



# Parents At The Park (PATP) Newsletter

5th Edition March 6, 2008

Today is a special day for PATP. We have both a Spanish and a Vietnamese translator with us today and we joyfully welcome an increasingly wider group of parents to *School In The Park*.



As we began exploring the museums, one parent exclaimed, "Now I know why my kids like coming here!" At the *Reuben H. Fleet Space Center*, the children were studying about the different characteristics of elements, compounds, and molecules. During the week, they are discovering how atoms combine to make molecules and they will learn how to classify changes as physical or chemical changes. This is very important knowledge for a chemist.



Students had fun as they used different colors of balloons to demonstrate their knowledge of molecules, compounds, and elements. The

learning was active and engaging as students made observations and predictions much like adult scientists do. A parent commented, "I never liked science. But the way science is taught here ... our kids are learning!" Another parent added, "When my child brings home *School In The Park* homework, it will be easier for me to support her."



As we walked from museum to museum, parents talked about how comfortable they felt here. One parent said, "I wanted to continue staying and not leave."

On the bus back home, parents suggested forming a committee to help get more parents to participate in PATP. Everyone thought it would be a great idea to have a picnic at the park for those parents who had been to the park this year and for other interested parents. That way, parents who had already been here could share their experiences with the new parents. Some parents also thought it would be good to have an evening information session about *School In The Park* at Rosa Parks for those who couldn't come in the day time. Everyone wanted more information about Free Tuesdays at the Park as well because the museums are so interesting.

So many good and important ideas.

**POWER TO PARENTS!!!**

