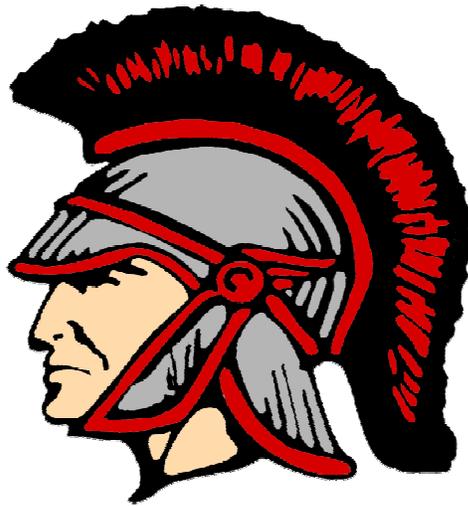


# Welcome!



Crystal Falls  
Forest Park  
School District

Parent Teacher Organization 2012-2013



## Principal's Message

As the principal, I would like to welcome each of you to Forest Park Elementary and a new school year! The Forest Park Community – staff, students, and parents – has a long history of working together to provide a fantastic, well-rounded experience for all of the students. The entire Forest Park staff and I look forward to meeting you and your child (ren) and to helping to make the upcoming school year a positive one.

I encourage you to take a few moments to peruse the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Welcome Packet. As you'll see, the PTO works closely with the professional staff at Forest Park to help create a positive, productive, and comprehensive experience for each and every child.

I encourage each of you to become involved in the many Forest Park PTO activities, as your energy, expertise, and enthusiasm truly help to make Forest Park a great school.

Sincerely,  
Becky Waters

Elementary Principal/Superintendent

[bwaters@fptrojans.org](mailto:bwaters@fptrojans.org)



## PTO President's Message

Whether you're a new to the school, or a seasoned volunteer, I want to welcome you to the 2012-2013 school year. I feel very lucky to be able to send my children to a school like Forest Park. It's not just the strong academics or the fabulous music, PE, and other programs that make me appreciate the school, it's the people. It's all of you who are willing to volunteer, and go the extra mile for our kids.

Please take a few minutes (ok, more like 15) to read this whole Welcome Packet. It describes the PTO programs that support our elementary students and their teachers. It details how and what the PTO accomplishes each year and gives you lots of great ways to volunteer.

If you ever have questions about the organization, please feel free to get in touch with me. You are a vital member of our PTO team and I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,  
Lisa Koon-Bloomberg

PTO President

906-284-0756 [lkoonbloomberg@gmail.com](mailto:lkoonbloomberg@gmail.com)

# What is the Forest Park PTO?

---

The Forest Park PTO is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Forest Park Elementary School. While we do our fair share of fundraising for the school, we also do a lot of other things, like hosting the Welcome Back2School Night, Spring Carnival, and other events to help create a positive and productive school community for teachers, parents, and children. We are the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), as opposed to a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which essentially means that 100 percent of the funds we raise go directly to our school. Sometimes you'll see our organization referred to as the "PTO" and sometimes the "Organization." It's the same thing.

And exactly who are these Organization people? Actually . . . you are. Just by having a child enrolled in Forest Park School, you are automatically a member of the Forest Park PTO.

This packet is designed to help demystify the organization and the things we (and you) do, and to let you know exactly where your donations are going. We encourage you to read about the new and returning programs you are helping provide and to decide how and when you're can volunteer and/or donate this year.

## **Our Mission**

To bring into closer relation the home and school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

To develop between educators and the community such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in education.

---

# Made Possible by You . . . the Forest Park PTO

---

*Here are some of the many programs made possible by the PTO through the communities' efforts.*

## **Welcome Back2School Kickoff Event (Open House/Refreshment/Meet & Greet)**

### **Supporting Teachers**

Each Forest Park teacher receives from the PTO \$100 to use for curriculum and classroom supplies. Teachers may also request funds directly from the PTO for specific needs, such as special classroom supplies, math supplies, and magazine subscriptions.

### **Assemblies (Special Event Programs)**

Throughout the school year, the PTO funds a wide range of assemblies for Forest Park students. This year every Forest Park student will go to Marquette to see a school-based assembly, Pinocchio.

### **All Elementary Field Trips**

The PTO pays for buses used for field trips, plus special programs and activities that meet specific grade level or project needs.

### **Staff Appreciation Week**

Forest Park's teachers work hard and the Organization works to show them how much we appreciate their dedication. During our two days of parent-teacher conferences in November and March, parents bring in baked goods for the staff. We also celebrate National Teachers Week with a special drawing each day for them to win an appreciation gift from the PTO.

### **Family Portrait Night**

Every other year the PTO organizes a Picture Event for the entire family.

### **Spring Carnival**

The family fun event of the year is held in the spring at the school.

## 2 Hour Power



Many parents fear the black hole of volunteering. This program is designed to encourage parents to pledge just two hours anytime during the school year.

**Educational Programs**                      **PTO Member in Charge: Bobby Jo Anderson**

**Elementary Yearbook**                      **PTO Member in Charge: Debi Bendick**

## PTO Board Members and Committee Chairs 2012 - 2013

*The PTO Board manages the budget and sets policy for the organization. This year, there are parents, two teachers, and the Principal, who serves as a non-voting member on the Board.*

**President**                                      **Lisa Koon-Bloomburg**

**Vice President**                              **Tara Peterson**

**Treasurer**                                      **Kris Imhoff**

**Recording Secretary**                      **Deb Bendick**

# Building Our Forest Park Community

---

*Our Forest Park community is built through volunteering – in the classroom and for the PTO – with and for our children. While fundraising is critical to our mission, it can never be a substitute for the many hours that parents, grandparents, caregivers, and YOU give to make up Forest Park School’s heart and soul.*

## Parents Working in the Classroom

One of the most valuable ways to support your child (ren)’s learning is to volunteer in the classroom. Each teacher has his or her own way of using parent volunteers, from coordinating book groups, to copying homework packets, to leading art projects. Please be sure to ask how your child’s teacher needs your help.

## PTO Meetings

Since you, as a parent of a Forest Park School student, are a member of the Forest Park PTO, why not come to our monthly meetings? The meetings are in the school multi-purpose room.

Each year at our organizational meeting we set the dates and times and this year our meeting dates are the second Mondays at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

## *FUN-raising*

---

*One of the most important things we do as a PTO is raise money for the all of the extra but essential programs at Forest Park School. We simply would not have art supplies, field trips, and all those awe-inspiring assemblies without financial support from our families and community members. Yes, YOUR support. The support that we receive in our Fun-raising makes our community truly special.*



**PTO Member in charge: Andie Demke**

Campbell's Labels for Education is a program where the school can earn points for participating products (see attached for complete list) to be redeemed for free merchandise. Clip and save UPCs (worth 1, 5, 10 or more points) and beverage caps from participating products such as Campbell's, Pepperidge farm, Prego, Swanson, BIC, V8, Emerald Nuts, Glad, Pop Secret, and Post. No need to save the entire label, just clip the UPC label. For additional information log onto [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) or contact Andie D for additional information.



**PTO Member in charge: Andie Demke**

Save (washed and dried) GG Golden Guernsey and Morning Glory milk caps and deliver them to the elementary office.



**PTO Member in charge: Stephanie Nocerini**

Collect Box Tops coupons from hundreds of General Mills products found throughout your local grocery store. Each Box Tops coupon is worth ten cents (\$.10) to our school. For a current list of participating products, visit:

[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

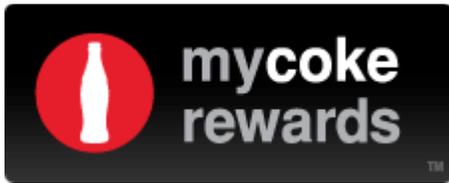
Place your collected coupons in the bins located in the Elementary Office.



(Continued)

The Box Tops for Education Marketplace allows anyone to earn cash for our school when you shop online. Unlike other online shopping fundraiser programs, the Box Tops Marketplace charges no administrative fees.

Start at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Become a member supporting Forest Park Elementary (just takes a minute) then make purchases through on-line merchants and our school will earn up to eight percent (8%) of each qualifying purchase. There are also ways to earn bonus box tops for Forest Park periodically.



**PTO Member in charge: Tara Peterson**

My Coke Rewards points help schools get things like athletic equipment, classroom supplies, learning aids and more. Save caps and codes from Coke, Minute Maid, Dasani, Fanta, Nestea, Seagrams Ginger Ale, and other Coke products. You can create an account at [www.mycokerewards.com](http://www.mycokerewards.com) and donate points to the school or bring caps and codes into the elementary school office.

## **Fall Fundraiser**

Each year the PTO has a fundraiser in the fall that raises most of the year's revenues and the fundraiser is determined in the previous spring.

## **In Closing:**

Our PTO is committed to helping parents understand the importance of supporting their children in school activities. We encourage parents and community members to be informed about education issues in order to understand and support our school.

The "P" in PTO stands for parents and the "T" in PTO stands for teachers and symbolizes the vital partnership between home and school. All individuals in the school community are part of the PTO team. By working together, parents and school personnel can help ensure successful school experiences for your students. Promoting a better understanding of PTO programs and purposes will help us to be more effective in its student and family activities.

Forest Park PTO continues to find new ways to provide a setting for parents, teachers, principal, staff, and community members to come together to improve the lives of children and families through our programs and activities. We invite you to support and join our PTO. There are no membership dues.

With your support, we can strengthen the home to school connection through parents, teachers, and staff working together to produce parent information programs, newsletters, and other activities.

Your membership and support in Forest Park PTO will strengthen our ability to provide the best learning environment for all our students and encourage parents to participate and be more involved.

Please support the Forest Park PTO during your child's Elementary years and everyone benefits.