

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

August 2010

- 1. Thoreau Matters is an important communication link between Thoreau Middle School and the families we serve.**
 - Each edition of *Thoreau Matters* will contain information designed to keep parents and guardians informed about life at Thoreau.
 - This edition of *Thoreau Matters* is being included in the Opening School Packet in August.
 - Future editions of *Thoreau Matters* will be posted on the Thoreau website. A “Keep in Touch” message will be sent to all registered users announcing when each issue has been posted.
 - Any parent wishing to have Thoreau Matters mailed to your home can email eblenart@fcps.edu. Parents without an email address on file will automatically receive a mailed copy of Thoreau Matters.
- 2. Please register for “Keep in Touch” to receive timely email messages from FCPS and Thoreau.**
 - You can register for Keep in Touch through the Keep in Touch link found at the [Thoreau web site](http://www.fcps.edu) or at www.fcps.edu.
 - If you already have a Keep in Touch account, this would be a good time to update your Keep in Touch information.
- 3. New Student Orientation will be held on Thursday, September 2, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am.**
 - This orientation is for all rising 7th grade students and 8th grade students who will be new to Thoreau. This event is for students only.
 - Seventh-grade students will have the opportunity to walk through their schedules and meet their teachers.
 - Eighth-grade students new to Thoreau will be able to meet their core team teachers and tour the building.
 - Buses will pick up students at local elementary schools – consult the schedule on the flyer included in the accompanying packet.
- 4. All students new to Thoreau and their parents are invited to attend an Open House on Thursday, September 2, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.**
 - This is an opportunity for students and their parents to tour the building, walk through their schedules, and visit classrooms. Teachers will not be available during this time.
 - Thoreau’s cafeteria manager will be available to open new lunch accounts or add to existing accounts.
 - Parents will also be able to register for Keep in Touch, verify Parent View accounts, join the PTA, order Thoreau spirit wear and purchase school supplies from the school store.
- 5. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7. It will be a regular, full day of school.**
 - School hours this year are 7:50 am to 2:45 pm.
 - Students should arrive at their bus stops early. Please be patient the first few weeks of school as Transportation Services makes adjustments to bus routes and pick-up times.
 - When students arrive to school on Tuesday, seventh-grade students will be directed to the cafeteria and eighth-grade students will be directed to the old gym to pick up a class schedule. All students will need to pick up a schedule even if they got one at the orientation. Attendance for the first day will be determined by schedules not picked up.
 - **Students will need to return the following forms to their *Time to Soar* teacher on the first day of school: Emergency Care Information, Health Information, and After-School Registration.**
- 6. Thoreau’s Back-to-School Night will be held on Thursday, September 15 beginning at 7:00 pm.**
 - This event will allow parents and guardians to meet their child’s teachers and receive a brief overview of the curriculum for the year.
 - Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to join the PTA, register for Keep in Touch, verify Parent View accounts, order spirit wear, and pick up information about Fairfax County Public Schools and its programs.
 - There will be a time at the beginning of the evening for PTA members to vote on this year’s budget.
- 7. As you shop for back-to-school clothes this month, parents and guardians are asked to keep the following FCPS dress code policies in mind.**
 - All students are expected to dress appropriately for the K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable.
 - Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct is prohibited.
 - Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste, and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative, is prohibited.
 - Additional information related to appropriate dress for school can be found in the [Student Responsibilities and Rights](#) booklet available through the FCPS website at www.fcps.edu.
- 8. FCPS 24-7 Learning is an online resource that allows students to extend learning beyond the traditional school day and beyond school facilities. Students, parents, and teachers are strongly encouraged to use [FCPS 24-7 Learning](#)**

to access homework and classroom assignments, view class calendars, update emergency contact information and much more.

- Information about creating a FCPS 24-7 Parent View account can be found at www.fcps.edu/kit/parentview.pdf.
- Part of the registration process requires an onsite parent verification to be completed at any one of your child's schools. Thoreau will conduct onsite verifications during the Open House on September 2 and Back-to-School Night on September 15.
- You will need to have an account in FCPS 24-7 Learning Parent View to update your student's contact information in FCPS' Keep in Touch (KIT) system.
- Emergency Care information can also be electronically submitted through weCare@School, via your FCPS 24-7 Parent View account.

****PTA Information and Announcements****

- We've made the Back to School PTA packets available online at www.Throeauppta.org, so you can access only the information and forms you need. Keep checking back as the site will update frequently.
- Finally, the convenience of online shopping...we've partnered with www.Pay4SchoolStuffOnline.com to provide an online payment option for PTA related items such as membership, "No-Fuss" fundraiser donations, directories and spirit wear. Go to www.Throeauppta.org and click on www.Pay4SchoolStuffOnline.com to create an account. A convenience fee will be added to credit card orders to cover processing costs.
- Shop at Giant or Safeway? Thoreau can earn cash through Giant A+ BonusBucks and Safeway eScrip programs. Go to www.Throeauppta.org and click on link to fundraising to register or renew your cards.
- Please join us Monday, September 27, at 9am, as we kick off the new school year with the first parent seminar in a series: Love and Limits with Your Young Teen-Learn how to set limits and follow through to keep your teen safe, happy and on track.
- *Safe Routes to School committee seeks input.*

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) committee is now forming and looking for input as well as volunteers. The Virginia Department of Transportation provides up to \$500,000 per year under the SRTS program to provide funding for items such as sidewalks, bike racks, and other infrastructure as well as safety programs. Funding proposals are due each October. The goal of the SRTS committee is to obtain some of these funds for the benefit of Thoreau MS students to expand sidewalk systems and implement safety improvements within the school's walking area.

We are looking for input to help identify needed safety improvements as well as volunteers to assist.

Most importantly, we would like to hear from you on any unsafe conditions your student encounters while walking or biking to school, so we can identify implements that are needed.

Please send your input or volunteer information to Sharon Baum, SRTS Committee, 703.255.1430, SSBAUM4@msn.com

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 2
Thursday, September 2
Tuesday, September 7
Thursday, September 15
Monday, September 20
Monday, September 27
Monday, October 4
Monday, October 11
Tuesday, October 12
Wednesday, October 13
Monday, October 18
Friday, October 29
Friday, October 29
Monday, November 1
Tuesday, November 2

New Student Orientation – 9:00 am to 11:30 am
Parent/Student Open House – 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
First Day of 2010-2011 School Year
Back-To-School Night – 7:00 pm
School Magazine Drive Fundraiser Begins
Parent Seminar-Love and Limits 9am-10am
PTA Meeting – 9:00 am in the Library
Columbus Day Holiday
8th Grade Student Pictures Taken
7th Grade Student Pictures Taken
Parent Seminar-Keep Your Child Safe in Cyberspace 7pm-9pm
First Grading Period Ends
SCA Dance – 2:55 to 4:30 p.m.
Teacher Workday – Student Holiday
Teacher Workday – Student Holiday

Navy Federal's 18th Annual 5K Run/Walk Benefiting the local charity, Committee for Helping Others

- Navy Federal Credit Union will hold its 18th annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, 18 September to support the Committee for Helping Others (CHO), a local charity that provides goods and services to those in need in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, and Vienna communities.
- The run/walk will begin and end at Navy Federal's headquarters in Vienna and meander through various historic parts of town. This event is open to the public and will offer post-race refreshments, ChronoTrack timing, and great raffle prizes. All proceeds will go directly to CHO. Check in time is from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and the race will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- For further information on the 5K event and to register online, visit www.runwashington.com. For questions or concerns, contact Julia McNaney at (703) 206-4362.