

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

December 15th, 2011

If your student walks home, please remind him/her to USE THE CROSSWALK when leaving school. We have corrected several students who are leaving school premises at the end of the day and crossing Cedar in front of the school instead of using the designated crosswalks.

- 1. Outer Wear Drive (clean coats, jackets, scarves, hats and gloves) from November 28th-December 19th.**
 - Donate to teens in our area in need of outer wear. Collection boxes are in the foyer of the main office!
- 2. Pre-Holiday Schedules**
 - Please note that December 22, 2011, and May 25, 2012, are regular, full-length school days. The last two school years were early release days due to budgetary constraints.
- 3. FLE presentations will be January 9-13th**
 - Family Life Education lessons include Emotional and Social Health Education and Human Growth and Development Education.
 - Materials have been available for preview throughout first quarter.
 - You still may preview the materials at any time. Please contact the school to set up an appointment.
 - Opt out forms are available should you choose not to allow your student to participate.
- 4. FCPS Career and Transition Services Night- Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 7:00pm - 8:30pm**
 - Do you know what opportunities are available in FCPS to help prepare students receiving special education services for high school and beyond? Attend this Open House for middle and high school students receiving special education services and their parents for information on Job Coach Services, Employment & Transition and more!
 - Location: Woodson High School. More information at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/resources/events/documents/CTSflyerrevised.pdf>
- 5. Thoreau Parent Coffee on Transition Services for Students with Special Needs- Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 9:00-10:30am (inclement weather date: February 10)**
 - Wondering what's next after Thoreau? Join other Thoreau families at this PTA-sponsored parent coffee to meet career and transition staff from Madison HS and Marshall HS. Learn about school-based transition resource supports, transition instruction, career assessment, work awareness, Academy programs, and other supports and services available to students with special needs transitioning to high school and beyond.
 - Presenters include:
 - Katie Barnett, Special Education Department Chair, Thoreau Middle School
 - Carolyn Ebeler, Employment and Transition Representative, Madison HS
 - Janelle Ellis, Transition Liaison, Career and Transition Services, FCPS
 - Chris Pascarella, Employment and Transition Representative, Marshall HS
 - Location: Thoreau Middle School library

PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE HAS PLANS FOR TEACHER TREATS AND A STUDENT SURPRISE NEXT WEEK. EMAIL HOSPITALITY@THOREAUPTA.ORG IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE COOKIES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:30-9:30 AM.

Membership dues from our 234 PTA members and generous donations to the "No Fuss" fundraiser have allowed the TMS-PTA to do the following:

- Host (2) very successful parent education programs: *Middle School Must-Knows, Social Networking, Cyberbullying & Protecting Your Online Digital Reputation*. Information about each presentation can be found on our web site <http://www.thoreapta.org/>
- Host a follow up presentation, "*Keeping Safe in Cyberspace*" for all TMS students and staff members
- Provide Back to School Breakfast, Smoothies, Halloween treats and Thanksgiving Pies for teachers and staff
- Create a new perennial flower bed around our flag pole. Planted an Organic Community Vegetable Garden. Clean up and prepare school grounds for winter by spreading mulch, weeding and raking leaves
- Produce and distribute a student directory to every Thoreau family
- Replenish supplies in teachers lounge
- Provided school supplies for **ASAP** (After school Assistance Program)
- Provided volunteers to assist with picture day
- Provided volunteers and snacks for clinic and vision/hearing screening
- Replenish inventory for school store and provide volunteers to staff school store during lunch Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Implement Community Service Club after school program
- Update our web site monthly with program information for students and families
- Hosted a 7th grade Family Dinner for over 300 guests
- Created a Nutrition Committee

These efforts rely on the support of Thoreau families through our "No-Fuss" Fundraiser. ***It's never too late to become a PTA member or donate to our No Fuss fundraiser!*** Also, please consider using our shopper reward programs at Giant, Safeway, Office Depot, QSP Magazines and FundsOn. This method of fundraising makes it super easy for families to shop and eat where they normally do, at their convenience, and have Thoreau Middle School PTA receive a benefit as well. Visit our web site <http://www.thoreapta.org/Membership.php> for easy to follow instructions. Thanks for your support!

National Speak Up Survey

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is participating in Speak Up, a national online survey about the use of technology in schools. The information collected will help FCPS, local, state and national policy makers, and the business community; contribute to the national dialogue about science, technology, and preparing students for the 21st century workforce. FCPS will be participating in the survey from **now until** December 23. The online survey is open to students, teachers, staff, and parents. We request that parents complete the survey with their child at home. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. We encourage everyone to participate in the survey. Please visit <http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2011/> to take the survey. The secret word is **fairfaxva**.

For more information about the survey, visit <http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup>.

Upcoming Events

December/January...

Dec 23-Jan. 2: Winter Break

Jan 6-7: District Orchestra Event

7: All District Band Audition

9: PTA General Meeting 9:00am

9-13: FLE all week in PE classes

13: Yearbook Club Pictures

16: No School – Martin Luther King Holiday

20: PTA Lunch for Staff

23: Parent Education Program

27: End of 2nd Quarter

30-31: No School for students – Teacher Workday

