Odyssey of the Mind and Science Olympiad

Thoreau’s three Odyssey of the Mind (OM) teams competed March 7 at the Regional Odyssey of the Mind showcase at Oakton HS. The event hosted 169 teams and over 1,200 students from the Northern Virginia Region. Thoreau is very proud of the three teams. You are all winners in our mind! A special congratulations to the Runaway Train Team, who placed second in their division!

Thoreau OM students worked weekly from October to March to solve divergent problems together. The participants learned teamwork, self-respect and respect for others, and that a group is a more powerful thinking force than an individual. They took calculated risks to find solutions to complex challenges, while learning about responsibility and completing tasks on schedule.

The OM coaches will have an interest meeting in late spring to begin preparing for next year’s teams.

Thank you to our three Thoreau teacher-coaches and the many parent volunteers who gave their time and support. You are invaluable members of Odyssey of the Mind.

Thoreau’s Science Olympiad team competed on Sunday March 8th at the Marshall Regional Tournament. Our team competed in 19 events that comprised of building events and test taking events. Students competed with partners and prepared since September for this challenging event. Two of our students medaled in the event titled Dynamic Planet. Our students worked very hard and were calm under pressure. We are excited for our team to grow and improve next year.

Spring Musical—The Sound of Music

Join in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s The Sound of Music. Tickets on sale now for Thoreau MS’ production of The Sound of Music. Come follow the story of the von Trapp family and Maria in this timeless tale of love and family. So get ready to tap your toes and hum along to some of the best musical songs of all time.

Show dates: April 9-11 @ 7pm
Saturday Matinee: April 11 @ 2:30pm
Tickets $8 (service fee applies)
Visit the school website at http://www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS/ or www.Thoreaumsdrama.com For a link to order tickets online.

To the cast and crew of the Sound of Music: There is a Saturday Tech Rehearsal on Saturday, March 21 from 10am-3pm. Make arrangements for a ride. It is extremely important all students are present for this rehearsal. Lunch is provided.
**THOREAU MATTERS**

**Writing SOL Dates Rescheduled and Information**

Writing Standards of Learning (SOL) tests have been rescheduled due to loss of instructional time. Tests will be administered to eighth-grade students on March 17-18.

**Tuesday, March 17—AM**
*Short Essay for 8th G*

**Wednesday, March 18—AM**
*Multiple Choice for 8th G*

**Thursday & Friday, March 19 & 20—Make-ups**

It is very important that all students take these tests. Students should be absent only in emergencies. Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest and a good breakfast on these days.

**Spring SOL Testing Days are May 20 through June 5.**

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**TJ Middle School Summer Technology Institute**

Each year Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology runs a hands-on inquiry based middle school science and tech institute. They are one week seminars that explore Science and Technology for students currently in middle school.

Registration starts this Friday, March 13. If your student loves science and technology, this is a great opportunity! Students don’t have to aspire to go to TJ to enjoy this institute—this is for all levels.

For more information, visit: [www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/summer/index.php](http://www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/summer/index.php)
Anti-Bullying Week—March 23-27
The SCA is sponsoring an anti-bullying week to raise awareness throughout our student body to prevent bullying behaviors.

Monday, March 23—Cyber-Bully Awareness—wear white
Tuesday, March 24—Emotional Bully Awareness—wear blue
Wednesday, March 25—Physical Bully Awareness—wear red
Thursday, March 26—Harassment Awareness—wear black
Friday, March 27—Verbal Bullying—wear green.

Make the Cut! 2015—Wednesday, April 22
The 4th Annual Make the Cut! Event will take place on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30am at Marshall Academy.

There will be an interest meeting during Eagle Time on Tuesday, March 24.

We are again partnering with Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a charity campaign in association with the American Cancer Society, which encourages people to grow, cut and donate their healthy hair to create real-hair wigs for women who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment.

To be eligible to donate, hair must be: at least 8 inches long (no maximum length) – if curly or wavy, measure when straight, and free of permanent color, bleach, or other chemical treatments.

For more information, contact Katie Cole-Kelly at kckelly@fcps.edu.

SCA News

Crosstown Hoops—Save the Date!
Thoreau and Kilmer will battle it out on the court on Thursday, April 16, 7pm, at Marshall High School! The event will be comprised of four 16 minute games, -- 7th grade girls, 7th grade boys, 8th grade girls, and finally 8th boys.

Tryouts will take place today, Thursday, March 12 immediately after school. The Thoreau PE teachers along with a few other staff members will be holding tryouts. Practices will be on Thursdays after school leading up to the big event! If you are interested in helping out at the event, please contact PTA President Jane Miscavage at janemiscavage@hotmail.com. If you are interested in helping out with the teams, please contact Ms. Kuhblank at gakuhblank@fcps.edu.

Tickets and t-shirts will be sold during lunch in the weeks leading up to the event. You can also buy tickets on https://www.pay4schoolistuff.com
Tickets: $5 each. One ticket and a t-shirt: $15.
**News and Noteworthy**

**Volunteers Needed**—The ESOL Department (English for students who speak other languages) is looking for a few volunteers that may want to help during 1st period 7:50-8:40am, with reading help. No experience is necessary. It will consist of helping wonderful hardworking students with low level reading tasks. If you are willing to give your time 1-2 times per week, please contact Kate Beckner, ESOL Department Chair at kabeckner@fcps.edu.

**Book Fair**—We are having a spring book fair with Bookworm Central after spring break to correlate with the spring musical. Monies raised will be used to purchase playaways (books in mp3 format) and other new books for students. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, breakdown, class previews and the evening sales event. If you are available to assist, please click on the Sign-up Genius link below for specific dates and times we need help. If you have questions about the book fair please contact our librarian, Kimberly Yeo at kdyeo@fcps.edu.


**2nd Annual Boy’s Workshop: Awakening the Inner Leader**—Vienna Community Center – Club Phoenix Teen Center, Saturday, March 21, 11am-3pm for boys ages 12-14. Free Event

The principle objectives of the Boys Workshop are to assist in helping young boys build a stronger and positive self-image, to support growth of positive self-esteem and to strengthen basic life skills for all those in attendance. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. You must pre-register for this event by Friday, March 13, 2015. You may register either by phone, 703-255-5736 or by email, TFunk@viennava.gov. If we do not meet the minimum number of participants required to hold this event by March 14, the event will be cancelled.

**PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PTA Parent Program—UNDERSTANDING THE TEENAGE BRAIN**—March 24 at 7:00 pm

Do you not always understand your middle-schooler? Are they moody, fatigued or impulsive? Research on the adolescent brain shows that much of teenage behavior has physiological roots. Join us for a parenting primer on the wiring of the adolescent brain and tips of what parents can do to influence brain training. Jenifer Marshall Lippincott, author of "7 Things your Teenager Won't Tell You"

The PTA wraps up the 2015-16 parenting series with Social Media Savvy, April 28 following the 7 p.m. PTA meeting. Thoreau's own Dan Ambrosio will help parents learn how to protect their kids from potential dangers on social networking.

For more information contact Parent Education Chair Susannah Plante, parentprograms@thoreapta.org.

For a complete list of Thoreau events and activities, please visit the calendar on our website: [click here](#)