



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

September 16th, 2010

- 1. Thoreau's Magazine Drive fundraiser will kick off on September 20th and continue through October 5th.**
 - Information about the sale and sales packets will be distributed to students on September 20th.
 - We hope that we can count on the Thoreau community to support our drive by purchasing new subscriptions and/or *renewing existing ones*.
 - Participation in the fundraiser is optional. Those students who participate are asked to sell magazine subscriptions to family members and to close friends of the family. Students are discouraged from going door-to-door to sell subscriptions.
 - Parent volunteers will be needed to help process orders and hand out prizes. Please contact the school if you are interested in helping with this year's drive.

- 2. For the safety of all our students, it is important for drivers to follow correct procedures when dropping children off at Thoreau in the morning.**
 - The Thoreau parking lot can be a very busy place before school as staff members are arriving and parents are dropping students off at school.
 - When entering the parking lot to drop off students, please bear to the right and follow the painted arrows around to entrance #9. Students may be dropped off at this entrance. When exiting the parking lot, please yield to buses turning into the bus lane in front of the building.
 - **Do not attempt to make a quick U-turn** upon entering the parking lot. This will back traffic up on Cedar Lane and impede buses from entering the bus lane.
 - At all times, please be watchful for students and staff members walking across the parking lot toward the building. Thoreau's School Resource Officer will be monitoring the parking lot and directing traffic when necessary.

- 3. The following dates have been established for students and parents interested in applying for admission into Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology:**
 - Tuesday, September 28 – Applications and information for students interested in TJ will be available from Mrs. Warden in the cafeteria during Time to Soar.
 - Wednesday, September 29 – TJ Comes to Thoreau! Learn more about Thomas Jefferson from the Admissions Director in an event open to both 7th & 8th grade students and parents. Thoreau Library, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 2 – Open House at Thomas Jefferson from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 - Thursday, October 21 – All Thomas Jefferson applications are due to Mrs. Warden in Guidance by 1st period (7:50 a.m.)
 - Saturday, December 4 – Thomas Jefferson admissions test
 - More information about admission to Thomas Jefferson can be found at <http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions>

- 4. Students can use our remote databases to access information from home.**
 - Students are encouraged to use them for personal research which will help them be more comfortable with them in high school.
 - The databases available on our Library Blackboard are accurate and reliable; thus, students have the opportunity to utilize information that is citation worthy.

- 5. Late buses are due to begin on Monday, September 20th.**
 - Students are encouraged to stay after school to make up work, obtain additional help, or to participate in an after-school activity.
 - Late buses will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Late activities begin at 2:55 p.m. and end at 3:55 p.m. On Mondays, buses will depart shortly after 4:00 p.m. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, buses will need to complete their elementary runs before returning to Thoreau for late runs. This will result in late buses departing Thoreau sometime between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 - Run numbers and stops for late buses are different from regular run numbers and stops. Students should consult the late-bus schedules posted near the front entrances to identify their late-bus run number and stop. Students are to ride only their assigned late bus.
 - Students who stay for activities on Tuesdays and Fridays *are required to have parent pick up*.

PTA NEWS and UPDATES

Did you know that our **PTA budget** is primarily **funded by membership dues and donations** to our NO-FUSS Fundraiser?

Download a One Stop form or use our online payment program www.Pay4SchoolStuffOnline.com

Double or Triple your Donation to TMS-PTA

Many companies designate corporate dollars to match employee contributions to charitable and not-for-profit organizations as a way to leverage and encourage employee donations.

1. Pick up your company's Matching Gift Form from your Human Resources or Community Relations Department.
2. Complete your portion of the form and return it to Thoreau Middle School along with your donation check.

Parent Seminar Series #1

Join us in the Lecture Hall, Monday, **September 27 at 9:00 am** for our first Parent Education program **Love and Limits with Your Young Teen**. You'll hear from Cathi Cohen, LCSW, Director and Founder of In Step PC and author of *Raise Your Child's Social IQ* tell us more about how to set limits and follow through to keep your teen safe, happy and on track. Refreshments will be served.

Cash Back to Thoreau

Do you shop at Giant or Safeway? Thoreau can earn cash through Giant A+ BonusBucks and Safeway eScrip programs. Go to www.Thoreaupta.org and click on link to fundraising to register or renew your cards.

The **School Store is open** in the cafeteria **during lunch** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students can purchase school supplies and Thoreau spirit-wear.

We are finalizing the **Student Directories**. Each student will receive one free. Additional directories are \$5 and can be ordered by using the One Stop PTA membership dues & donation form.

Looking for a way to get involved at TMS? Volunteers are still needed in many areas. Working at the school store, assisting with after-school clubs, and helping in the clinic are just a few examples of volunteer opportunities at TMS. A complete list of volunteer opportunities and job descriptions can be found on our website.

Be sure to visit our website www.ThoreauPTA.org often for current events and updates.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, September 18
 - Monday, September 20
 - Monday, September 27
 - Monday, October 4
 - Monday, October 11
 - Tuesday, October 12
 - Wednesday, October 13
 - Thursday, October 15
 - Monday, October 18
 - Tuesday, October 19
 - Friday, October 29
 - Friday, October 29
 - Monday, November 1
 - Tuesday, November 2
 - Wednesday, November 10
 - Thursday, November 11
 - Thursday, November 11
- Navy Federal's Annual 5K run/walk
 - School Magazine Drive Fundraiser Begins
 - Parent Seminar: *Love and Limits*-9 a.m.-10 a.m.
 - PTA Meeting – 9:00 a.m. in the Library
 - Columbus Day Holiday
 - 8th Grade Student Pictures Taken
 - 7th Grade Student Pictures Taken
 - 8th Grade Band at Madison 7:00 p.m.
 - Parent Seminar: *Keeping Your Child Safe in Cyberspace*, 7 p.m.
 - Three-Hour Early Release (Staff Development)
 - First Grading Period Ends
 - SCA Dance – 2:50 to 4:15 p.m.
 - Teacher Workday – Student Holiday
 - Teacher Workday – Student Holiday
 - 7th –Grade Family Dinner
 - Parent Seminar: *Raising an Academically Successful Student*
 - Mini Conferences 2 p.m.-4 p.m. (after the Parent Seminar)