

Thoreau Matters

Thoreau Matters is published every two weeks by the PTA and the Thoreau administrative staff to inform parents of important information about school life at Thoreau Middle School.

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January 13, 2012

1. Thoreau Middle School has been recognized for the fifth year in a row as a Virginia public school to earn the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence.

- The Governor's Award for Educational Excellence is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Virginia Board of Education to advance Governor Bob McDonnell's "competence to excellence" agenda to encourage advanced learning and achievement in Virginia public schools.
- Twenty-two Fairfax County public schools are among the 86 schools (elementary, middle and high) statewide that met the criteria for the award.
- To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve Governor McDonnell's goals for elementary reading; enrollment in Algebra 1 by grade 8; enrollment in college-level courses; attainment of advanced diplomas; increased attainment of career and industry certifications; and participation, if eligible, in the Virginia Preschool Initiative. Schools and school divisions also earn bonus points for other performance measures, including the Governor's Nutrition and Physical Activity Scorecard.
- A complete list of schools earning the Governor's Award can be found at the Virginia Department of Education website, www.doe.virginia.gov.

2. High school counselors from Madison and Marshall will be visiting Thoreau on Wednesday, February 1, to discuss high school selections with rising 9th grade students.

Counselors will provide students with a course selection guide and a high school course selection sheet.

- Look over these materials with your child and help them to make appropriate course selections for next year.
- Course selection forms will be collected through science classes and are due on Friday, February 10.

3. Evening orientations for students attending Madison or Marshall next year are being planned to provide parents and students with information about classes and course requirements.

- Madison High School's Rising 9th Grade Curriculum Night will be held Thursday, February 2, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Parents and students, grades 8-11, will have an opportunity to learn about academic classes, elective classes, and specific course requirements and expectations. Counselors will be available to provide information about counseling services.
- Marshall High School will hold its Rising 9th Grade Orientation and IB Information Evening on Thursday, February 9, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

4. Congratulations to the following Thoreau Students:

- **for making District Orchestra:** Julianne Kelm - Cello; Emily Cheng - Violin; Thomas Meadows - Bass
- **for making District Band:** Noah Labs - horn; Alex Cintron - trombone; Nick Cintron - saxophone
- **for their inclusion in the Children's Connection:** Art: Emma Barrett- 7th grade ; Chad Robertson- 7th grade ; Hamim Bashar- 8th grade; Avery Torres- 8th grade; Katy Ward- 8th grade. Writing: Gabrielle Jawer- 7th grade; Noah Thompson- 7th grade; Michelle Uchitel- 7th grade.

5. All eighth-grade students will be attending a Finance Park field trip on February 2, 3 or 6.

- We need your help! Chaperones are still needed!
- Navigators will go February 2nd - Contact Anne Carrington at anne.carrington@fcps.edu
- Adventurers will go February 3rd - Contact Tammy Alred at tammy.alred@fcps.edu
- Wildcats will go February 6th - Contact Missy Galus at melissa.galus@fcps.edu

6. Fairfax County Association for the Gifted Presents: Summer Academic Programs and Enrichment Camp Fair

- Oakton High School - Tuesday, January 24, 2012 7-9pm; Admission is Free and Open to the Public
- Meet representatives from summer enrichment programs
- Visit the exhibits, ask questions, and network with others and see what your children (K-12) can explore next summer
- Academic Programs: music, chess, drama, computers, robotics, language immersion, math, science, engineering, test prep.

Enrichment Camps: TIC (Tech is Cool), Fairfax Collegiate, Math Enrichment Services, Traveling Players Ensemble, Writopia, FCPS Institute for the Arts, Congressional Day Camp, iD Tech Camp, Potomac School, Concordia Language Villages, Interlochen Arts Camp, Madeira School Summer Camps, A Class Act: Acting for Kids, and more!

In case of inclement weather, check for snow date: <http://fcag.org/>

Join FCAG's Yahoo discussion group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FCAG>

Contact: [703-922-1977](tel:703-922-1977) | secretary@fcag.org

Please join the PTA and staff in congratulating Erin Lenart on her new position as Assistant Principal at West Springfield High School. Effective February 1st, Erin Lenart will be a new assistant principal at West Springfield High School. Erin will continue at Thoreau for the rest of the month working with Principal Hood, during his transition as well as her replacement at Thoreau.

After School News

There are still spots available in the 2nd session of **the True Fit Program**, which will run on Friday afternoons (3-4 pm) from February 10th through March 16th. Spaces are limited so interested students must sign a commitment form to attend all 6 weeks of the program. The participants in this program will work with a trainer to improve speed, agility, and overall fitness in a fun environment. Registration forms can be found on the Thoreau Activities site on Blackboard and should be returned to Ms. Davies as soon as possible.

Community Service Team will meet after school on Thursday, January 19th in Room 120 – all students are invited to attend. 8th graders will earn one hour of service for their participation.

PTA NEWS

- Join us for a parent program on Monday, January 23 at 9:00 am! The subject is **BFF (Best Friends Forever) How to Make New Friends in Middle School and How to Keep Them** with Cathi Cohen, LCSE, Director and Founder of In Step PC.
- This month the Hospitality Team is planning an Italian Luncheon for our wonderful Thoreau Staff. If you would like to contribute contact them at Hospitality@ThoreauPTA.org.
- Virginia PTA 2012 Citizenship Essay Project is underway. The theme is "**Community Responsibility**". A 500 word essay is due the morning of February 1 to Jill Hecht. Find the entry form and more details at www.ThoreauPTA.org and win a \$1000 Savings Bond!
- **Running low on pens, pencils, paper and tape?** Need a new binder because yours is too full or falling apart or lost? Come and visit the Thoreau School Store! We are open Tuesday-Thursday during lunch hours and we carry all items listed on the 7th and 8th grade supply lists. For example, we sell 1 and 2 inch binders for \$3 each, 5-subject notebooks -\$3.50, pocket folders -.50, scotch tape -\$1.50, mechanical pencils -.50, lead refills -.25, index cards -\$1.00. We also stock chap stick, deodorant, tissues, gum and mints and we always have Thoreau T-shirts available for \$15.

The PTA invites you to welcome Principal Greg Hood on Thursday, January 19.
Coffee 8:30-10:00 am in the Library or Dessert 7:00-9:00 pm in the Cafeteria.

Upcoming Events

January 16: No School – Martin Luther King Holiday
20: PTA Lunch for Staff
23: Parent Education Program in the lecture hall - 9:00am
26-27: Algebra/Geometry Mid-term
27: End of 2nd Quarter
30-31: No School for students–Teacher Workdays

February 2: Madison High School Rising 9th Grade Orientation – 7:00 pm
2, 3, 6: Field Trip to Finance Park for all 8th graders.
7: Parent coffee on Transition Services in Library – 9:00 am
9: Marshall High School Rising 9th Grade Orientation – 7:00pm
20: No school - Presidents' Day Holiday
23: Spring Pictures for 8th graders
24: Spring Pictures for 7th graders

March 5-6: Writing SOL's 8th graders