



# PTA

**Date of PTA Meeting:** October 25, 2018

**Location:** Thoreau Library

**Attendees:**

Stacey Leimbach, Emily Korff, Amanda Dixon, Debbie Gardner, Principal Azimi, Rebecca Aguilar, Mimi Chou, Dawn-Marie Singleton, Lisa Kelso, Ravi Myneni, KC Myneni, Alecia Pflughardt, Gayle Schlueter, Lillian Huang, Wendy Pearson, Karyn Patino, Andrea Kramer, Urvi Desai, Soheil Saadat, Laura Plante, Mirtha Mutis

Emily called the meeting to order at 9:41am.

Deborah Gardner presented the minutes from the September 20, 2018, PTA meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Andrea Kramer. Wendy Pearson seconded, and the minutes were approved with a minor edit.

**Principal's Report**

Principal Azimi shared that there are a few items students can be doing to assist in wrapping up the first quarter successfully and preparing to transition into the second quarter. Teachers and counselors will be helping students as needed with these tasks during times of the day like Eagle Time and parents can be supporting their children by doing the same tasks at home.

1. **Academic Progress:** Be sure to check [StudentVUE](#) and [ParentVUE](#) to stay up to speed with teachers' gradebooks. Make sure that work is completed and turned in to the appropriate teacher. Pay attention to any outstanding assignments that still need to be finished. Be sure to be in compliance with the retake policy and/or late work policy.
2. **Backpacks:** Each student should open up his/her backpack. Take out those binders and notebooks. Find a home for loose papers. Do pens/pencils/markers need to be replenished? Have teachers given permission to purge any papers? Any food in backpacks that needs to be thrown away?
3. **Lockers:** Each student should open up his/her locker. Is it organized and can items be found easily? Does anything need to be thrown out from lockers that is no longer needed? Also, do not forget about gym lockers. Students should bring home any unwashed physical education uniforms to be cleaned.

**In addition, some questions parents can ask at home to have helpful end-of-the-quarter conversations include:**

1. What is at least one skill you have used after talking about it in *Steps to Success* class? Has that made you a better student?
2. What is at least one organizational strategy you use on a daily basis? How does that make you more prepared each day?
3. What is at least one planning strategy you use on a daily basis? How does that help you stay on top of all of your work?

**Professional Development**

Principal Azimi also wanted to extend his thanks to our hospitality committee and the many parents who donated pumpkins and other supplies for the staff pumpkin-carving event last week.



**Student Services Report**

Ms. Aguilar shared that all students have had wellness lessons. The 8th graders completed the wellness screening last week. The goal of this screening is for students to identify symptoms consistent with depression and/or suicide risk. 45 students were identified to be seen on the same day of testing based on their scores.

Ms. Aguilar wanted our community to know that there are resources for all students and parents available at <https://sossignsofsuicide.org>

**Log in:** thoreau-par

**PW:** thoreauSOS

She also shared the acronym taught to students “**ACT: ACKNOWLEDGE - CCARE - TELL”**

**ACKNOWLEDGE** that you are seeing signs of depression or suicide in yourself or a friend and that it is serious.

**CARE** Let your friend know that you care about them, and that you are concerned that they need help you cannot provide.

**TELL** a trusted adult - take your friend with you or go alone if you need

**President’s Report**

Emily Korff updated us with various committee updates including the following:

**Membership** - Short on overall goal for membership and no-fuss donations, but seem to be on track for this time of year. Staff membership information has been put in school mailboxes. [Join Now!](#) Please also support our PTA by contributing to our [No-Fuss](#) Fundraiser.

### **Grants for Staff**

Last Tuesday the committee met to review the grant proposals. Approvals will happen by end of month - \$5,000 budget. Possible request of donations to meet all requests (ie: used ipad, etc).

The following are a brief description of the requests our staff had for the grants:

- Science - energy transformation toys
- Special Ed - special shelf for life skills
- Band - ipad to record
- English - books
- Library - break out room kits, more display fixtures
- Art - display more art

### **Collaboration**

We are collaborating with a couple of local organizations.

**Bards Alley** - Thoreau students will have the opportunity to review books before they are published. We would like to thank our school librarian, Ms. Yeo, for leading this program.

**Club Phoenix** - Club Phoenix will be hosting various parent nights to discuss relevant topics throughout the year. The next discussion, The Opioid Epidemic, is on November 14 at 7pm at the Vienna Community Center.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Amanda Dixon shared that we're doing well with membership. About 25% short of our goals as of the end of September. At this point, we look to be on track to meet year-end goals. Ravi Myneni volunteered to fill the School Store Treasurer position and will work with Amanda.

### **7th Grade Family Dinner -**

We'd like to thank the committee for all their work in putting together a fun event for the 7th grade families. A dinner will be held on November 15th from 6-8pm for all 7th grade families. There will be a DJ and photo booth and Maggios/Skorpios will be serving the food. Tickets are \$12/person and are on sale now! [Get your tickets today!](#) Space is limited to students and parents. Parents are required to stay as this is not a drop-off event. We need your help! [Please volunteer](#)

### **Hospitality**

We would like to echo Principal Azimi in thanking our hospitality committee for all their efforts already this year. They are planning two upcoming initiatives:

- **November** - [Thanksgiving Pie donations](#) - distributed on Nov 20 (apple, pumpkin, or pecan pie)
- **December** - Box of Cookies (for each staff member and bus drivers)

## Dining for Dollars

- November 12: District Taco/Dunn Loring – 4-8pm

## Rebates/Box Tops

There are several easy ways to earn money for our school:

- register your Giant card to support Thoreau with the A+ School Rewards, group ID# 02131
- register your Harris Teeter VIC card with school code 3258
- designate Thoreau for your Amazon Smile charity
- keep collecting and sending in your Box Tops

## Volunteer Openings

We want to thank you for filling the open positions we listed at our last meeting so quickly!

## Want to Volunteer? We need you!

- **Hearing and Vision Screening** is looking for volunteers on November 13 & 14 - 7:30am-2:30pm – if you can help, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AEAA22A6F58-hearing>
- **President Elect for 2019** (could shadow this year)
- **Spelling Bee Chair 2020** (could shadow this year)

Emily ended the meeting at 10:35am.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 1:** Box Tops Deadline

**November 5 & 6:** Student Holidays

**November 12:** Dining for Dollars – District Taco/Dunn Loring – 4-8pm

**November 13 & 14:** Hearing and Vision Screening – 7:30am-2:30pm – if you can help, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AEAA22A6F58-hearing>

**November 14:** Club Phoenix: Fairfax County Opioid Task Force Panel Discussion - 7pm  
Club Phoenix Teen Center @ Vienna Community Center

**November 15 - PTA Meeting - CANCELED -** please see details for November 20th in lieu of this meeting - we know it's a busy time of year.

**November 15:** 7th Grade Family Dinner – 6-8pm

**Nov 20:** Please join us for a casual PTA gathering as we help the hospitality committee sort pies for the teachers - this is in lieu of our November PTA meeting that had been planned for Nov 15,

**November 21-23:** Student Holidays for Thanksgiving Break

**December 14:** Students released 3 hours early

**December 10:** Dining for Dollars – Vienna Inn – 7am-12am – MENTION AT REGISTER

**December 24 – January 4:** Winter Break

**January 7:** Spelling Bee Registration Opens

**January 14:** Dining for Dollars – Church Street Pizza – 11am-9pm – PLACE RECEIPT IN BOX AT THE REGISTER

**January 16:** Club Phoenix Parent Discussion: Video Game Rage – 7-8pm @ Club Phoenix Vienna Community Center

**January 17:** PTA meeting – tentatively scheduled for 9:30am