

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

May 26, 2011

1. **Thoreau's annual art show was recently held at the headquarters of the Navy Federal Credit Union. Congratulations to the following students who received awards based on voting by Navy Federal employees.**
 - First Place – Ellen Blackburn (Drawing-Cabin in the Woods)
 - Second Place – Rachel Child (Painting-Seashore)
 - Third Place – Ellen Blackburn (Watercolor drawing-Music)
 - Honorable Mentions – Aisha Iqbal (Mask); Isabel Gavurin (Painting-Social Issues); Julianne Kelm (Watercolor drawing-Figures)
2. **This year's American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Vienna will be held at Oakton High School on June 11.**
 - This is an overnight event to raise funds to fight cancer and raise awareness about cancer prevention and programs offered by the American Cancer Society.
 - Students are encouraged to participate by joining a team that will take turns in the Relay, volunteering on the day of the event, designing posters and brochures, making decorations, taking photographs, etc.
 - Additional information about Relay for Life can be found at www.ViennaRelay.org.
3. **This year's eighth grade celebration, Beach Party 2011, will be held Friday, June 10, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., AND WE STILL NEED PERMISSION SLIPS FROM PARENTS!**
 - Volunteers are still needed, and we welcome seventh-grade parents to join in, too. If you are interested in helping with decorations, food donations or as a chaperone, please go to <http://www2.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=beachparty> to sign up!
 - Parent contacts are Shelly Koshuta (event coordinator) at mkosh77@aol.com, Caryn Baum (decorations chair) at carynLbaum@aol.com or Laurie DiRocco (food and drink coordinator) at robert.dirocco2@verizon.net.
 - Food donations of cookies and/or gallon sized jugs of water may be dropped off at the main office the day of the event. Please label any containers you want returned.
 - We still need beach decorations like beach towels, beach chairs, lawn chairs, surf boards, beach umbrellas, baby pools, ice coolers, anything "beachy" that you can think of!
 - We also need 4 canopy tents that can stand on asphalt. (Don't need to be staked into the ground!)
4. **Cunningham Park Elementary School would like to invite parents and former students to help celebrate the career of a teacher retiring this year.**
 - Teresa Saunders, our ESOL teacher, is retiring. Please stop by Cunningham Park on Tuesday, June 7, from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm to wish her well. If you would like to send her a greeting, you may send it to susan.waring@fcps.edu or Susan Waring, Cunningham Park Elementary School, 1001 Park St., Vienna, VA 22180.
 - Ex-familias de la escuela Cunningham Park: Teresa Saunders, nuestra maestra de ESOL se esta jubilando. Por favor visítenos en la escuela el día martes 7 de junio de 6:30-8:00 pm para su despedida. Si usted quisiera enviarle un mensaje lo puede hacer a susan.waring@fcps.edu o Susan Waring Cunningham Park Elementary School 1001 Park St. Vienna VA 22180.
5. **A non-contact football camp for rising 8th and 9th grade students will be held July 26 - 29 from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. on the turf at Water's Field.**
 - This camp will focus on proper fundamentals to help prepare players for the upcoming season, focusing on skill positions (quarterback, running back, receivers, and defensive back).
 - Clinics will be conducted by current and former Madison players, local youth coaches and college players.
 - Contact Lenny Schultz at laschultz1@fcps.edu or Matt Bianchi at mjbianchi@fcps.edu for more information.
6. **The Madison High School and Marshall High School Activity Fairs are scheduled for June 9th.**
 - Rising ninth-graders will go to their respective high schools to learn about opportunities to get involved and receive a brief overview of Madison and Marshall High School.
 - Students will be bused over for part of the day.
 - Marshall-bound students will eat lunch at Marshall High School, so they will need to either bring a sack lunch or \$2.75 to purchase lunch at Marshall.
 - Madison-bound students will need to bring a sack lunch. We will eat at Thoreau in the common areas when we return.
 - Be on the lookout for a flyer with important information.
7. **After-school clinic with Madison High School's football coaches coming to Thoreau Middle School!**
 - Wednesdays from May 25-June 8!
 - Seventh and eighth-grade students are invited to meet the coaches, learn about the program, and complete some (non-contact) training.
 - Students who are interested in participating should meet in Gym 2 on Wednesdays, dressed and ready to play.
8. **Seventh and Eighth-Grade Award Ceremonies are scheduled for June 17 (8th grade) and June 20 (7th grade).**
 - The programs will begin at 8 a.m.
 - Parents of students receiving awards will be notified in the next couple of weeks.
9. **The Thoreau Math Department will once again be offering its Algebra Boot Camp for rising 8th grade students taking Algebra next year.**
 - Algebra Boot Camp is designed for students who might need additional support before beginning Algebra in the 8th grade.
 - This year's camp will be August 1 to August 12 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Thoreau Middle School. Be on the lookout for invitations and details from your student's math teacher.
10. **The Office of Adult and Community Education is offering a test prep seminar this summer for rising eighth-grade students planning to apply to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for the 2011-12 school year.**
 - Students enrolled in this seminar will focus on admissions test-related mathematical and verbal reasoning, essay writing, and study strategies. Students practice skills through group work, interactive instruction, and participation in web casts. Other topics include enhancing individual test performance and building confidence.

- More information about the seminar and how to register can be found at the “Kids and Teens” link at the ACE website, www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE/.

11. Students will have the opportunity to apply for two awards that will be presented at the end-of-the-year award ceremonies for seventh and eighth grade students.

- The Navy Federal Credit Union Award of Excellence will be presented to one Thoreau student that demonstrates outstanding service to the school and community. Applications for this award are available in the main office or can be found on the Thoreau website under Parent/Student Resources. Applications for this award are due no later than Wednesday, June 1.
- Thoreau Letters will be presented to students who combine outstanding achievement, extracurricular activities and service to the community. Seventh grade students can earn a small Thoreau letter while eighth grade students can earn a large Thoreau letter. Applications for this award are also available in the main office or can be found on the Thoreau website under Parent/Student Resources. Applications for this award are due no later than Thursday, June 9.

12. Wondering how to keep your string player or pianist interested in music over the summer? Want to have a fun way to learn about music while increasing their skill level?

- Popular Music for String Players is offering scholarship opportunities to the Thoreau community! For more information please write to janelleppin@gmail.com or call Janel Leppin at (703) 300-2798

As summer approaches, please consider registering your rising 7th grade student in Thoreau’s Excellence in Action summer camp! Spread the word to others who might have a rising 7th grade student, too!

- Dates: Session 1- July 25th-29; Session 2-August 15th-19th
- Time: 9am-Noon
- Location: Thoreau Middle School
- Cost: \$100 for each session (registration permitted for only ONE session and scholarships are available for those with financial need)
- Contact: Traci Michaud at Tlmichaud@fcps.edu

The purpose of Thoreau’s Excellence in Action program is to orient new seventh grade students to the middle-school experience. Students will develop time management skills, test-taking strategies, team building and organizational and study skills. In addition, students will gain a sense of familiarity with the building and usage of lockers. Students will also be introduced to the four curricular areas and will have a preview of some of the academic topics covered throughout the school year. Teachers, counselors, and administrators will be on hand to assist rising seventh graders in developing their level of comfort at Thoreau.

PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Service needs your help! Retired Lt. General John Bradley has asked our help filling a plane to help the Afghan children. The kids have little to nothing at all. They live in the mountains, many orphans, as refugees. But they WANT to learn. They would TREASURE your old backpack. (Fill it) with: your old shoes/boots, a warm pair of socks, a book, a notebook, some pencils and pens, a sweater, or a blanket - a handwritten note - something most have never received in their life. A very large box will be in the foyer until LOCKER CLEAN OUT day, when all usable supplies will be collected instead of thrown away. The plane leaves 7/1. All items can be used or new - clean would be nice. Organizers could use (adult) help sorting, too. Contact: marywoodsvienna@gmail.com <http://www.lamia-afghanfoundation.org/contact-us/guidelines> .

Congratulations to our 2011-2012 PTA Officers:

- President - Jill Hecht
- VP - Barbara Franklin
- Treasurer - Aimee Davis
- Secretary- Mary Ann Resin

Thanks to all the PTA board members and parent volunteers that helped make this year a huge success. We couldn't do what it takes to make TMS a great place for our kids without the outstanding partnership between parents that volunteer their time, talent and resources working together with the teachers and staff who work tirelessly to make it all happen!

Don't miss your chance to be part of the fun...there are many volunteer opportunities that can be filled by stay-at-home or working parents. Please contact President@ThoreauPTA.org and we will help find a match for your time and talents!

Coming Soon

Friday, May 27	Two Hour Early Release – Students Dismissed at 12:50 pm
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day Holiday – School Closed
Thursday, June 9	Madison/Marshall Activity Fair Day
Thursday, June 9	Chorus Concert-Madison High School, 7:00 pm
Friday, June 10	8th Grade Dance – 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Wednesday, June 15	Concert Band at Madison, 7:30 pm
Friday, June 17	8th Grade Award Ceremony – 8:00 am
Monday, June 20	7th Grade Award Ceremony – 8:00 am
Tuesday, June 21	Early Release Day; Last Day of School