

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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June 8, 2010

With this final issue of *Thoreau Matters* for the 2009-2010 school year, we would like to welcome the families of our rising seventh grade students and bid farewell to those with students entering ninth grade next year. Since middle school lasts only two years, we encourage our new families to jump right in and get involved. The PTA would also like to thank all of those who volunteered in support of the various activities that took place at Thoreau this year.

1. The last day of school will be Thursday, June 24.

- The school day will be 2 ½ hours. Buses will pick up students at the regular time in the morning. School will dismiss at 10:25 a.m.
- Students are expected to attend and report to all of their classes. Teachers will be giving final grades to students.
- Report cards will be mailed to homes on Tuesday, June 29.

2. For those of you who like to plan ahead, here are some dates to put on your calendars for next school year.

- Excellence in Action Camps for rising 7th grade students – July 26 to 30 and August 16 to 20
- Algebra Boot Camp for rising 8th grade students – August 2 to 13
- New student orientation – Thursday, September 2, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Open house for parents and students – Thursday, September 2, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- School begins – Tuesday, September 7
- Back-To-School Night – Wednesday, September 15

3. Thoreau will once again be offering its Excellence in Action program this summer for rising 7th grade students.

- This program is designed to provide students with essential background knowledge and skills needed for a smooth transition to middle school.
- There will be two sessions to choose from, July 26 to 30 or August 16 to 20. The program will run from 9:00 to noon each day. The cost is \$100 and lunch will be served.
- For more information or to get a copy of the registration form, please visit Thoreau's website or contact the program director at tracy.reick@fcps.edu. The registration deadline is July 9.

4. Back-to-School information packets for the 2010-2011 school year will be mailed to the homes of rising 7th and 8th grade students during the third week of August.

- These packets will contain lots of important information for parents and students to start off the school year.
- The packet will include a letter from the principal, bell schedules, bus schedules, general supply lists, new student orientation information, and many forms that will need to be completed.
- Student schedules will be distributed on the first day of school.
- If you are moving over the summer, please contact the Guidance Office as soon as possible to ensure your packet arrives in a timely manner.

5. Parents are encouraged to make sure their student takes care of all of their financial obligations before the end of the school year.

- Begin looking around the house now for library books, textbooks, and calculators that need to be returned to school.
- If an item cannot be found, it will need to be paid for. Students will need to check with their teacher or the librarian to determine the cost of the missing item.
- Please make checks payable to Thoreau Middle School. Payment will need to be given to your child's teacher if paying for a textbook or calculator, or the librarian if paying for a library book.

6. **The Thoreau PTA recently received a \$500 corporate donation through the “Dollars for Doers” program at the workplace of one of our Thoreau parents.**
 - “Dollars for Doers” programs support the volunteer efforts of employees by matching employee volunteer hours with corporate cash donations.
 - How about you? Are you willing to generate free money for Thoreau Middle School? It's easy to do. Just consult your employer's human resource or community relations office to see if they participate in a "Dollars for Doers" program.

7. **Parents are asked to take a moment and complete an online survey about Thoreau’s after-school program.**
 - The survey is an important component of the after-school program evaluation. Your responses will allow us to assess the impact of this year’s program and help determine the quality of next year’s program.
 - The survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FDSTSBP>.

8. **Yearbooks will be distributed on Monday, June 21 to students who have ordered them.**
 - Students will not receive a yearbook until they have taken care of all school related financial obligations such as turning in all textbooks and library materials.
 - Parents are asked to talk with their children about appropriate use of yearbooks prior to the distribution date.
 - Students should ask only friends and acquaintances to sign their yearbooks. Yearbooks should be given only to specific persons to be signed and not passed around.
 - Students should not write anything in a yearbook that they do not want everyone, including their parents, to read.
 - Students using inappropriate language in someone’s yearbook, or students who deface another person’s book will be asked to pay for a new yearbook.

9. **This summer, Fairfax County Public Schools will continue its summer reading requirement for all students completing grades five through eleven.**
 - A summer reading list has been created that contains many suggestions for reading. Students may read any book that is comparable to books on the list and approved by their parents.
 - Information about this requirement and lists of suggested books can be found at www.fcps.edu/DIS/readlist/index.htm.
 - Reading is crucial to academic achievement. Students are encouraged to read as many books, magazines, and newspaper articles as possible over the summer.

10. **The PTA would like to thank parents for their support of Thoreau through this year’s Giant Food A+ BonusBucks Program.**
 - Through your efforts, over \$2,600 has been raised to support students and programs at Thoreau.
 - Look for information regarding next year’s program at local stores or at Giant’s A+ website www.giantfood.com/aplus.

11. **There will be a brief general meeting of the PTA in the auditorium of James Madison High School on Wednesday, June 16, immediately before the 7:00 p.m. Spring Band Concert and Award Ceremony scheduled for that evening.**
 - The purpose of the meeting will be to elect the new slate of officers for next school year.
 - Next year’s slate of officers include Gay Campbell, President; Nancy Socher, Vice President; Kristine Fisher, Treasurer; Donna Bobalek, Secretary.

12. **The PTA has recently agreed to fund a portable netbook lab for student use next year.**
 - This lab will be used by science classes. As a result, all students will benefit from this outstanding technology resource.
 - Thoreau would like to thank the PTA for funding this wonderful resource.

Upcoming Events

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| Friday, June 11 | 8th Grade Dance – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, June 15 | Chorus and Orchestra at Thoreau – 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, June 16 | PTA Meeting and Election of Officers at Madison – 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, June 16 | Spring Band Concert and Awards at Madison – 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, June 22 | 8th Grade Award Ceremony – 8:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, June 23 | 7th Grade Award Ceremony – 8:00 a.m. |
| Thursday, June 24 | Last Day of School – Students Dismissed at 10:25 a.m. |