Crosstown Hoops!

Thoreau’s got spirit!!! Congratulations to all the players and students for an amazing display of Eagle Spirit last Thursday evening when we took on Kilmer MS for Crosstown Hoops!

The end result was a TIE! Both girls teams won, but both boys teams lost. We will have to wait until next year to battle it out on the courts again.

Huge thanks to our coaches, Ms. Leake, Ms. Galus, Ms. Kuhblank, Mr. McGowan, Mr. McGeehan, and Mr. Parker. And to Thoreau’s PTA for organizing the event with Kilmer.

Make the Cut!

Yesterday morning was very special for 24 of Thoreau’s students!

These students donated over 8 inches of their hair to 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. Cosmetology students at Marshall’s Academy cut and styled the girls’ hair.

When the students returned to Thoreau from Marshall, staff and students cheered as they got off the bus with a red carpet welcome. We all celebrated the generosity of these brave girls and admired their new “do’s.”
THOREAU MATTERS

Rising 9th Graders Visit Marshall/Madison

Tomorrow, Friday, April 24th, Thoreau’s eighth-grade students attending Madison or Marshall will visit their respective high school to attend an Activities Fair. Students can expect to receive important information about high school extracurricular programming and learn more about their upcoming transition.

Students will leave school and be transported to Madison or Marshall via bus. Students attending Madison will depart Thoreau around 9:15 am and will return at approximately 12:00 pm. Students attending Marshall will depart Thoreau around 9:15 am and will return at approximately 1:00 pm. Students should bring a bagged lunch to school that day. They will eat lunch upon return to Thoreau. The cafeteria will not be available to purchase lunch.

Students attending Marshall will depart Thoreau around 9:15 am and will return at approximately 1:00 pm. Students will eat lunch at Marshall so they will need to either bring a bagged lunch or bring $2.75 to purchase lunch. Lunch pin numbers WILL NOT WORK at Marshall HS.

Where are you going next Fall?

If you will not be attending Thoreau Middle School (Rising 8th graders) or a Fairfax County Public high school (Rising 9th graders) next Fall, please let Student Services know now. Please click HERE and fill out this form. Student Services will make sure all transcripts are forwarded to your student’s new school so their file is complete. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Schwandt at 703-846-8003 or dschwandt@fcps.edu.

Dress for Success

All Thoreau students are expected to dress appropriately for the educational environment in adherence to the SR&R guidelines.

Shorts should be long enough to be considered “school shorts, not pool shorts.” While the fashion trend has gone towards shorter length of shorts, they need to provide sufficient coverage, and not all shorts that are in the stores are an appropriate school length. Check for appropriate length by using the “rule of thumb.” With arms at the side, the bottom of shorts must not be shorter than the tip of the thumb. This guideline may not work for every situation. If students must make constant adjustments to have the shorts provide sufficient coverage, then they are too short for school. Skirts and dresses need to be longer in order to avoid any embarrassing moments. With arms at the side, fingertip length is a more reasonable guideline for length. To help clarify what tops and dresses are appropriate, shirts need to cover cleavage, and tank style tops and dress straps should cover at least two fingers in width. No tank tops for boys (ie lacrosse jerseys) unless there is a t-shirt underneath.

With parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, and students working together; we are confident that Dressing for Success at Thoreau MS will help to promote a more positive school atmosphere. If students are not following the dress code, they will be asked to change into their PE uniform.
Protecting Our Kids

This year, the PTA Parent Program series has provided information to help parents stay a step ahead of their kids’ development. We conclude this year with a very important program at Thoreau, and highly recommend an additional program at Madison. Please consider attending both of these programs.

Social Media Savvy—Wednesday, April 29, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Thoreau Lecture Hall

Want to know what the kids are doing all the time on their phones? What is Twitter, Instagram, Vine, and Snapchat? Learn the rules and basic principles of how these sites function, and more importantly how kids interact on them. Being informed is the first step in making sure your kids are protected from potential dangers on social networking sites. This is an encore presentation by Thoreau’s very own Dan Ambrosio. It will follow a brief PTA meeting and elections.

When Good Kids Make Bad Choices—Monday, May 11, 7:00-9:00 pm JMHS Auditorium

This is a parent-only event. The truth is: good kids are making bad choices – and the incidence of alcohol, marijuana and prescription drug abuse is increasing in our community. Hear the story of one student’s addiction, candid comments on what is happening in our community, an overview of the law and its consequences, and a presentation of drug paraphernalia – what to look for and what you might miss.

Thanks to Susannah Plant for serving as Parent Education Chair this year! ParentPrograms@ThoreauPTA.org.

Madison HS Bridges Program for Rising 9th Graders

This summer, Madison HS is hosting a Bridges Program for their Rising 9th Graders! This is a new program at Madison to help bridge the connection between middle and high school through a summer camp type program similar to Thoreau’s Excellence in Action. There are two sessions:

Session 1—July 27-31 from 8:30-11:30AM

Session 2—August 17-21 from 8:30-11:30AM

For more information, please contact Tim Buckley, counselor, at tcbucky@fcps.edu or 703-319-2332 or click HERE for the registration form.
**News/Noteworthy**

**Planning on playing sports in high school next year?** You will need to have a physical to participate. Both Madison and Marshall offer the opportunity to get a physical to play for the 2015-16 school year. Marshall will be hosting Sports Physical Night for all student athletes on June 8 from 5:30-7:30PM and Madison will be hosting on May 13 from 5:30 – 7:30PM (last appointment time is 7:30PM). The cost is $50 per student and $60 for walk-ins if space is available. For more information and to register, click **HERE**.

**Spring SOL Testing Days**—Parents please assist your children in doing well on these tests by making sure students get a good night’s sleep prior to the testing day and by eating a good breakfast on the day of each test. Please avoid scheduling appointments on days your student will be tested. Testing dates are scheduled between May 19 through June 12.

**Music Department Busch Gardens Trip**—
Friday, May 15. Music students should arrive at Thoreau by 5:30AM and they will return to the school at 10:15PM

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**PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Celebrate Thoreau!** - A Parents-Only FUNdraising and Social Event—
Friday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale after Spring Break. Tickets are $10 per person in advance, $15 per person at the door. Visit www.thoreaupta.org to purchase. All people who buy tickets by April 25 will be entered in a drawing for Dinner for 2 at Ruth’s Chris Steak House.