

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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Thoreau Web Page: www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS

PTA Web Page: www.ThoreauPTA.org

November 10, 2011

1. **Federal Student-Parent Survey Forms were recently distributed to students to bring home for parents to complete.**
 - The Federal Impact Aid Program attempts to compensate local school districts for their loss in tax revenue due to a federal presence in their district boundaries. In order to receive funding from this program, FCPS conducts a student-parent survey and provides summary survey information to the federal government. All individual information is strictly confidential.
 - **Students are to return completed forms to their first period class by Friday, November 11. It is essential that every student return a completed form and that the form is signed by a parent or guardian.**
 - More information and a link to the form can be found at http://www.fcps.edu/news/impact_aid.shtml
2. **Get ready for TheaterSports at Thoreau!**
 - Have you seen the popular Drew Carey show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Then you have basically seen TheaterSports! It consists of improvisational games and challenges designed for maximum laughter.
 - Performances are on Friday, November 11th, and Saturday, November 12th both at 7:30 pm in the luxurious Thoreau Cafetorium. Two different casts perform each night in a series of improvised games and zany scenes. Friday night will feature our 8th grade all-stars, and Saturday night showcases our talented 7th grade class. Come BOTH nights, and see a completely different show each night! Please come out and support these very funny students – and have a good time while you're at it! It's family-friendly, and all ages are welcome. The audience is a key part of the show as they provide many of the ideas the students must shape into stories & scenes.
 - Tickets are \$5 at the door with concessions benefitting Thoreau's drama department! See you there!
3. **Be sure to refresh your second quarter school supplies at the school store.**
 - Highlighters, mechanical pencil refills, scotch tape, dry erase markers and index cards are among the many items available at the school store.
 - Also offered are birthday decorations for lockers, hair ribbons, spirit wear, car magnets and student directories.
 - A complete inventory and price list is posted at www.thoreaupta.org under the School Store tab.
4. **The American Mathematics Contest 8 for students seventh and eighth grade and students that have qualified from the AMC 6 will be administered after school on Tuesday, November 15th in the cafeteria.**
 - The AMC 8 is a 25 question, 40 minute, multiple choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem solving skills.
 - There are 50 seats available for students who are interested in participating. Please pick up a registration materials/permission forms from Ms. Galus at TTS or your math teacher.
 - Since Tuesday is not a late bus day, students will need to provide their own transportation home that day or walk.
5. **Don't miss your opportunity to order your full color yearbook this year. The yearbook is available only through the Herff Jones Order Center and must be ordered by December 31, 2011.**
 - Ordering a yearbook is simple. Either call the toll free number 1-866-287-3096 or order online at <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/index.cfm/jobSearch/displayLanding>. order number 5403.
 - The price for this year's 2012 Walden yearbook is \$36.00. The Walden yearbook with a Autograph supplement is \$41.00 (Gold Package). The Walden yearbook, a one-line name Plate, and an 8-page autograph supplement costs \$43.00.
 - Please be sure to include your child's first and last name as you would like it to appear on the yearbook.
 - If you have any questions about ordering your yearbook, you may contact Mrs. Kolly or Ms. Hinrichsen, the yearbook sponsors, at 703-846-8000 or karyn.kolly@fcps.edu & KRHinrichsen@fcps.edu.
6. **Attention parents and students: You can share photos you take at Thoreau events with the yearbook staff for possible inclusion into this year's yearbook!**
 - The website for students and parents to submit JPEG pictures. <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/index.cfm/jobSearch/displayLanding> The site will only accept JPEG picture files. Watch the video on how to add JPEG pictures.
 - If you take pictures at concerts, Theater sports, Lip Sync, school play, or any event related to Thoreau Middle School please submit your pictures to the website.
 - Thank your in advance for sharing your pictures for our yearbook. Should you have any questions or concerns about this process, you may contact Ms. Kolly at Karyn.kolly@fcps.edu.
7. **There will be an FLE preview available to families before the 7th Grade Dinner on November 16th from 5:30-6:30.**
 - Parents who are interested in seeing the Human Growth and Development materials that will be presented in January can review them at this time.
8. **Spirit Week, November 14th-19th!**
 - Show your Thoreau Middle School spirit by participating in next week's events!
 - Monday is Sports Day (favorite team jersey); Tuesday is Clash Day; Wednesday is Career Day; Thursday is Ninja and Cowboys Day, and Friday is Spirit Day.
 - Friday is the BIG SPIRIT EVENT! From 3:00-4:30 (Late buses will be provided!), students will show their spirit by doing the following:
 - Participating in one of five events (sign ups in cafeteria next week)
 - Can Wars between the grades: Bring in and donate cans!
9. **Marshall's IB Information Night is coming soon!**
 - This night is for middle-school students, freshmen and sophomores.
 - Sessions will be Wednesday, December 7th and Wednesday March 14th from 7-8:30 at Marshall High School Auditorium.

10. *True Fit Program Interest Meeting on Friday, November 11th, from 3-4pm in Gym 1.*

- Parent pick up is required.
- Participants of the club will work with a trainer on Friday afternoons to improve strength, power, agility, and overall fitness throughout the program.
- Two six-week sessions will be offered: December 2-January 20; February 10-March 16.
- Space is limited, so students will be allowed to sign up for one session and must commit to all six weeks.
- There is no student fee.

PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us in wishing Mr. Greenfelder** best wishes as he departs Thoreau to become the Principal at his alma mater West Springfield High School. A **Reception** will be held on **Friday, November 11, 9-10 am** in the Library for parents past and present to say thank you for creating an environment for our kids to SOAR.
- **Parent Education Seminar**
Monday, November 14 at 7:00 pm in the Lecture Hall
Social Networking, Cyberbullying & Protecting Your Online Digital Reputation
Iris Beckwith, President, connectED4safetyLLC
Don't miss this important presentation on internet safety and the opportunity to become cyberspace savvy. Ms. Beckwith will speak to all students about internet safety the following day during school.
- **Calling all 7th grade families!** Seventh Grade Family Dinner is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 16**. Download the [invitation here](#) and reply today! Come before or after your evening activities to enjoy dinner with other Thoreau families.
- **November 18** is Health Screening Day (Vision/Hearing). If you are available to assist 7:45-11:45 am or 12:00-2:45 pm please contact Jill at President@ThoreauPTA.org.
- **Would you like to buy some Cookie Dough? A Coupon Book? Wrapping Paper?** Don't worry, the TMS PTA doesn't ask students or families to sell anything. Instead, the many programs supported by the PTA are funded through our "No-Fuss Fundraiser". Each family is asked to make a one-time contribution; \$50 is suggested but all amounts are welcome. If you have not had a chance yet, please complete the form at www.thoreaupta.org/fundraising. There are also online payments options at www.Pay4SchoolStuffOnline.com.
- **Our 7th Grade Dinner is just around the corner!** Maggios will be providing a wonderful dinner for all plus there will be games and music. All we need are some desserts! If you can contribute cookies, brownies or other desserts, please email Diane Natale at dnatale623@gmail.com or Barbara Holmes at barbaraholmes@aol.com.
- **The PTA landscape committee wants to thank all of the volunteers** who helped beautify Thoreau on 11/5/11. We'd like to give a special thanks to Vince Amodeo, a master gardener in training and Town of Vienna resident, who helped significantly in the planning and installation of the new bed around the flagpole.

Upcoming Events

November...

- 11:** TheaterSports, 8th Grade: 7:30pm
- 12:** TheaterSports, 7th Grade: 7:30pm
- 14-18:** Spirit Week at Thoreau
- 14:** Internet Safety Presentation to Parents, Lecture Hall, 7-8pm
- 15:** Internet Safety Presentation through PE Classes; **New Principal Community Meeting, 7PM**
- 16:** Picture Retakes
- 16:** Seventh-Grade Family Dinner
- 17:** Student of the Quarter, Lecture Hall, 3-4
- 23:** Two-Hour Early Release
- 24-25:** Thanksgiving Holiday

December...

- 6:** Band at Madison, 7pm
- 8:** Orchestra at Madison, 7pm
- 12:** Theater Trip
- 13:** Chorus at NFCU
- 16:** Chorus at Madison, 7pm; Mid-Quarter Progress Reports
- 23-Jan. 2:** Winter Break