On behalf of the staff of Thoreau Middle School, I would like to thank our PTA, volunteers, and parents for helping us facilitate a great start to the school year. Our students came to school this year excited and ready to learn.

Our school and parent partnership is critical to the success of our students. The Thoreau Community is exceptional!!! We look forward to an exciting year of collaborating with you to help your child reach his/her potential.

Sincerely,
Gregory S. Hood
Principal

Welcome Back!

Students are encouraged to stay after school to make up work, obtain additional help, or to participate in an after-school activity or club. The After-School Program will begin on Monday, September 28th.

Activity Sessions: Late buses will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students will need to sign-in for each after-school activity upon arrival at that activity. The after-school program is divided into sessions. Session 1 will run from 2:25-3:10, Session 2 from 3:30-4:05, and Session 3 from 4:10 until the late buses depart Thoreau between 4:30 pm and 5:00 pm. Activities on Tuesdays and Fridays will require parent pick-up or students will need to live within walking distance of the school.

Bus Information: Run numbers and stops for late buses are different from regular run numbers and stops. Late bus schedules are posted in Blackboard Parent View and students can consult the late bus schedules posted near the front entrances to identify their late bus run number and stop. Students may only ride their assigned late bus. Please be sure that your student knows which late bus to take to avoid confusion in the afternoon.

Parent Pick-Up: If you are picking up your student, please meet them at the Kiss-n-Ride (Door 9). If you need to pick up your student before the end of After-School activities, please park and come to the main office. The bus lane must be clear at all times.

Registration: Students must be supervised by an adult at all times. After school. They do not need to pre-register for most activities. Students should pay attention to the morning news show, the calendar outside the cafeteria, and Blackboard Thoreau Activities to see what is available. Students can direct after-school questions to Mrs. Campbell, counselors, Eagle Time advisors, etc.

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

~~ Henry David Thoreau

Inside this issue:

- TJ ADMISSION INFORMATION 2
- BTSN LIBRARY BOOK FAIR 2
- ATTENDANCE POLICY 2
- WELCOME FROM THE PTA 3
- NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY WELLNESS CORNER 4
- SUPPORT THOREAU MS 4
Here are some important dates to note regarding information on applying for admission to Thomas Jefferson.

On Monday, September 21 during Eagle Time, students can visit the cafeteria for an interest meeting about TJHSST.

On Wednesday, September 30, TJ comes to Thoreau! Learn more about Thomas Jefferson from the Admissions Director in an event open to both 7th & 8th grade students and parents. Media Center, 7 to 8PM.

Monday, September 21 – Online applications will become available.

Friday, October 16, 2015, 4PM - Application Deadline

Saturday, December 5—Test Day. More information about admission to Thomas Jefferson can be found here.

To increase student safety and inform parents or guardians that their child did not arrive at school as expected, FCPS uses the Keep in Touch (KIT) attendance system to send a morning attendance notification message to parents or guardians at 10AM each day.

Messages will be sent centrally based on attendance data as of

9:05AM The KIT system will automate morning attendance calling and e-mail for middle schools and high schools. This notification is in addition to the current 6PM notification process.

Please make sure the office is notified of your child’s absence or late arrival prior to 9:05AM. The attendance line number is 703-846-8080.

On Thursday, September 24 from 5:30-7:30PM, you are invited to walk your child’s schedule and hear from your child’s teachers about what your child will be learning this school year. Your student will bring home a copy of their schedule, and Wednesday, September 23.

Please note that parking is very limited at Thoreau. We highly recommend carpooling and walking, if possible. In an effort to reduce parking lot traffic and parent frustration, we have received permission for parents to park in both lots at Church for All Nations on Amanda Place, and Cunningham Park Elementary School. Shuttle buses will run continuous loops between CPES and Thoreau from 4:30-5:25PM and then again starting at 7:30PM.

It's time for Thoreau's Monster Book Fair! It is being held in the library from September 21st until the 24th from 7:15AM until 2:30PM each day and from 7:15AM until 10AM on the 25th. We will also be open from 5 to 8PM on Back-to-School Night. Students will have the opportunity to come with their English classes, but are also free to come at other times during the day with a teacher's permission.

We also have an on-line fair that offers an even greater selection. The on-line fair closes on the 26th and items ordered will be delivered to the school the following week. The on-line fair can be found HERE. We accept cash, check (made payable to Thoreau MS) or charge cards and monies earned will go toward playaways for the library (books in MP3 format). Thank you for helping to support our students' reading!
Thoreau PTA Welcomes You!

School's in full swing and your kids are making new friends...now it’s your turn! Join us at this year’s first PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 29 at 7PM to learn more about life at Thoreau, put names and faces together, and vote on the 2015-16 PTA budget.

Joining the PTA is an opportunity to support all students, families and teachers within the Thoreau Community. It’s easier than ever! [Visit www.thoreaupta.org](http://www.thoreaupta.org) to join online. In addition to membership dues, we are asking for a suggested annual donation of $50 per family to support the projects and events that help provide a more enjoyable and enriching learning experience for all of our kids. This is called our “No-Fuss Fundraiser.” It is not required, but any and all contributions are appreciated and used to support students, teachers and staff. All donations are tax deductible. (The "No-Fuss Fundraiser" provides the foundation for our annual PTA budget. It is different than The Campus Campaign, which raises funds above and beyond the PTA budget for special renovation needs. We will share more news about The Campus Campaign in October).

Susan Monaco has volunteered to organize the school directory. Please contact Susan if you would like to opt out of the directory at directory@thoreaupta.org.

Seventh Grade Parents: Mark your calendars for the Seventh Grade Family Dinner, which will be held Thursday, November 19 at 6 p.m. in Thoreau's cafeteria. If you’d like to join the planning committee, please contact Mary Ann Ressin and Lauri Mennel at 7thgradedinner@thoreaupta.org.

Keep up to date with PTA eNews! Watch your email for next week’s issue. For more information about Thoreau’s PTA or to volunteer, please contact Jane Miscavage at [president@thoreaupta.org](mailto:president@thoreaupta.org).

### PTA Meetings and Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Sept. 29</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>PTA Meeting: Thoreau’s Vision for preparing student for the future</td>
<td>Media Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Oct. 27</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>PTA Meeting/Parent Program: Executive Functioning Skills. Guest Speaker, Ann Dolan</td>
<td>Lecture Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Nov. 19</td>
<td>6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>7th Grade Family Dinner</td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Jan. 12</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>PTA Meeting/Parent Program: Screening for Depression</td>
<td>Lecture Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Feb. 2</td>
<td>9:30-11 a.m.</td>
<td>PTA Meeting and Parent/Principal Coffee</td>
<td>Lecture Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, April 12</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>PTA Meeting/Parent Program: Saving for College</td>
<td>Lecture Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May (date TBD)</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>PTA Meeting/NFCU Luncheon</td>
<td>Navy Federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date TBD</td>
<td>7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>8th Grade Dance</td>
<td>Gym</td>
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News and Noteworthy

Student Council Association (SCA)—All students interested in being part of our student leadership team are encouraged to complete an application no later than October 1st. SCA applications will be available beginning Monday, September 21st. There will be a link to the application from our website. Additionally, students can pick up an application in the main office.

7th Grade Field Trip—All 7th graders attend a field trip to Burke Lake Park. More information will be sent home on September 21st. The Tigers will go on Wednesday, October 14, Penguins on Thursday, October 15, and the Wolves on October 16. To volunteer to chaperone on this field trip, click HERE.

Wellness Corner

Eating a good breakfast is really important. It gives you fuel for your brain! Think about it: What would happen if the school bus ran out of gas? It would slow down and eventually stop. That’s what would happen to your body if you didn’t eat breakfast! A healthy meal before school gives you the energy to learn and play all day.

Why is breakfast important? Even when you sleep, your body is using energy. And when you wake up, a lot of time has passed since dinner. A well-balanced breakfast with protein, grains, fruit, and dairy will wake up your body and give you energy for the whole day.

What did you eat this morning? Remember: If you run out of time at home, breakfast is available at school every day starting at 7:15 a.m. for $1.75!

For a complete list of Thoreau events and activities, please visit the calendar on our website:

click here:

Support Thoreau MS!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amazon Smile</th>
<th>Bookmark Amazon Smile and designate Henry D. Thoreau Middle PTA as your charity.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eScrip (Macy’s, credit cards)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.escrip.com">www.escrip.com</a> - Register your major credit card and Macy’s cards. Use Group ID# 500140115. Anytime you use those cards at participating merchants, Thoreau gets a percentage of your purchase! It’s like donating $$ to our school with someone else’s money!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td><a href="http://www.target.com">www.target.com</a> - Register your Target Red Card and send 1% of your Target purchases to Thoreau through the Take Charge of Education program. School ID is 103711.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant</td>
<td><a href="http://www.giantfood.com">www.giantfood.com</a> - Go to A+ School Rewards under the Savings and Rewards tab. Register your Giant Bonusbucks card using Group ID# 02131. You can designate more than one school if you like. Registration opens Sept. 14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris Teeter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.harristeeter.com">www.harristeeter.com</a> - Next time you shop give the cashier our school code, 3258 and your VIC card. That’s it! You only have to link your VIC card once each school year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Tops</td>
<td>Start saving for fall collection! There will be a box in the Main Office where you can deposit them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you do not have access to a computer or are having difficulty signing up please call Jennifer Min at jmmin123@gmail.com (703-255-3181).