

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.

Main Office: 703-846-8000 Attendance: 703-846-8080

Thoreau Web Page: www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS

PTA Web Page: www.ThoreauPTA.org

September 29, 2011

1. **Parents are reminded that students are to ride only their assigned bus when going to and coming home from school.**
 - Transportation Services has informed us that all buses are very full and do not allow for extra passengers.
 - Students riding a different bus will need to obtain a "Ticket to Ride" from the office before school. The students involved must BOTH have a note from their respective parent/guardian.
2. **Mark your calendars for a special PTA program for parents, "Middle School Must Knows." Get to know your assistant principals, Mike Parker and Erin Lenart, after-school specialist, Shannon Davies, and Director of Student Services, Christa Warden.**
 - Topics such as teams, grading, after-school activities, the Behavior and Effort Rubric and more will be covered.
 - October 4th at 9 am in the library.
3. **Here are some reminders from the clinic.**
 - Many students and parents are frequently concerned about when children should stay home from school because of illness. The general practice to follow is for a child to stay home 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea or after temperature returns to normal (below 100 degrees). If a child has any rash that may be disease related or of an unknown cause, check with your family physician before sending the student to school. When your child is ill, please call the school and report the symptoms, i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, diarrhea. Do not report that your child has the flu or strep throat unless it has been diagnosed by a physician.
 - Medication Authorization forms must accompany **any** medication before it may be given in school. Handwritten notes are not acceptable. Forms may be found online at <http://www.fcps.edu/forms.htm>.
 - Over the counter (OTC) medications that are pain relievers may be given as needed throughout the school year with the parent/guardian's signature on the Medication Authorization form, Parts I and II. In all other cases OTCs may be given up to 10 consecutive school days with parent/guardian signature. **Parents of middle school-aged children must transport all medication to school.**
 - Cough drops and throat lozenges may be carried and used by students in K-12 grades as needed throughout the school year provided that they are in the original container or packaging. No written authorization form is required. Students must not share cough drops or throat lozenges under any circumstances. Students may also have contact lens solution without written authorization.
 - *Please contact the Health Room at 703-846-8010 or mmschubert@fcps.edu if you are interested in volunteering to screen vision or hearing.* There will be a brief training session prior to the screening. No prior experience needed!
4. **On Tuesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 12, Lifetouch photographers will be at Thoreau taking student portraits.**
 - 8th grade students will be photographed on Tuesday, October 11, and 7th grade students will be photographed on Wednesday, October 12. Students not photographed on these days will have the opportunity to be photographed on the make-up day, Wednesday, November 16.
 - Students will receive order forms through their PE class to take home prior to picture day. Select the portrait package you wish to order and enclose payment in the attached payment envelope. Payment must be received at the time the picture is taken for a portrait package to be printed.
 - Please enclose cash, credit-card information, money order or check payable to **Lifetouch** in the payment envelope.
5. **The Thoreau School Store is open in the cafeteria during lunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.**
 - This is where students can purchase school supplies and Thoreau spirit-wear. Spirit-wear order forms and a list of supplies sold at the store can be found at www.thoreaupta.org.
6. **Donations to our school simply for doing your usual shopping!**
 - Please remember to sign up for the donation programs offered at many local retail stores. All you have to do is register your card with Thoreau as your choice school, and they take care of the rest.
 - YOU CAN ALSO RENEW YOUR MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS!!!
 - Visit <http://www.thoreaupta.org/Membership.php> for more details.
7. **Thoreau's Music Department will begin its annual fundraiser on October 17th!**
 - Yummy pies will be sold from between \$15-\$17 each, and they are delicious!
 - Delivery is scheduled for November 16th, so they can be enjoyed over the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - Pies come frozen; all you need to do is bake them!
8. **Students seeking to earn Foreign Language credit may take a Credit Exam for World Languages through FCPS.**
 - There are twenty languages that FCPS students can earn up to two credits for based on their prior experience with the language.
 - The student must be able to read and write well in that language.
 - The student may not be enrolled in that specific language currently or have received any previous credit for that language.
 - If interested please see the link below for more detailed information on the FCPS website. To apply please contact your student's counselor for an application.
 - Further information can be found at the following address:
<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/creditemam/index.htm>
 - The application period begins September 26th and closes on October 24th. Three separate tests dates are available: November 9th at Lake Braddock Secondary School, November 10th at Mount Vernon HS and November 14th at Annandale HS. Only one test date is needed.
9. **Reminder to all 8th grade students that **TJ applications** can be picked up from Mr. Buckley beginning September 28th and are due back to him no later than October 19th.**
10. **The Vienna Turkey Trot is scheduled for November 13th.**
 - Proceeds from the 5K will benefit both the JMHS Band and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.
 - Visit <http://www.viennaturkeytrot.com/> for more details.

11. The Fall TheaterSports show is coming!

- Have you ever seen the popular Drew Carey show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Then you have basically seen TheaterSports! It's competitive improvisation, where students compete against each other in teams – with no scripts, acting out wacky stories and challenges with settings, props and variables suggested by the audience!
- Mr. DeLeo will be holding auditions this week for the Fall TheaterSports Show at Thoreau afterschool October 12 & 13th.
- Rehearsals run M/W/Th (late bus days) through October/early November, with performances on Friday & Saturday, November 11 & 12th at 7:30 p.m. Come BOTH nights, because you will never see the same show twice!
- Tickets will be \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door. Come see Thoreau students clowning around onstage – it's a great time and appropriate for the entire family! Stay tuned for more information....

PTA News and Announcements

⊕ **THANKS** to everyone who has joined the Thoreau PTA for the 2011-12 year. Your support means building a community of caring adults for our kids and school. It's not too late to join...please complete the membership form found on our website www.thoreaupta.org/ or pay online using www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com/. All families and teachers are encouraged to join the Thoreau PTA!

⊕ **Please join the PTA** and consider making a donation to our NO FUSS Fundraiser. Students are not selling magazines; the PTA will not host a fundraiser event.

We rely solely on your membership dues and donations to fund our programs.

⊕ The **2011-2012 Thoreau Student Directory** will be distributed to the staff and students soon during Time To Soar. Each student and staff receives one free copy, compliments of the PTA. Additional copies pre-ordered will also be distributed at that time. Any remaining copies will be available for purchase from the school store for \$5. Thanks to our business partner, Navy Federal Credit Union, for printing and binding the directories for us.

⊕ **October 4, 9 am PTA Parent Seminar**

Middle School Must-Knows Meet your Thoreau Administrators and gather important "must knows" about middle school. Topics to be covered include teams, grading, Time to Soar, Behavior and Effort Rubric, after school activities and more!

⊕ **October 6 and October 20, after school.** Calling all gardeners ... or gardener wanna be's! The PTA **Landscape Committee** has scheduled several days to beautify the front of the school and work on the community organic vegetable garden. We are collecting hostas and native shade plants for the front of the school. Please contact landscaping@ThoreauPTA.org if you have plant donations.

⊕ **Save the Date: Wednesday, November 16**
Seventh Grade Family Dinner catered by Scorpio's Restaurant.
Good music, Fun Games for kids, Social time for parents!

Coming Soon

...to a middle school near you (Thoreau)

October...

4: PTA Meeting, Library, 9am (Middle School Must Knows)

6: 8th Grade Band Night at Marshall, 6-9pm

10: No School, Columbus Day

11: 8th Grade Pictures

12: 7th Grade Pictures

14: 8th Grade Band, Madison High School, 6-10pm

20: Three-Hour Early Dismissal (Staff Development)

24: PTA Meeting, Lecture Hall, 9am

25: Chorus Fall Concert, Gym 2, 7-8pm

November...

4: First Quarter Ends

7-8: Teacher Workday; No School for Students

11-12: TheaterSports

14: Internet Safety Presentation to Parents, Lecture Hall, 7-8pm

15: Internet Safety Presentation through PE Classes

16: Picture Retakes

17: Student of the Quarter, Lecture Hall, 3-4

23: Two-Hour Early Release

24-25: Thanksgiving Holiday