



Forest Park News

From Principal Cindi Swingen

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Dear Forest Park Families,

Thank you for all you do to support your children. I've been able to visit classrooms every day for the past three weeks, and Forest Park's students are absolutely wonderful. I have seen countless instances where students show grace and compassion, are patient and generous, and share deep and creative thinking. Your children are adapting to the daunting challenges of distance learning and this is a testament to all YOU are doing to present things in a positive, "we can do this!" light. Children mirror and magnify what they see adults in their lives doing. If we are calm, confident, and caring, they react in kind. During this season of gratitude I want to be sure you know how much the teachers and staff at Forest Park recognize the resilience of our students' parents and how your resilience is reflected in the positive attitudes your children show every day in their classrooms.

Please stay safe.

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Nuts and Bolts

- **Library Book and Materials Pick-Up:** We are awaiting word from PPS regarding library book exchange between Fall and Winter Break. We are hoping the touch screen chrome books arrive soon. Please watch for updates here in the weeks to come.
 - **Need help with Technology?** There is a Tech Support Hotline for you to call! Please call **503 916-3375** to get your tech questions answered.
 - **Nutrition Services** All children, ages 1-18, are eligible for free meals at 38 different school sites in Portland until December! Please to go this link <https://www.pps.net/Page/15846> to find out which schools are most convenient for you and to see the schedule.
 - **No School for students this week: Conferences Monday and Tuesday and Fall Break Wednesday - Friday.**
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Families are invited to join Forest Park Staff every morning from 8:00 ~ 8:25. This is an optional gathering for building community, learning, and fun!

FOX BLOCKS! Fransus, our Fox Den friend, welcomed four players this week to participate in our new game. The goal of Fox Blocks is to review vocabulary introduced during our daily livestream. It takes many repetitions to learn new words and concepts, so we are taking a few minutes each morning to review and practice what we've heard and seen over the first weeks of school. There are no winners, losers, or prizes. It's simply a fun way to interact with words and ideas. Students are welcome to come and play!

Here's how Fox Blocks works:

1. **Fill out this form saying your child would like to play:**

<https://forms.gle/MZXGzZTwLaHujtmC9>

2. **Review the vocabulary at this link:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ID9N6WaOKdQiiqY7DGDMCFKI8YE-45jrZjkK2614xfY/edit#gid=0>

(If you want to change the spreadsheet, please make a copy first.)

3. **Wait for an email and text from us letting you know your child has been selected to play the game.**

4. **Help your child play the game on the day they get called (on your phone)! You are welcome to help, use the spreadsheet, or ask for hints. It's a no pressure, all fun game!**

Here is The Fox Den link:

<https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/7af5d0e5-3862-4c52-b2c8-ae0e67423bbe>

Enrollment and Balancing in PPS



**"Change is inevitable, misery is optional,"
The Dalai Lama, Haruki Murakami**

It's inevitable that school boundaries shift over the years. New schools are built and others are closed. Demographics of neighborhoods change as people move and children grow up. As is true in any district, Portland Public Schools is always working toward creating thriving, balanced school communities. Children will move to new schools from time to time, and time and again, they impress us with their ability to adapt, make new friends, and adjust. If you're interested in finding out what's happening with Portland's plans for boundary changes for the coming school year, please explore this website and find out more.

PPS Enrollment and Balancing Link: <https://www.ppsenrollmentbalancing.com/>

Classroom Visit Highlights This Week

Here's a graphic way of helping children self-assess. In order to keep the focus on learning, it's important for students to consider why they are or are not successful when expressing an answer to any specific question.

	I know why	I don't know why
I got the answer right	Leader 	Lucky 
I got the answer wrong	Learner 	Lost 

Kindergarten: More reading and writing groups where children were able to show their knowledge of letter sounds.

First grade: Learning targets form the foundation of every math lesson.

Second grade: Class meetings show children are able to listen to each other and empathize.

Third grade: Learning how to read complicated graphs (and materials pick-up was fun!).

Fourth grade: Complicated coding and science challenges abounded! Wow!

Fifth grade: Making math meaningful, it's about the thinking, not the answers.

Forest Park teachers continue to pull out all the stops to ensure students are actively engaged with their learning every day.

Distance teaching is a challenge that doesn't daunt our incredibly dedicated staff. They are here for you and your children!

Talented and Gifted

TAG Update and Reminders - for the month of DECEMBER

An updated version of the **FPE TAG Plan** is available in the link and on the **District website**.

TAG stands for Talented and Gifted. Students can be identified as TAG in one, two or three areas, which are reading, math, and intellectual. The identification comes when a student scores in the 95th or above percentile on nationally normed tests that are selected by the TAG department. You can begin by opening a dialogue with your child's teacher. Students can be nominated for TAG by parents and/or teachers. A nomination form acts like a permission slip to have your child tested in the area(s) selected. You can also access the nomination form for Forest Park Elementary **here**. All nomination forms are due to your child's teacher no later than the updated day of DEC 4th, 2020. Late applications are not accepted. Your child's state testing scores from the previous year may also qualify your child for TAG eligibility. The TAG department has mailed the postcards identifying students whose Winter 2020 state testing scores were in the 95th or above percentile in reading and/or math. If you received a post card and would like your child to be identified as TAG in reading and/or math you will still need to complete a nomination form (linked above). There is no additional testing required in those areas (reading and math) if you received one of those postcards. Please note you may have received one of the post cards even if your child is already identified as TAG in reading or math. If this is the case, you do not need to complete a nomination form.

Completed TAG nomination forms are due Friday DEC 4th, 2020, for those who received letters from the District TAG office that your student(s) scored in the 97th-99th percentile on their SBAC or are being considered as TAG potential. Visit the **District tag website for the nomination forms in your home language**. Once the parent sections and signature have been completed, your student's teacher will complete a similar form as well as the TAG Facilitator Form that I complete.

There will not be any announcements of student TAG Identifications before the new year.

Reminder: If your child has been identified as TAG in the past while in PPS, that eligibility will be continued until graduation. Children do not need to be re-nominated. Teachers have all received class lists of their TAG-identified students and what area(s) they are identified in (math, reading and/or intellectually gifted).

Questions:

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Food Drive Update

Given the ongoing restrictions and constraints we are all facing, Friends of FPE has decided to cancel the Annual Food Drive. Instead, we are inviting families to make **direct donations to the Oregon Food Bank**. Direct donations maximize your contribution to help Oregon families in need. Please click on the link to share your FPE Fox generosity. Any amount is appreciated!

<https://give.oregonfoodbank.org/give/92782/#!/donation/checkout>

Thank you for your compassion as we work together to address the issue of food insecurity in our community.

**BLACK LIVES
MATTER**

**Forest Park Community
Fights Racism**