Welcome, Principal Azimi!

On, November 16, Thoreau welcomed our new principal, Yusef Azimi!

Mr. Azimi comes to us from Madison HS where he was an assistant principal for the last five years. Within FCPS, Mr. Azimi has served as a classroom teacher for ten years, participated in the 2014 LEAD Fairfax Aspiring Principal’s Cohort and 2012 Support the Mission Cohort, and served as acting principal of Wolftrap Elementary School from March –June 2014.

So that we can all get to know Mr. Azimi better, we asked him a few questions...

What is your favorite type of candy?
Sour Patch Kids, but not the green ones!

Do you prefer chocolate or vanilla?
Definitely vanilla!

What is your favorite season?
Summer

What is your favorite pizza topping?
I like lots of toppings! Pepperoni, mushrooms, red onions, jalapenos, and peppers.

What was your most memorable Middle School experience?
I was so busy talking to my friends after school that I got on the wrong bus home! I didn’t realize it till we were over 10 minutes into the ride.

What makes you smile?
When a student is in my office and tells me how he has overcome a personal challenge.

What is your favorite movie?
The Godfather Series

What are your favorite hobbies?
Family time, sports, and traveling.

If you were to be Undercover Boss at Thoreau, what position would you be in?
I would be a custodian! The custodians know every inch of the school.

Madison Pyramid Wellness Week

The Madison HS Pyramid is having a Wellness Week the week of December 7-11. Here are the planned activities:

Monday, December 7—Stress Less, Laugh More Monday
Jokes during lunches.

Tuesday, December 8—Dance Tuesday
Students will dance during Eagle Time.

Wednesday, December 9—De-stress Wednesday
Students will watch a video on mindfulness.

Thursday, December 10—Good Nutrition Thursday
Eagle Nation for Wellness day, wear blue and gold.

Friday, December 11—Sleepful Friday
Wear comfy PJs to school.

Inside this issue:
ATTENDANCE INFORMATION 2
FLE 2
HOUR OF CODE 2
PERFORMING ARTS CONCERTS 3
SCA NEWS 3
De Senora Ventura 3
NEW AND NOTEWORTHY 4
THOREAU MATTERS

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

In preparation for the upcoming holidays, please note the upcoming early release and student holidays.

Friday, December 18—2 hour early release, dismissal at 12:15pm

December 21-January 1—Student Holidays.

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 “Pre-arranged 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.

Family Life Education

Family Life Education (FLE) lessons will be taught in PE classes January 4-11, 2016. FLE lessons include Human Growth and Development (HGD). These lessons address the many changes that students will experience as they go through puberty and provide them with important information that will help them make positive choices as they grow and change in the next few years. Instruction takes place in separate rooms for males and females.

Parents who wish to have their children opt out of any or all FLE instruction may complete the opt-out form found HERE. Please return the form to the Student Services Department before December 11.

SCA News

The SCA is sponsoring an “Ugly Holiday Sweater” day on Friday, December 18.

Also, the SCA is planning a Winter Dance for students after school on Friday, January 29.
Performing Arts Concerts

Drama Performance
HA, HA, HOLIDAY COMPETITION
Friday, December 4—7pm at Kilmer MS. The show will most likely sell out so arrive early to get your tickets!

Orchestra Performance
Saturday, December 5 at Dulles Airport

Orchestra Winter Concert
Monday, December 7—7pm at Madison HS

Orchestra Pyramid Concert
Tuesday, December 8—7pm at Madison HS

Band Winter Concert
Thursday, December 10—7pm at Madison HS

Chorus Winter Concert
Wednesday, December 16—7pm at Madison HS

Thank you, Thoreau PTA!

Thank you, PTA Hospitality Committee! We loved the pies!

Buenas noches les Saluda la Señora Gomez tome nota de las próximos eventos.

Diciembre 3 – Noche de Información para Familias Hispanas – Es la presentación de los nuevos miembros de la escuela. Se ayudara también a que usted se registre en el programa de SIS traiga su teléfono inteligente o su Lab-top

Diciembre 8 – Concierto de la Banda de Madison High School

Diciembre 18 – Thoreau terminara clases a las 12:15

Diciembre 21 a Enero 3 - Vacaciones Decembrinas

Enero 4 – Primer día de clases después de vacaciones

Nota: Si su estudiante va a viajar o va a faltar por varios días. Necesita obtener una forma de su consejero para una previa autorización.

FELIZ NAVIDAD Y PROPERO Año NUEVO...!!!!

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta llámame Sra. Gomez 703 846-8007.
News and Noteworthy

Parent Teen Book Club is a forum for parents and students to read together and to discuss books. When discussing books, parents and students can learn from each other’s perspectives and begin to understand and appreciate the similarities and differences among themselves. This is a great opportunity to communicate with your teenager as he/she moves forward in shaping an identity and in making good choices for the future.

Thoreau’s first book club meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2 from 6:30-8 pm. You and your student may choose to read one of the following titles and attend a book club discussion led by a Thoreau staff member.

*Bluefish* by Pat Schmatz  
*Matched* by Ally Condie  
*Juntos* by Ally Condie (this book and its discussion will be in fluent Spanish)  
*I am Malala*, Young Reader’s Edition by Malala Yousafzai  
*Trash* by Andy Mulligan  
*Fever, 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

Sign up here: [Parent/Teen Book Club Registration](#)

Registration will close at midnight on Tuesday, December 15. Every effort will be made for you and your student to read your first choice. You will be notified via email once registration closes as to which book you have received.

Please email Traci Michaud ([TLMichaud@fcps.edu](mailto:TLMichaud@fcps.edu)) for more information.

Thank you for your interest in our very first parent/teen book club!

PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

When Good Kids Make Bad Choices: Alcohol and Drugs in FCPS. Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-9:00 pm, Madison HS, Warhawk Hall

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. Mark your calendar and come to hear and learn: The story of a Madison student’s addiction; Candid comments on what is happening in our Vienna community from a parent and a student’s perspective; An overview of the law and its consequences, especially pertaining to implications at school and your student’s transcript and college applications; Current trends in substance use and abuse in Fairfax County; Impact of substances on your child’s physical and emotional development; A presentation of drug paraphernalia – what to look for and what you might miss; Tools for parents and trips for raising drug free kids

Panel will include a parent, a Madison student, Madison’s SRO officer, and a representative from FCPS’s Student Safety and Wellness Department. The presentation will begin with a welcome and introduction from Madison’s new principal, Mr. Hood.