

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

January 26, 2012

- High school counselors from Madison and Marshall will be visiting Thoreau on Wednesday, February 1, to discuss high school selections with rising 9th grade students.**
 - Counselors will provide students with a course selection guide and a high school course selection sheet.
 - Look over these materials with your child and help them to make appropriate course selections for next year.
 - Course selection forms will be collected through science classes and are due on Monday, February 13.
- Evening orientations for students attending Madison or Marshall next year are being planned to provide parents and students with information about classes and course requirements.** Details on Page 2.
- Second Semester Schedules – will be distributed on February 1st:** Upon arriving at school -
 - All 8th graders report to gym 1
 - All 7th graders report to the cafeteria
- All 8th grade students will be attending a Finance Park field trip on February 2, 3 and 6th.**
 - Field trip permission slips were distributed earlier this week. Forms must be signed and returned by Wednesday, February 1st.
 - On the day of the field trip, students will need to bring a sack lunch and drink in a disposable bag (no glass containers).
 - Students are also asked to wear business casual clothing.
- Thoreau Parent Coffee on Transition Services for Students with Special Needs-** Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 9:00-10:30am (inclement weather date: February 10) - 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
- Marshall High School IB Information Night** - For middle school students, freshmen, and sophomores – and their families will be held on **Wednesday, March 14, 2012**. The session will run from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Marshall High School Auditorium. Orientation program for students in grades 7-10 and their parents, featuring current and past Marshall IB Students, Parents, Principal, Director of Student Services and IB Coordinators.
- Important News for Rising 7th Graders**
 - Tuesday, March 13, 2012**—Rising 7th Grade Student Orientation/Tour at Thoreau 9:30 am to 11:45 am.
 - Tuesday, March 13, 2012—6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Lecture Hall**-- Parent Orientation for students receiving **Special Ed Services**
 - Tuesday, March 13, 2012—6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Library** – Parent Orientation for students receiving **ESOL Services**
 - Tuesday, March 13, 2012—7:00- 8:00 pm. Gym 2**--Rising 7th Grade Parent Orientation.
 - (Snow Date Tuesday, March 20).
- Congratulations to two Thoreau Students** - Washington's prestigious regional theater company Arena Stage holds a highly competitive 10-minute playwriting contest each year for 6th grade through high school in the DC/VA/MD area. They choose 12 winners to get a full production with actors, sets, costumes – and 12 middle & high school Honorable Mentions who get a staged reading at Arena with professional actors. All Advanced Drama class students are required to write a play for submission. They received over 800 submissions this year and Thoreau scored not one, but two Honorable Mentions! **Congratulations** to 8th graders **Kyrin Jones & Sabina Whitcomb**, whose plays will be read at Arena Stage on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 28. It is open to the public and free, but seating is limited. If interested in attending, contact Mr. DeLeo.
- Madison Field Hockey After School!** The Madison Field Hockey coaches will sponsor this clinic. All 7th and 8th grade girls are invited to attend. This is a great time to interact with the high school coaches, learn about their program, and practice the game. This clinic is for students of all levels (beginner to more advanced). The clinic will run on Wednesdays from 2:55-3:55 starting on February 1st (and ending on February 22nd) in Gym 2. All interested students should plan on attending on Feb 1st. If you have shin guards, you can bring them. All other equipment will be provided.
- Reminder for After School Activities** - In the event of 2-hour early school closing or school cancellation, all middle school after-school activities will be cancelled. All bus students will be sent home on their regular buses. Parents should monitor the school website and radio/television during times of inclement weather for emergency notices. Please make sure to develop a plan with your children to cover emergency situations. These discussions should include: access to spare keys; neighbors and/or classmates with whom they can stay; how to contact their parents; contacting their parents when they arrive home; etc.
- Next Food for Others Trip** is after-school on 2/9. Forms will be available in Mrs. Carter-Wharton's room (212) and on the Thoreau Activities site on Blackboard by 2/1. All 7th and 8th graders are invited. *We only have 15 spots, so students are accepted on a first come, first served basis.* **We need 4 parent volunteers to assist with transporting and chaperoning.** Email Jennifer Carter-Wharton at Jennifer.carter@fcps.edu by 2/3 if you are available to assist.

Principal's Corner

As I finish my first two weeks at Thoreau, I would like to thank the PTA and parents for a very warm welcome. It was great to meet so many of you last week in person, and I loved hearing why parents feel Thoreau is such a wonderful school. Likewise, I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know all of the students and hearing what they love about Thoreau. The message from parents and students is the same. The staff members at Thoreau are exceptional, and they find a way to help each student reach his/her potential.

We are all sad to see Mrs. Lenart leave Thoreau. But we all know that she will go on to accomplish great things at West Springfield High School. We are now in the final stages of selecting a new Assistant Principal to replace Mrs. Lenart. Hopefully, we will be able to introduce our new Assistant Principal in the next Thoreau Matters.

While the selection process for the new Assistant Principal continues, we are fortunate to have Kathy Kraus-Zadrozny join Thoreau on a temporary basis from January 24th to February 10th to serve in the role of Assistant Principal. Please give Kathy a warm Thoreau welcome when you see her.

“Be true to your work, your word, and your friend.” – Henry David Thoreau

James Madison High School’s Curriculum Night will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. (Snow date is February 9, 2012). This program provides parents and students, grades 8 – 11, an opportunity to learn about academic classes, elective classes, and specific course requirements and expectations. Teachers and departments will have displays and information throughout the building to provide you and your student with an excellent opportunity to find out about the different curricular offerings and requirements offered at Madison High School.

From 7:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. a presentation for parents of rising 9th graders will be held in the auditorium. There will be a power point presentation with an overview of high school curriculum, verified credits, and activities with time at the end for general questions.

Marshall High School’s Curriculum Night will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. (Snow Date: February 16)

Rising 9th Grade Orientation (For current 8th grade students and their parents.)

Location: George C. Marshall High School

Program focuses on course descriptions and graduation requirements.

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Visit Elective Exhibits

6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Orientation Program begins in the Auditorium

...from Thoreau’s PTA

A Message from PTA Membership

As the school year comes up on its halfway mark, the TMS PTA remains committed to serving the needs of our students and families here in the Thoreau community. One of our many goals and responsibilities throughout the year is to monitor and ensure adequate funding for our numerous PTA-sponsored/supported programs. Your membership in the PTA helps support a revenue stream **and gives you a voice** at the local, state and national levels.

PTA membership dues, donations to our No-Fuss Fundraiser, and proceeds from the school store are our main sources of revenue. Currently, our PTA is represented by approximately 20% of TMS families. Please help us stay on track in meeting our financial goals and making our PTA member-representation larger, broader, and stronger! To families that have already joined PTA and/or have donated to our No-Fuss Fundraiser, thank you! To those that have not yet had the opportunity to do so, it is not too late!

How can you join TMS PTA and/or make a tax deductible donation to the No-Fuss Fundraiser?

- Join/donate on line at www.thoreaupta.org; or
- Obtain a PTA Membership envelope ---available at all PTA meetings and PTA events; or
- Pick up a PTA Membership envelope in the TMS front office

We hope we can count on you to help support TMS PTA’s critical mission!

COMING SOON...

JANUARY 27: End of 2nd Quarter

30-31: No School for students–Teacher Workdays

FEBRUARY 1: Madison/Marshall High School counselors at Thoreau

2: Madison High School Rising 9th Grade Orientation – 7:00 pm

2, 3, 6: Field Trip to Finance Park for all 8th graders.

3: 2nd quarter report cards sent home

4: All-District Band Concert – Herndon High School – 3:30pm

7: Parent coffee on Transition Services in Library – 9:00 am

9: Marshall High School Rising 9th Grade Orientation – 6:00pm

20: No school - Presidents’ Day Holiday

23: Spring Pictures for 8th graders

24: Spring Pictures for 7th graders

March 5-6: Writing SOL’s 8th graders