September 13, 2012

1. **For the safety of all our students, it is important for drivers to follow correct procedures when dropping children off at Thoreau in the morning.**
   - The Thoreau parking lot can be a very busy place before school as staff members are arriving and parents are dropping students off at school.
   - When entering the parking lot to drop off students, please bear to the right and follow the painted arrows around to entrance #9. The parking area by entrance #9 has been redesigned to allow multiple cars to drop off at a time. When exiting the parking lot, please yield to buses turning into the bus lane in front of the building.
   - When exiting the Thoreau parking lot during Kiss and Ride, please make a right-hand turn onto Cedar Lane.
   - Do not attempt to make a quick U-turn upon entering the parking lot. This will back traffic up on Cedar Lane and impede buses from entering the bus lane.
   - At all times, please be watchful for students and staff members walking across the parking lot toward the building. Thoreau’s School Resource Officer will be monitoring the parking lot and directing traffic when necessary.

2. **Late buses are due to begin running on Monday, September 17.**
   - Students are encouraged to stay after school to make up work, obtain additional help, or to participate in an after-school activity.
   - Late buses will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Late activities begin at 2:55 p.m. and end at 3:55 p.m. On Mondays, buses will depart shortly after 4:00 p.m. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, buses will need to complete their elementary runs before returning to Thoreau for late runs. This will result in late buses departing Thoreau sometime between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
   - Run numbers and stops for late buses are different from regular run numbers and stops. Students should consult the late bus schedules posed near the front entrances to identify their late bus run number and stop. Students are to ride only their assigned late bus.
   - If you are picking up your student, please meet them at the Kiss-n-Ride (Door 9). If it is unscheduled, please park and come to the main office. Remember, the bus lane must be clear at all times.
   - Students do not need to pre-register for most activities. Please pay attention to the morning news show, the calendar outside the cafeteria, and Blackboard to see what is available.

3. **Please visit Thoreau’s “new and improved” website frequently for important information about our school and system’s offerings.** [www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS](http://www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS)
4. Please remember to sign up for bonus programs at local vendors to support our school. They pay us for the shopping that you would normally do!
   - Last year, over $2000.00 was donated to our school from various shopping locations.
   - Please click here to register your Giant and Safeway cards with Thoreau
   - Sign up at Target, Safeway or Giant and register your card with our school.
   - We appreciate your support!

5. The following dates have been established for students and parents interested in applying for admission into Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology:
   - Thursday, September 20th – 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. Lecture Hall, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
   - Monday, September 24th – Online applications will become available (paper applications will be available later that week)
   - Saturday, October 13th – Open House at Thomas Jefferson from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
   - Monday October 15th – Part 1 of online application due
   - Friday October 19th – Part 2 of the online application due
   - Saturday, December 1st – Thomas Jefferson admissions test
   - More information about admission to Thomas Jefferson can be found at http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions

6. Please mark your calendars!
   - Thursday, October 18th, Thoreau will be closing 3-hours early.
   - This is only for Thoreau and is for staff development opportunities.

7. Seventh-grade families are asked to mark their calendars for the annual seventh-grade family dinner to be held Wednesday, November 14, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. More details to come in future Thoreau Matters.

PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Join the PTA and consider making a donation to our NO FUSS Fundraiser. Students are not selling magazines; the PTA will not host a fundraiser event.
We rely solely on your membership dues and donations to fund our programs.

We need parent volunteers for the following PTA positions: Landscape Co-chair, Volunteer co-Coordinator, Liaison to Louise Archer Elementary School and Girls on the Run Assistant Coaches. Contact Jill at President@ThoreauPTA.org and join the fun!

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