Welcome Mr. Brown
Thoreau’s new Assistant Principal

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Levi Brown has been appointed to the position of Assistant Principal at Thoreau MS. Mr. Brown replaces Ms. Calvert who left for Madison HS in January. He will begin on Monday, February 29.

He comes to us from Hayfield Secondary School where he has worked for the past ten years as a social studies teacher, Advanced Placement coordinator and, most recently, as the school’s Dean of Students.

Along with Mr. Brown’s exceptional qualities, he will bring a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for the teaching profession and student engagement to Thoreau.

Building Hours

Thoreau’s building will open to students at 7:00AM each school day. Please do not drop off your student before 7:00AM. Between 7:00AM to 7:10AM, students will wait in the cafeteria until the school is fully staffed to ensure student safety.

Life at Thoreau
Congratulations to the following Thoreau Students for making All District Honors Chorus: Fabiana Berta, Lucy Bowman, Maddie Bridgewater, Nathaniel Carmin-Kluger, Zach Carmin-Kluger, Kelly Clark, Lizzy Eastham, Gray Eversmann, Alyvia Ferrel, Kana Furukawa, Melinda Goldfedder, Leighton Heller, Katie Holly, Krutika Joshi, Victoria Lanning, Milan Manjunath, Daphne May, Ellie Miscavage, Isabella Mudrick, Logan Neville, Meghna Parameswaran, Keenan Parker, PJ Pearson, Julianne Rolan-Wall, Grace Schmorrow, Grace Schmude, Caroline Simpson, Carly Williams, Macy Wright, and Ashley Wynkoop.

Thoreau has the second highest representation in the District 12 Honors Choir with 31 delegates!

The following students have been chosen as members of the 2015 ACDA Virginia All-State Middle School Mixed Chorus: Keenan Parker, and Grace Schmorrow.

Writing SOL Dates and Information

Writing Standards of Learning (SOL) tests will be administered to 8th-grade students between March 2-10. Here is the schedule for testing:

Multiple Choice SOL—
Wednesday, March 2—Turtles (AM), Falcons (PM)
Thursday, March 3—Alpaca (AM)

Writing SOL—
Tuesday, March 8—Falcons (AM)
Wednesday, March 9—Turtles (AM)
Thursday, March 10—Alpaca (AM)

Makeup Testing Window—
March 14-16

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.
Lip Sync—
Mark your calendars!!! The annual Thoreau Lip Sync Competition will be on Friday, May 6 at 7pm. Come watch performances by your favorite classmates and even a special appearance from the teachers and staff of Thoreau.

Spirit Week—March 14-18
The SCA is sponsoring an spirit week March 14 through 18. Specific themed days are still being voted on, so stay tuned for more information!

SCA Winter Dance!
Tickets are $5

Friday, February 19th
6:00-8:00 pm
Dancing, photo booth, snacks and more!

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION
Please note that Spring Break is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for these upcoming student holidays:

March 21—25—Spring Break
Monday, March 28—Strategic Planning Day.

Please notify the Attendance Office at 703-846-8080 if your student will be absent.

If your student will be absent for three or more days, please follow Thoreau’s policy for prearranged absences:

1. Send a note to the front office providing the reason for the extended absence with your student at least five days prior to the start of the absence. If this is not possible, please contact the front office as soon as you are aware of the upcoming absence.

2. Your student will receive a “Prearranged Absence Sheet” which needs to be taken to all of his/her teachers. The teachers will provide comments about missing work, a make-up schedule, and the most current grade for the class.

3. Based upon the information provided, the grade level administrator will determine if the absence is “excused” or “unexcused.” If the absences are unexcused, the grade level administrator will contact the parent/guardian.

Thank you for working with us towards excellent attendance, which is closely tied to overall success in school.
**News and Noteworthy**

**Spring Pictures**—Lifetouch will be at Thoreau for spring pictures on Thursday, February 25 for 8th graders and Friday, February 26 for 7th graders.

**Upcoming Music Performance Dates**—Pre-assessment concerts have been scheduled for our performing arts ensembles. They will all take place at Madison HS at 7:00PM

- **Band** Concert—Monday, February 22
- **Orchestra** Concert—Tuesday, February 22
- **Chorus** Concert—Tuesday, March 1

**Madison Freshman Football 2016**—Any interested 8th graders are eligible to join Madison’s voluntary training and lifting program starting in March. Both parents and students are invited to an introductory meeting on Friday, February 26 at 6:30PM in the Madison weight room, found in the back of the building across from the tennis courts and the baseball outfield. For more information, please contact Coach Ginley at hyland.ginley@cox.net.

**MARSHALL SPIRIT WEAR** is now available at a discount for rising ninth graders: [https://squareup.com/market/marshall-high-boosters](https://squareup.com/market/marshall-high-boosters). Pre-purchased items will be available at the Spirit Wear Table at the Orientation. This is a great time to get a STATESMAN JUMPSTART. To receive the discount please use codes: **THOREAU9** or **KILMER9** at checkout.

**PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Celebrate Thoreau! Auction**—Friday, February 26 at 7:00PM

Vienna Volunteer Firehouse, 400 Center Street, Vienna

The *Celebrate Thoreau!* Auction is part of The Campus Campaign, an unprecedented fundraising drive that brings families and the community together in support of our beloved school.

Tomorrow’s graduates must be: Communicators; Collaborators; Ethical and Global Citizens; Creative and Critical Thinkers; and Goal-Directed, Resilient Individuals.

That means that today’s teaching must be active, engaging and flexible. Thoreau’s teachers – long known for their ability to build confidence and inspire curiosity – are prepared to take learning to the next level with new technology and classroom furniture proven to aid learning.

By funding these classrooms of the future, the PTA will help transform Thoreau from a traditional school into a dynamic, flexible learning center that serves as a model to other schools.

**FREE BREAKFAST on Wednesday, March 9th**

To celebrate National Breakfast Week, the cafeteria will serve free breakfast to students and staff on Wednesday, March 9th. Choices will include:

- Cinnamon Rolls
- Cinnamon Twists
- Mini Pancakes
- Bagel with Cream Cheese
- Banana Bread.