

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

September 15th, 2011

1. 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.

2. Back to School Night has been rescheduled for September 21st, from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

- Please make plans to attend this evening and meet your student's teachers as you walk through his/her actual schedule. (Complete with bells-so don't be tardy!)
- Parents can also sign up for Blackboard that evening as well.

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 27 – 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. Lecture Hall, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 28 – Applications will be available from Mr. Buckley in the Library during Time to Soar
- Saturday, October 1 – Open House at Thomas Jefferson from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday October 19 – All Thomas Jefferson applications are due to Mr. Buckley in Student Services by the end of the school day (2:45pm)
- Saturday, December 3 – Thomas Jefferson admissions test
- More information about admission to Thomas Jefferson can be found at <http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions>

4. Late buses are due to begin running on Monday, September 19.

- 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 3:00 p.m. and end at 4:00 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 posed near the front entrances to identify their late bus run number and stop. Students are to ride only their assigned late bus.
- If you are picking up your student, please meet them at the Kiss-n-Ride (Door 9). If it is unscheduled, please park and come to the main office. Remember, the bus lane must be clear at all times.
- Students do not need to pre-register for most activities. Please pay attention to the morning news show, the calendar outside the cafeteria, and Blackboard to see what is available

5. Please visit Thoreau's website frequently for important information about our school and system's offerings.

6. Families in need of \$9.95/month Internet service and a low-cost computer, may qualify for a program through Comcast. Your household must meet all of these criteria:

- Be located where Comcast offers Internet service.
- Have at least one child receiving free school lunches through the National School Lunch Program.
- Have not subscribed to Comcast Internet service within the last 90 days.
- Not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment.

7. Please remember to sign up for bonus programs at local vendors to support our school. They pay us for the shopping that you would normally do!

- Last year, over \$2000.00 was donated to our school from various shopping locations.
- Sign up at Target, Safeway or Giant and register your card with our school.
- We appreciate your support!

8. Seventh-grade families are asked to mark their calendars for the annual seventh-grade family dinner to be held Wednesday, November 16, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

- More details to come in future Thoreau Matters.

9. Join the Madison Cross Country and Track teams for their annual Fall 5K/One-mile Fun Run.

- The event will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011.
- Visit <http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/> for more information.

PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join the PTA** and consider making a donation to our NO FUSS Fundraiser. Students are not selling magazines; the PTA will not host a fundraiser event.

We rely solely on your membership dues and donations to fund our programs.

- Virtual Back To School Information Packet:

[Membership Form](#)

[Volunteer Form](#)

[Parent Education Programs](#)

[Giant A+ Program](#)

- **Girls on the Run Assistant Coach Needed**

We are looking for a parent to join our two volunteers and assist the Girls on the Run Program. Two coaches are required to be present for the twice weekly (Mon & Wed 3:00-4:00) practices. Practices start on 9/26/11 and the 5K is 11/20/11. To hear more about the program and the roles/responsibilities of an Assistant Coach, please contact Janice Ware jx3ware@yahoo.com

Coming Soon

...to a middle school near you (Thoreau)

September...

19: First Day of Late Buses

21: BTSN 5:30-7:30

26: PTA Meeting, Lecture Hall: 9AM

27: TJ Informational Meeting, Lecture Hall: 7PM-9PM

October...

4: PTA Meeting, Library, 9AM (Middle School Must Knows)

10: No School, Columbus Day

11: 8th Grade Pictures

12: 7th Grade Pictures

14: 8th Grade Band, Madison High School

25: PTA, Lecture Hall, 9AM