social committee does a fantastic job, rain or shine, of providing us all with a wonderful time. Thank you to Julii Chin and Erin Vick, the social committee co-chairs, and to all the volunteers, for their time and effort.

I send a big thank you to all school volunteers. A lot of what happened this year at Forest Park could not have been done without you. Total hours logged into the sign-in computer: 6,022! And we all know that the system does not track the many hours we spend working at home. I would guess that the number would be twice that, about 12,000 hours. There are approximately 300 families at FPE, so that means each family volunteered 40 hours. Amazing!

The end of the school year means that we will be saying "good-bye" and "good luck" to Mr. C. as he continues his career at Arleta in Southeast Portland. The school community would like to say thank you Mr. C. Thank you for your time and dedication to our children, for insisting that art be a part of their school experience, for passionately keeping our children safe, for empowering people to change things that needed to be changed, for supporting the many PTA requests, for reading to the students, for knowing the students' names, for smiling above the din, for finding a way to implement the latest technology, for attending many school performances, for knowing how to stack chairs, for offering different perspectives, for speaking openly and honestly about matters close to your heart, for making sure that we considered all possibilities and for constantly challenging us to do better.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We will miss you!

Cheers,  
*Laura*

Thank you and welcome to our newest member of the Forest Park Press editorial team!

I have had a wonderful year working with Marianne Chin to publish the Forest Park Press and would like to thank Marianne, Mr. C, Laura Lambert and all of the enthusiastic contributors to the press!

For the 2010-11 school year, I am going to be handing off my press duties to Marianne and Linda Mai-Lotti. Please join me in welcoming Linda to Forest Park Press team!

~ Sue Anne Bravo

# PTA News



## Forest Park Leads the Way to a Waste-Free Cafeteria

Not that long ago, students at Forest Park – and all other Portland Public schools - were served lunches on Styrofoam trays eaten with disposable plastic eating utensils. In a year, an estimated 3.9 million Styrofoam trays from district schools were sent to landfills.

Thanks to hard-working members of the school’s Green Team, students at Forest Park today are served lunches on washable trays, eaten with washable silverware. Parent volunteers had generously donated their time to wash the trays after lunches each day, but now cafeteria leader Kim Camara has taken over those duties as part of her paid district position.

PPS has cautiously followed Forest Park’s successful mission to replace disposable trays with eco-friendly washable ones and has now pledged to transition to permanent lunch trays throughout the district.

“Samantha should be so proud of her efforts,” said parent Deena Baldino, referring to Green Team volunteer Samantha Fishman. “Her initiative and dedication to the cause started the ball rolling for a district-wide transition.”

Thank you to all of the volunteers who are keeping Forest Park green.

## Not Too Early to Think About “Reflections”

For those ambitious students who want to get a jump on next year’s Reflections program, a new theme has been selected. It is “Together We Can.”

The PTA program is an opportunity for students to create a piece of work reflecting this theme. Their work may use any of these eight formats: Dance, Film, Literature, Music, Photography, Theater, Three-Dimensional Arts, Visual Arts.

Rules and size restrictions apply for each category. Please refer to the PTA Reflections section on the school website for this year's information.

## Have a Shed You’d Like to Shed?

**Wanted:** A gardening shed to store tools and supplies for the school garden.

The ideal donated shed would be just big enough for tools, gloves, watering cans, etc. It should be lockable and able to withstand the elements.

For more information, contact Samantha Fishman [samlf@comcast.net](mailto:samlf@comcast.net) or 503-432-8592.



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# FPE News

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## "Happy Trails" from Ms. Smith and Ms. Hasson

Dear Forest Park Families,

We have come to the end of our trail. For the past 12 years, Forest Park has been our home, family, and life. We have experienced many comings and goings. Now it is our turn as we enter our next stage in life – **retirement**. After 74 combined years of teaching, our tattered trail guides - held together with rubber bands and paper clips, and dotted with post-it notes - will soon be referred to as antiques.

We take with us friendships, memories and a few gray hairs. When the dust settles and we are left alone in our classrooms on June 15<sup>th</sup>, it will hit home that we are loading our wagons for the last time.

Forest Park has entrusted us with many children over the years, each one bringing a special gift. We have watched your children grow, learn and glow with each new achievement. We have lived, loved, laughed, studied, played, and enriched our lives through all of you. We shall always retain a little of each other and we will fondly remember you all for the times you supported, loved and spoiled us. If we should meet years from now, a light will spring into our eyes, a smile to our lips, and we shall feel that bond that we feel today. For this we are thankful.

Please remember we shall always be interested in your children and their destinies, whatever they become and wherever they go.

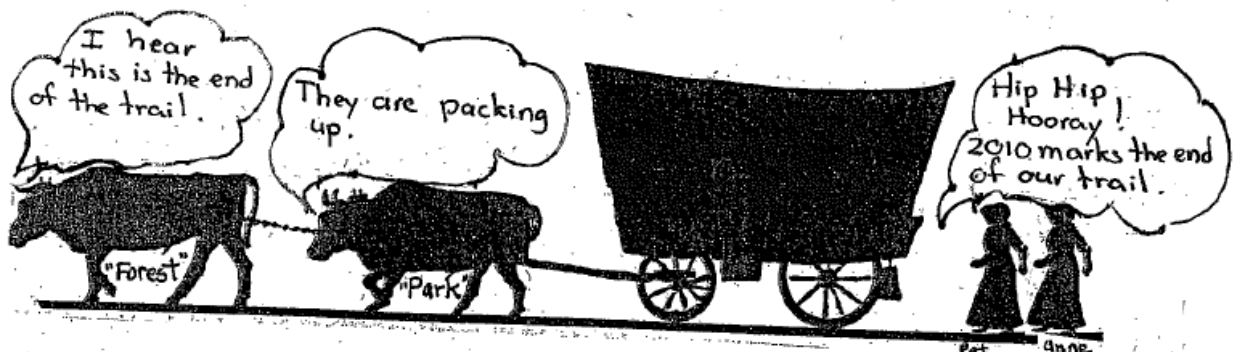
Gratefully yours,

Anne Hasson

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

Pat Smith

[smith.pat789@gmail.com](mailto:smith.pat789@gmail.com)



# FPE News

## Introducing the next principal of Forest Park....Dr. Kimberly Matier!

Deputy Superintendent Toni Hunter recently introduced Dr. Kimberly Matier as the next principal for Forest Park School. Kimberly is finishing up her second year as Assistant Principal at Laurelhurst and also served one year as Assistant Principal at Ockley Green. Before entering administration, Kimberly was an instructional specialist at Sabin School. Kimberly earned her bachelors and masters at Portland State University and her doctorate at Oregon State University.

Kimberly will officially move into the Principal's office on July 1, 2010. She also hopes to spend a day or two at Forest Park before the school year ends visiting with students and learning more about our wonderful school.

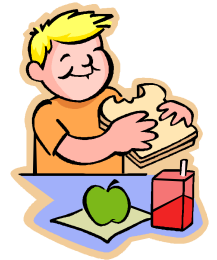
Welcome Kimberly!

## Check Lunch Money Accounts Now

Add this to your end-of-the-school-year checklist: Check on your child's lunch money account.

Cafeteria head Kim Camara asks parents to take care of any negative balances before school lets out. Positive balances will be held for students at their current schools or transfer to students' new schools within the district. Keeping a positive balance means one less thing to worry about at the beginning of the school year in the fall.

If your student is leaving the district, call Kim at (503) 916-5400 to arrange for a refund. Donations to the district's Pay it Forward Fund to help families who are not eligible for free meals are also welcome. Contact Patti Shafer at (503) 916-3398 to make a donation.



## Big Finish for Run for the Arts

Thank you runners, parents, volunteers, teachers, and sponsors for the most successful Run for the Arts ever! The success of the event ensures that Forest Park Elementary will be able to offer art programs throughout the year. The children ran many laps around the track at Forest Park, with parents and volunteers cheering them on. Remember to thank your sponsors for bringing art to Forest Park!

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## FPE News

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Write About “An Elder I Know”

Congratulations to 4<sup>th</sup> grader Mia Dalton, who received Honorable Mention in a recent Portland State University essay contest. Mia was among a dozen Forest Park 4<sup>th</sup> graders who wrote essays on the topic, “Bridging the Generations: An Elder I Know.” She wrote about her grandfather, Mr. Dennis Dalton.

Congratulations to all the 4<sup>th</sup> graders who submitted essays. The students were invited to a celebration of their participation on May 15 at the downtown Multnomah County Public Library. In addition to Mia, the students are Nicholas Battey, Emma Donchi, Christina Grossi, Archita Harathi, Nikita Lalwani, Tucker Litch, Maddie McCormick, Julia Patridge, Nico Steeves, Savanah Stokley and Abby Taylor.

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## Community News

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### Come Celebrate the 4th of July with your Neighbors!

It's hard to believe, but there is less than a month until the 4th of July and the Forest Heights Homeowners Association has been hard at work to bring residents another fun-filled 4th of July celebration.

Mill Pond Park ~ 7:30—10:00 p.m.

The evening will kick off with a costume-themed “Parade Across the Stage” with prizes being awarded to the Most Patriotic, Most Creative and Best Dressed participants. The rest of the night will be filled with games, DJ-led dancing and music in the park, wonderful desserts and beverages. The grand finale will be a spectacular, professionally-produced fireworks show!

Tickets for the event will be mailed to FHHOA residents within the next two weeks. We look forward to seeing you on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Contact the FHHOA at [contactus@fhhoa.com](mailto:contactus@fhhoa.com) or 503.297.9400 with any questions.

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# FPE News

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## **Time is Running Out: Don't miss the last Forest Heights Community Solar Class!**

Would you like to learn how to “green” your home and at the same time increase its equity? Have you always felt that solar electric or solar hot water systems were out of reach? Did you ever think that these systems never pay for themselves? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you absolutely must attend one of the Forest Heights Community Solar classes!

We want our residents to make an informed choice about the solar options being offered as part of the Community Solar program. We have asked our partner, ImaginEnergy, to provide a short class that covers the basics of going solar, tax credits and financing options. Plan to attend one of these informative classes and learn how you can install a solar rooftop system at a drastically reduced cost. [REGISTER NOW!](#)

[Learn more about the effort to Solarize Forest Heights](#)

Based on community interest and inspired by the Solarize programs in Portland, the FHHOA Go Green (G2) Committee set out to create a community solar program in Forest Heights. They kicked off this program in May and have been educating residents on the solar options available in Forest Heights.

### **What is the Community Solar program in Forest Heights?**

The Community Solar program leverages the buying power of a consumer collective. By offering a single solar contractor the opportunity to connect with a pool of buyers all residing in close proximity, the price of solar options can be brought down significantly from the prevailing market prices. For example, residents participating in a solar program in SE Portland (Mt. Tabor) saw a price reduction of ~30%.

### **Who is our partner/contractor, and are they licensed and qualified?**

We have selected the leading local solar contractor, ImaginEnergy, as our partner for this year. ImaginEnergy was the partner for the Solarize SE project and has successfully completed the first phase of the SE project with over 140 installations. The response for the SE project was so overwhelming that a second phase is currently underway. ImaginEnergy has continued as the partner for the second phase of Solarize SE, and is a trade ally of Energy Trust of Oregon and has all the requisite licenses and qualifications.

### **What are the solar options and value-added services that would be offered through the program?**

Solar Electric System, Solar Water Heating, Home Performance Assessment, Solar Attic Fan, Tankless Water Heater.

### **How can I learn more about this program?**

We want our residents to make an informed choice. Hence we have asked our partner to provide a short class that covers the basics of going solar, tax credits and financing options. Residents enroll in the program after attending the class. Hurry — the last class is still available — June 19, 10:00—11:30 am.

Find out more and [Register now!](#)

Additional Resources:

Read more about [Solarizing Forest Heights](#)  
[Forest Heights Solarize Registration](#)  
[Energy Trust of Oregon](#)  
[ImaginEnergy](#)  
[Solarize Portland](#)