

Ford Elementary
1345 Mars Hill Road
Acworth, GA 30101
(678) 594-8092
(678) 594-8094 (fax)



Mustang Messenger



Dr. Jami Frost
Principal

Ford Elementary PTSA Monthly Newsletter

www.cobbk12.org/~ford

September 2011

Welcome to our new Music Teacher!



Dear Ford Families,

My name is Craig Hurley and I am thrilled to be the new music specialist here at Ford Elementary! The Ford staff has welcomed me with open arms and has already made me feel right at home. I look forward to meeting each student as I have heard many great things about the kids at Ford.

Please allow me to introduce myself. For the past 10 years I have taught elementary music at Kingston Elementary School in Bartow County. Prior to teaching at Kingston I taught Middle School Chorus at South Hall Middle School in Hall County. In 2009, I was fortunate to serve as a writer for the Georgia Performance Standards for Elementary General Music. I have also given music education presentations around the state and have conducted several Honor Choirs. I am looking forward to conducting the Georgia Music Educator's Statewide Honor Choir in October. Besides teaching at Ford I also conduct the Spivey Hall Young Artists, the training choir of the nationally renowned Spivey Hall Children's Choir (www.spiveyhallchildrenschoir.org). I have degrees from Shorter College and Berry College in Rome, GA and I live in Cartersville with my wife Katie, also a music teacher, and my 3 children.

Please email me (craig.hurley@cobbk12.org) if you would ever like to observe a music class - but be warned that observers are often called on to participate. I am looking forward to a wonderful year here at Ford.

FORD ROCKS!
Craig Hurley

Important Links & Numbers:

Cobb County School District <http://www.cobbk12.org>
Ford Elementary Home Page <http://www.cobbk12.org/ford>
Ford PTSA <http://www.fordptsa.com>
Ford Elementary School Foundation http://ford.typepad.com/ford_foundation/
School Lunch Menus <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/foodservices/indexMenus.htm>



Cobb County School District central office answering system: (770) 426-3300

Mark your calendars:
Upcoming Ford Family Nights at...



Tuesday,
October 11

Tuesday,
November 8

Tuesday,
December 13

Tuesday,
January 10

Tuesday,
February 14

Tuesday,
March 13

Tuesday,
April 10

Tuesday,
May 8



Support Ford Elementary by attending
Chick-fil-A Ford Family nights.

15% of the total of Ford family
receipts, is donated to Ford
Elementary by Chick-fil-A!



Dear Ford Families,

My name is Dana Garofalo and I am the new PTSA president. I just want to welcome everyone back to school. We are very excited about this school year. We have so many fun activities planned. Our first one is Bingo night on September 23rd.

We also are having family night at Stevie B's on September 29th and we will have guest appearances from some fabulous Ford staff (rumor is our very own Jami Frost will be flipping pizza's)!

SPOOKTACULAR is Saturday, October 1st from 4:00 to 8:00pm. A very thrilling and chilling night of games, food, vendors and The Twisted Fairy Tails haunted maze. There will also be a not-so-scary one too...We will keep you posted with all the fun things going on. Thank you so much to ALL of the volunteers that give their time and talents...You make the difference! See you around.

Dana
dgarofalo@fordptsa.com



Ford Elementary PTSA
 2011 - 2012 Executive Board

President
Dana Garofalo

Co-Vice President
Xavier Ashe
Jo Runyon

Treasurer
Jacqueline Henry

Secretary
Stephanie Conboy

Parliamentarian
Frank Garofalo

September 15, 2011

Dear Ford Families,

It's hard to believe we are already a month into school and we have held Open House. We are well into the swing of teaching and learning this new school year! Our theme this year is "Ford Rocks!" and we demonstrate evidence of that every day! Our teachers continually go above and beyond to ensure your children's success. Our students work hard every day striving to reach their full potential. Our community continues to support our efforts toward a world-class education for all of our children.

Throughout this year we will continue to work on our student achievement goal of ensuring that all students meet or exceed expectations in the area of math. Due to the generous support of our PTSA, we were again able to purchase First in Math for all students in first through fifth grades. Please encourage your children to use this resource at home on a regular basis. Our staff also continually collaborates and implements strategies that will help your child reach his or her full potential!

As we go through the 2011-2012 school year, know that we appreciate your support and acknowledge that it is an integral part of our success. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make this your child's best school year yet!

Sincerely,

Jami Bice Frost
 Principal



PTA REFLECTIONS
 40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

Reflections entries Due:
 October 10

PTA's Reflections Program helps parents encourage the creativity and continuous self-discovery process of their children. Supporting the Reflections Program is one way you can support the arts in your home, school, and community.

This year's theme is: "Diversity Means...". Students may submit works in Visual Arts, Photography, Literature, Music Composition, Dance Choreography, and Film Production. ALL students will be recognized!

Mustang Messenger, our monthly online format, is brought to you by Ford Elementary PTSA and can be found at <http://www.fordptsa.com>. In addition, "The Quarterly" is our paper version distributed in student folders every nine weeks.



SAVE, SAVE, **SAVE** Those Box Tops and Labels for Education!

The Bucket of Boxtops Classroom Contest

has begun:

Monday, September 12 through Friday, October 21st

First Place Prize is a lunchtime **Stevie B's** pizza party for your classroom, one winner in K - 2nd and one winner in 3rd - 5th.

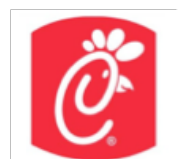
K - 2nd Second Place Prize classroom winners will receive a free yogurt certificate courtesy of **SuperHero Yogurt**.

3rd - 5th Second Place Prize classroom winners will receive a **FREE Chick-fil-A biscuit certificate** courtesy of Ford PTSA.

Deposit all Box Tops and Labels into the special collection basket in your classroom.

Please place them in Ziploc bags or envelopes, and remember to check for expiration dates on the Box Tops.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Please contact Cindy Kissell, Committee Chair, at Kissells@att.net, if you have any questions or would like to help with these programs.

Ford Elementary School Council

The purpose of a School Council is to bring communities and schools closer together in a spirit of cooperation to solve difficult education problems, improve academic achievement, provide support for teachers and administrators, and bring parents into the school-based decision-making process.

To submit your ideas or concerns to Ford's School Council please send an email to fordschoolcouncil@gmail.com. The next School Council meeting will be on October 21st at 7:30 a.m.

2011-2012 School Council Members:

Dr. Jami Frost, Ford Elementary Principal

Peggy Parham, Council Chairperson, parent

Dr. Karen Ferguson, Council Vice-Chairperson
Ferguson Family Chiropractic, parent

Tracey Montgomery, Council Secretary, parent

Thom Gray, parent

Linda Huebener, Teacher – Ford Elementary

Leslie Watt, Teacher – Ford Elementary

The Pencil Project

Ford's Community Outreach committee is partnering with **The Pencil Project** to support a school in need by giving education a chance...one pencil at a time.

For less than the price of a soft drink, a pack of one dozen pencils can be purchased which will in turn help 12 children. Helping out is easy! Bring boxes of **UNsharpened** pencils to Bingo Night on September 23rd. For each one dozen unsharpened pencils you donate you will receive a Free Bingo card (limit 3).

Donations will also be collected the week of conferences during October!



Thank you for joining the Ford PTSA! The following all apply to your PTSA membership:

Georgia PTA Member Benefit Providers

Alliance Theatre offers a 20% discount on tickets for some events. Tickets must be purchased in groups of six or more.

The Atlanta History Center offers a 10% discount for new members on Student/Teacher, Individual and Family membership levels. For more information, contact the Atlanta History Center Membership Department at (404) 814-4101.

Chattahoochee Nature Center offers PTA members a 10% discount off a family membership. Take a nature walk together.

Fernbank offers PTA members a 10% discount off any level of membership when you present your PTA membership card.

The Southeastern Horticultural Society has signed a partnership agreement with Georgia PTA to cooperatively develop a program and offer parent and/or student educational activities.

Zoo Atlanta Membership has extended its educator discounts to Georgia PTA members. Mention Georgia PTA when purchasing a Zoo Atlanta Membership by phone (404.624.5662) or in person to receive \$10 off a Companion or Family Membership. [Click here for membership details](#), but please note that the discount is not valid for online purchases. The discount also applies to Rare Care Sponsorships made by phone or on grounds. Sponsorship levels and benefits are at zoatlanta.org/support_us_rare_care.htm, and funds raised by Rare Care help support the care and conservation work the Zoo provides threatened and endangered species.

www.georgiapta.org

Counselors Corner

Welcome back to Ford!

We (Ms. Charrette and Ms. Ruddell) are looking forward to another great year! We are beginning classroom guidance, meeting with our new students, and planning exciting activities for the year. Ms. Charrette will be working with Kindergarten, First, Second, and part of Third grade. Ms. Ruddell will be working with part of Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade.

Through classroom guidance lessons, we'll be covering topics on Making Good Decisions, Rachel's Challenge (Bullying), Career-Exploration, Test Taking Skills, Positive Communication, Creating Good Study Habits, Team Building, Goal Setting, Being a Good Friend, and Transition to Middle School (5th), to name a few!

We also offer small skill building/support groups: Study Skills and Organization, Friendship, Family Changes, Self-Esteem, Newcomers-Welcome to Ford!.

We will offer Parenting with Love and Logic again this year. It is a fun way to teach your kids responsibility and accountability in fun and loving ways! Be looking for this in October!

Math Mentoring will also begin again in October. This is a great opportunity for the older students to "teach" the younger students math and learn leadership skills as well.

If we can ever be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call!

[\(678\) 594-8095](tel:(678)594-8095).

Dr. Mandy Ruddell, Ed.D. NCC, NCSC, LPC
Counselor
Ford Elementary
mandy.ruddell@cobbk12.org

Book Fair Volunteers Needed

The Fall Book Fair runs Monday, October 24 to Friday, October 28. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Thursday, October 20; working the book fair during the days on October 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28th. Volunteers are also needed for tear down on Friday October 28th at 12:00.

*Note: Wednesday, Oct 26th is Family Night at the Book Fair.
It will be open until 6:00 pm on the 26th.*

Contact Greta Bales @ Greta.Bales@cobbk12.org if you can volunteer.

Important Dates for October:

Science Night

Tuesday,
October 4
6 - 8 pm

Bus Driver,
Lunchroom
Monitors,
Custodian
Appreciation Day
Wednesday,
October 7

Conference
Week

Oct 24 - 28

Reflections
Awards
and Reception at
Durham Middle
School
Monday,
October 26
6:30 pm

Mustang Minutes

Be sure to wish
the Ford Elementary staff a
"Happy Birthday".

Here are the September birthdays...

Annette Ferraro	Sept 4
Ashley Hyde	Sept 9
Julie Poe	Sept 15
Mary Ellen Foster	Sept 26
Cates Byrd	Sept 27
Cristin Kennedy	Sept 28

Wish List for our Nurse:

Small cans of gingerale
ziploc brand sandwich bags
Lysol spray
latex free bandaids
tissues
saltine crackers
gently used boys & girls shorts/pants:
sizes 6 - 14
new boys & girls underwear: sizes 6 - 10

Wish List for Art class:

baby wipes

Wish List for Science Lab:

old magazines which are science, animals
or nature oriented;
old Lego blocks



2011-2012 FordYearbooks
are on sale now for \$25.
Hurry, though, prices will increase
soon to \$30.

Cash or Check made payable to **Ford
PTSA** is preferred this year, due to a
\$2 accounting fee charged for credit
card use.

Place your check in an envelope
marked "Yearbook",
with your child's name,
teacher and grade on the outside, or
use order forms which are located in
the school office.

Notes about parking:

The Fire Marshall began writing Fire Lane
parking violations on school
parking this month. A number of people
have already received citations. The
Fire Marshall will continue writing these
citations throughout the county
this school year. If you park by a curb that
is painted red there is a risk
of being ticketed.



The Kid Chess "Fun With Chess" Program
provides instruction in chess, from the
basics for the novice player to advanced
strategies and tactics for the veteran
player.

We invite K-5th graders to come join us
for some brain-boosting fun!

Our classes for the 2011-2012 school year
will be held Monday afternoons, starting
August 29th, from 2:30 - 3:30pm
(1st - 5th grade)
3:35 - 4:35 (K-5th grade).

Please contact Kid Chess office at
770-575-5802 for more information and
registration, or visit our website @
www.kidchess.com.

Jennifer Henderson
Chess Coach & Administrative Assistant
Kid Chess
770-575-5802

Mark
your
calendars...

Ford PTSA BINGO Night

Friday, September 23
6:30 - 8:00 pm in the cafeteria

Come out and enjoy a night of fun,
food and prizes!

First bingo card is free
for PTSA members,
so remember to bring your PTSA
cards. All other cards are \$1 each.

Help support the Pencil Project!

For every one dozen unsharpened
pencils donated,
you will receive a free bingo card
(limit 3 free bingo cards).

PTSA members can order meal deals
for \$10, which include a large CiCi's
pizza (please specify cheese or
pepperoni when ordering)
and four drinks.



Meal deals **MUST** be ordered in
advance (NO EXCEPTIONS)
by Tuesday, September 20th.

Email Kelly D'Amico at
kelly@rottyman.com to reserve yours.

Ford PTSA
Spooktacular
Saturday,
October 1
4 - 8 pm





MUSTANG APPLAUSE!



Mustang Applause to our Kindergarten students and Teachers!



Mrs. Warren's kindergarten class learns how to use the Media Center.

Ford Elementary is very fortunate to have so many active Partners in Education. These businesses have pledged to help our school with their time, talent, service and gifts. Please keep these businesses in mind when making your purchase choices. And remember to THANK these businesses when you visit them for doing so much for our students and school!



Support Ford Elementary's Partners in Education



SPANISH GLASS for KIDS



top flight athletics

