September 27, 2012

1. **The After-School Program has started.** Please check the Thoreau Activities site on FCPS 24/7 (Blackboard) for information on late buses, clubs/activities, and weekly schedules.

2. **International Walk to School Day October 3, 2012** - For the second consecutive year, students in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will join together to participate in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. The day is celebrated as a way to promote physical activity while reducing traffic congestion and pollution near schools.

Last year 25 FCPS schools participated in the event. All students are encouraged to walk or bike to school or walk to their bus stops on October 3. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to school and to work with their schools and PTAs or PTOs to gather in groups for the event. Schools that are launching a schoolwide effort to participate can register online.

3. **Thoreau is starting a new Garden Club for Parents!**
   - Wednesdays from 10-12 noon Kickoff day is Wed, Oct 3. Check in at the office and ask for directions to the courtyard.
   - Light gardening and then a fun social lunch out in Vienna. ZERO gardening experience necessary, just the desire to socialize and clean up the Gardens.
   - Experienced gardeners needed and welcomed!
   - If you have them, please bring gardening gloves, hand pruners, hand saws, small shovels, dirt/leaf rakes, loppers.

Each week, we will work on a different area of the interior courtyard, starting with general cleaning and updating. In the spring, we will move onto planting and beautifying the space. Come once, come once a month, come every Wednesday. Just come on out! Moms, Dads, Grandparents, any adults!

- Questions? Email Liz DiFrancisco edifrancisco@yahoo.com or call 703-281-1221

4. **Order your Thoreau Yearbook Now and Save!!!!!** Thoreau Middle School 2012-2013 Yearbooks are on sale. Buy your all color yearbook now for $36 during the registration sale. Yearbook prices will go up on October 1 to $40. In addition to the yearbook there are other items available to personalize your student’s yearbook. Order online at jostensyearbooks.com or call toll free 24 hours 1-866-282-1516. Any questions please feel free to email Karyn Kolly at kpkolly@fcps.edu.

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:**
   - 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
   - For any questions or more information please email Tim Buckley at tcbuckley@fcps.edu or to apply to TJ go to the following link:
     [http://www.tjhsst.edu/about/tj/admissions/apply_freshman_winter_class_of_2017_applicatio on_info.html](http://www.tjhsst.edu/about/tj/admissions/apply_freshman_winter_class_of_2017_applicatio on_info.html)

6. **TMS PTA’s Parent Education Program** on Monday, October 15 at 8:30 am in the Library. **Middle School Must-Knows**, including a Study Skills session with Ann Dolin of Educational Connections. The program will be broken into two sessions: 8:45-9:30 am join the Thoreau Administrators and Student Services Department to learn more about Thoreau's grading policy, Behavior & Effort Rubric, personal device policy and after school programs. And then, from 9:30-10:30 am Ann Dolin will present "6 Study Skills that Middle Schoolers Must Have." Come when you can and leave when you have to. Don't miss this important session to kick off a successful school year. Coffee will be served.

7. **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.

8. **PTA Reflections Program** encourages students to participate in the arts. Students can submit entries, related to this year’s theme, in 6 arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Entries will be judged, and top entries will continue to the next level(s) of judging (county, district, state, national). The theme for 2012-13 is "The Magic of a
Fairfax County Youth Survey -
- Each school year all Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) eighth, tenth, and twelfth-grade students participate in the Fairfax Youth Survey. The Fairfax County School Board has worked with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2001 to administer this survey in order to determine the needs and to assess the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs offered in schools and communities. The survey will be given to high school students during English class and to middle school students during math class.
- The survey will be administered November 13, 14, 15, or 16, 2012. A copy of the actual survey, as well as the survey fact sheet, will be available to parents and guardians or community members online at www.fcps.edu/youthsurvey and in the school counseling office of your child’s school beginning October 8, 2012. If you do not wish for your child to take part in the survey, please complete an opt-out form and return it to your child’s school counseling office no later than November 7, 2012. The opt-out form can be found at https://www.fcps.edu or on the Thoreau website.

Credit Exam for World Languages
- The 2012 Credit Exam for World Languages will be administered on November 7, 8, and 13. Twenty-three languages will be included: American Sign Language (new this year), Amharic, Arabic, Bengali/Bangla, Chinese/Mandarin, Farsi/Persian, French, German, Hindi, Italian (new this year), Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog/Pilipino, Tamil (new this year), Telugu, Twi, Urdu, and Vietnamese.
- School counselors will register students at their individual schools. Registration opens on Monday, September 24, 2012, at 8 a.m. and closes on Monday, October 22, 2012, at 4 p.m. Late registrations will not be accepted. Middle and high school Directors of Student Services are being sent specific information on this process. Credit exam information can be accessed at: http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/creditexam/index.shtml.
- Contact: Christina Oh at 571-423-4602 or csoh@fcps.edu

Girls on the Run -
- We hope to participate in the GOTR program this Spring, 2013. To participate, we need 2 assistant coaches. What are the minimum requirements to be a GOTR assistant coach?
  - Coach 1-2 practices a week. Practices are Mon and Wed 3:00-4:00 at Thoreau. The program runs for 10 weeks from March to mid-May. The final event is a 5K run @ George Mason University at which the coaches either run with team members or help coordinate our team participation in the event.
  - Must be CPR certified. GOTR will recommend a program and will pay for the certification.
  - Must take a 1 hour online class and pass the exam. This 1 hour class describes the format and materials for the GOTR practices.
  - If you are interested in becoming a GOTR assistant coach, please contact Janice Ware at jx3ware@yahoo.com.

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.

Please visit www.ThoreauPTA.org for complete information on parent programs, student enrichment and community service opportunities.

Magazine Subscriptions or Renewals with QSP.com
PLEASE Register your Giant and Safeway cards.

Fall Community Service Opportunities for Thoreau Students!
Louise Archer PTA needs volunteers for the LA5K race October 13. Contact la5k@louisearcherpta.org.
Thoreau Landscape Day on October 20, 9am - 12:00 noon. Contact Landscape@ThoreauPTA.org.
Food for Others visit is scheduled October 24 - after school Contact: Ms. Davies

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