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.

January 14, 2016

Thoreau Students’ Artwork in Vienna Connection

Congratulations to Krutika Joshi, Abbigail Gibson, Allison Kirkman, and Willow Thompson for having their artwork selected for publication in the Vienna Connection.

UPCOMING DATES AND DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Monday, January 18—School Holiday in recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday.

Tuesday, January 19—No school for students for teacher staff development.

Thursday, February 4—End of 2nd Quarter 2 Hour Early Release for Students. Dismissal at 12:15pm.

Friday, February 5—Student holiday for teacher workday.

Monday, February 15—School Holiday in recognition of President’s Day.

Dressing for the Weather—Please have students dress in layers this winter season. Students may wear raincoats, boots, warm jackets, etc., to match the weather outside. Students may also want to keep a hooded jacket or umbrella in their locker in the event of unforeseen inclement weather. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe and dry on inclement weather days.

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NEW AND NOTEWORTHY 4
Evening orientations for students attending Madison or Marshall next year have been scheduled to provide parents and students with information about classes and course requirements.

**James Madison High School**

**Madison’s** rising 9th grade Curriculum Night will be held **Thursday, January 21** (snow date: January 28). It will begin at 6:30pm for rising 9th graders, and 7pm for rising 10-12th graders. It will end at approximately 9pm.

This program will provide parents and students, current grades 8-11, an opportunity to learn about academic classes, elective classes, and course requirements that are available. Teachers and departments from Madison, as well as from the FCPS Academies, will have displays and information available to provide you with an excellent opportunity to find out about the different curricular offerings and requirements and to ask questions about course sequence, course content, and activities.

**Marshall’s** rising 9th grade Orientation (for current 8th grade students and their parents) will be held **Monday, February 1 from 5:30-9pm**. (snow date: February 19).

This program focuses on course descriptions and graduation requirements.

February 1 Schedule
5:30-6pm-Visit Activity Exhibits for clubs, sports and activities.
6:25-9pm-Orientation Program begins in the Auditorium

Marshall’s International Baccalaureate (IB) Information night will be Wednesday, March 16 from 7-8:30pm in the auditorium. This is an 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.

**Student Services Updates**

**Naviance & Family Connections**

Before Winter Break students were introduced to the Family Connections service, which is available to all students in FCPS. Counselors will utilize this program with students to explore a variety of career paths, create SMART goals, and to create draft course plans of study for high school and beyond. Students and parents may access these resources from home through their FCPS 24-7 account. A letter introducing this service to students can be found [here](#).

**2016-2017 Course Registration**

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is underway. Over the course of the next two months counselors will be working with students and parents to select courses for the upcoming school year. Detailed information on due dates and events can be found on the [2016-2017 Scheduling Calendar](#). This process is extremely important to your child’s success and wellness. Please feel free to contact your child’s counselor and teachers if you have questions about classes for next year.
Twice Upon A Time

Join the Advanced Theatre Arts class for a night of fairies, princesses, wolves, and superheroes!!!!!!

Check out this fairy tale double feature with two mixed-up adaptations of the classic tales: Little Red Riding and Cinderella.

**Twice Upon a Time:**
A Twisted Fairy Tale Double Feature

Friday, January 22 @ 7pm  
Saturday, January 23 @ 7pm

Donations at the door. All proceeds go to support the drama department activities.

Performances located in the Thoreau cafeteria.

**Act 1: Little Red Riding and the Power Mutants**

Little Red, of Little Red's Gourmet Catering and Home Delivery Service, is on a mission to deliver some goodies to Grandma's house. Unfortunately, Oswald The Big Bad Wolf, president and founder of Oswald's School for Wolves, is trying to teach his somewhat dim students how to steal baskets of goodies. Only The Power Mutants, a strange and mysterious group of mutant superheroes with rather silly powers, can help Little Red. Will the goodies get to Grandma's house on time?

**Act 2: Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother**

It's the night of the royal ball and Cinderella must get to the palace if she is ever to meet her one true love, Prince Charmfull. But when she calls for her Fairy Godmother, it turns out that some bad potato salad has given all the Fairy Godmothers food poisoning. Enter Lucretia Fossilwart, scented candle saleswoman and Substitute Fairy Godmother. This will not end well. (Or will it?)

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**Feliz Año Nuevo..... !!!!**

Buenas noches y Feliz Año Nuevo les Saluda la Señora Gomez de Thoreau Middle School quiero recordarles los eventos que tendremos durante el mes de Enero.

Martes 12 – PTA – La Asociación de Padres de Familia presentara el programa de Depresión y Ansiedad, no falte será a las 7pm

Lunes 18 – no habrá clases por la celebración de Martin Luther King

Martes 19 – no habrá clases – este día los maestros desarrollan y planeen sus clases.

Jueves 21 – Madison presentara su Curriculum para los estudiantes que comenzaran el 9 grado el próximo septiembre de 6:30pm a 8pm

Viernes 29 – Es el baile de Invierno de 6pm a 8pm

Cualquier pregunta que usted tenga por favor comuníquese conmigo 703-846-8007
News and Noteworthy

Capital One Coders—We are extremely fortunate to have Capital One returning for the 2nd time this year to host the after-school coding program. This is a very popular program with our students. Applications will be available in the main office and on the Thoreau website. The application contains all information about the program, meeting dates, the selection process, and deadlines. Applications are due back to the main office no later than Friday, January 29. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Campbell at slcampbell@fcps.edu.

Math Enrichment—Are you a math wiz? Do you want to earn a Math Buck? Then participate in the Northern Virginia Math League Contests that are held once a month during Eagle Time in Mrs. Galus’s class, Room A-229. The contest consists of 6 questions that will promote problem solving skills, will challenge students to use their critical thinking skills, and will test prior knowledge from past math courses. Here is the NOVA Math Contest schedule: January 14 March 3 April 7

Summer Schedule Heads-Up for Parents of 8th Graders—If your child will be in high school next year, please be aware when you make your summer plans that high school Fall sports start at the beginning of August, and marching band starts in the middle of August. To try out for a sport, your child will need a Virginia High School League health form filled out by a doctor and a parent after May 1. In May, the high schools offer affordable physicals that benefit their athletic departments. Please check your high school website in May for more information.

I Forgot Table—There is a new “I FORGOT” table in the Main Office. If your student forgets an item at home, parents may drop off those items for student pickup throughout the day. This is a convenient way for parents to get items to their students during the school day without disrupting instruction.

WELLNESS CORNER

Did your child get enough sleep last night? Kids need 9-10 hours of sleep a night. Here’s why:
* Their brains need sleep so that they can recharge.
* Their bodies need sleep to allow their muscles, bones and skin to grow and fix any injuries.

6 ways to teach your children healthy sleep habits:
1. 30 minutes before bedtime, turn off TV, computers and other electronic devices. (Computer and phone lights actually wake up the brain.)
2. Keep all electronic devices under parental control.
3. Keep the bedroom a cool, quiet and a relaxing environment.
4. Read with them; listen to quiet music.
5. Make sure they have had plenty of exercise during the day, but avoid lots of physical activity 2-3 hours before bedtime.
6. Avoid caffeine in the afternoon and at night, including sodas and large amounts of chocolate.

More Info: Click here and/or here

MUSIC STUDENTS EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the following Thoreau Music Students for making District Ensembles:

District Orchestra: Julia Beck, Owen Murphy, Aaron Oh, and Alan Zhang.

District Band: Christina Alegre, Ben Eggleston, Kevin Liu, Jack Moeser, Joseph Rubin; and alternates Tommy Berbano, Alexandra Dicks, and Emily Frederick.