

PTA Newsletter



Looking Back At An Eventful Year

Can you believe it? Summer is just days away!

We've had a productive year! We got the color side of the electronic board installed, helped get the track and did lots of grounds improvement. We had two successful Health and Fitness Nights, a fantastic Fall Festival and a terrific Teacher Appreciation Week! We've had Kona Ice Days and All Pro Family Breakfasts nearly every month. We've been busy!!

As PTA President the last 2 years, I am so thankful to have had this opportunity. I feel there's so much more I'd like to have done. This past November, I learned I had to battle cancer again so it kept me

very busy with many surgeries, procedures, and appointments. Though I wasn't able to complete everything I had planned, we have started some exciting new programs for next year.

We have a new program, called SchoolKidz. It's through Staples and it's a school supply pre-order program. It works by paying for a box of all the supplies your child will need for NEXT year before summer break this year. Each kit contains exactly what your child's teacher requested. Just before school, almost all your child's school supplies are delivered to the school. Easy and convenient! You can check it out and place an order at www.shopttkits.com and

enter 33460 for account number. PTA passed their discount to families so the boxes are the lowest price possible. **Act quickly—online orders must be placed by Friday, June 2, our last day of school!**

We hope you will find this new service helpful.

Thanks again for the honor of serving you and our entire John E Ford family these past 2 years. Looking forward to being available to assist our next PTA President and continuing to help make John E Ford the best it can be.

—PTA President Melissa Faciane

May, 2017

Welcome to Our New Principal



This month we bid a warm welcome to our new principal for the 2017-2018 school year, Mrs. Tina Bennett. Some of you may remember Mrs. Bennett from her previous role as assistant principal at John E. Ford. She is a Montessori-trained teacher and administrator and brings that knowledge to her new role with us. Please welcome her warmly (back) to the family!

Florida PTA Opposes HB 7069

Late on a Friday afternoon in early May a massive education bill was introduced in the State Legislature through the budget process. On the following Monday it passed both houses.

This bill was negotiated behind closed doors, bypassing the democratic process of public input and the option for amendments. While testing reform, daily recess, and other good education policies have been placed inside this bill, it has a devastating impact on the education budget that will leave our most vulnerable children behind. It will likely have noticeable impacts on our students at John E. Ford.

It is now on Governor Rick Scott's desk for his signature into law.

Please learn all you can about this bill and call the Governor's office as soon as possible to let him know what you think. The phone number is: (850) 488-7146.

It only takes a couple of minutes, and it's easy. A staffer will listen to and write down your concerns and comments, and politely thank you for calling.

Upcoming Events:

- ☺ **June 2:** SchoolKidz online 2017-2018 supply orders due!
- ☺ **June 8:** Mrs. Tina Bennett, our new principal takes the helm
- ☺ **August 11,** 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.: Orientation
- ☺ **August 14:** SCHOOL STARTS!

New PTA Board Officers for 2017-18

Beth Marlowe, President
beth.marlowe@outlook.com

Jillian Gishler, Vice President
jilliansimoneg@gmail.com

Melissa Faciane, Secretary
melissaf1928@gmail.com

Kimberly Rivers, Treasurer
KimberlyRivers@yahoo.com

Robert Scott, 2nd Vice President
robbyrob2@aol.com



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We want to hear from YOU!

Although summer is just beginning, our new board members are already planning for next year. One of the first things we want to do is hear from you. You have read in this newsletter, on our website or on our Facebook page about our accomplishments this year. What would you like to see us focus our time and attention on next year? What kind of long-term goals would you like to work toward? What do John E. Ford students, parents, teachers and staff most need?

Please feel free to email any of the officers to provide any thoughts or comments you have. You may also email us at: JohnEFordPTA@gmail.com anytime. Once the school year begins in August, we will conduct a survey and hold meetings for all parents and caregivers at several different times of day.

Help us build on the momentum of the past couple of years and continue to grow in what we can accomplish!



Encourage your family to be active this summer! Play in the park, go to the YMCA, or even dance to an exercise video. Strong bodies help us learn!

CHALLENGE Your Child to READ

Do you want to help your child maintain all those reading skills they've been working so hard to build throughout the school year? Then sign up for the Jacksonville Public Library's summer reading challenge. It's free, and it's fun. Adults can participate too.

You can register online at: <http://jaxpubliclibrary.readsquared.com/> This year's challenge goes from June 1—July 31. All you do is meet your reading goals by July 31. Goals are:

Children - 10 books
Teens - 3 books
Adults - 5 books

Track your reading progress online and get cool digital badges. Will you collect them all? And be sure to visit any library location to pick up your prizes! There are sign-up prizes, weekly prizes, and a free book for finishers (while supplies last).



To become a member of the John E. Ford PTA, simply fill out a Membership Form (available at the Front Office) and return it to school with your child. The cost is \$6 per adult. This can be paid with cash, check (make payable to John E. Ford PTA) or card (go to <https://cash.me>) and choose \$John E. Ford PTA.

Any adult may join PTA, whether a parent, grandparent, guardian, relative, friend, neighbor, or business partner.

Benefits of adult involvement in a child's school include: better student social skills and behavior; higher test scores and grades; improved school quality; higher teacher morale; better school reputation; better relationships within the school; and shared decision-making with how fundraising dollars are spent.

PLEASE REMEMBER: PTA membership has to be renewed each school year, so we'll be taking applications for the upcoming school year starting at orientation in August.

Please join us then for a fantastic 2017-2018 school year!