

# THOREAU MATTERS



Thoreau Matters is published every two weeks by the Thoreau Administration and the PTA to inform the community of important information about school life at Thoreau Middle School.

Volume 5 Issue 8

December 14, 2017

## MESSAGE FROM MR. AZIMI

Dear Thoreau Community:

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a terrific winter break. Just as I had written in the Thanksgiving edition of Thoreau Matters, the faculty will not be assigning homework, projects, essays, etc. to be specifically done over the break. Any work that your child might do is either optional or is a long-term assignment that happens to span the break. Both the faculty and our students need a breather from the daily grind of school life over the next two weeks.

This is a consistent message the Madison pyramid principals send to all of our school communities at three times of the year - Thanksgiving, winter break and spring break. This is something we started two years ago in 2015. We are unified in this message as it is important to us to do what we can to help everyone maintain a healthy home-school life balance.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Thoreau on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Sincerely,  
Yusef Azimi



*On Tuesday, December 12th, there was an exciting volleyball match between Thoreau staff and students.*

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Winter Break - Monday, December 18th through Monday, January 1st

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - Monday, January 15th

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# THOREAU MATTERS

## Nominate Outstanding Thoreau Employees



FCPS award nomination season has opened and we welcome nominations for the following categories: Outstanding New Teacher (a teacher within their first three years of teaching), Outstanding Leader, Outstanding Support Employee, and Outstanding Hourly Employee.

Last year, Thoreau's Teacher of the Year was Ms. Amanda Rollison. She will be put forward this year as the Outstanding Teacher from our school and will go on to the Madison Pyramid level where a Pyramid Outstanding Teacher will be selected.

The selection process for awards will be conducted at the school level, the Madison pyramid level, then our Region 1 level. The Region 1 office will select winners for all of the school-based awards. Each of the five FCPS regions will then select winners who will serve as the finalists for the overall FCPS Outstanding Employee Awards.

In order to have as many Thoreau employees recognized as possible, you are encouraged to nominate those you truly believe are outstanding. Please use [this link](#) to nominate any Thoreau teacher or staff member who you think deserves recognition. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, January 12th**.

The nomination process is simple and only asks for a few sentences about your nominee. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Tresa Krukowski, principal's administrative assistant, at 703-846-8002 or [tjukrukowski@fcps.edu](mailto:tjukrukowski@fcps.edu).



## Advanced Academic Programs (AAP) Level IV Referrals

Parents or guardians of seventh grade students may initiate the full-time AAP Level IV screening process by completing and submitting an [Advanced Academic Programs Level IV Referral Form](#) to Rebecca Aguilar, director of student services, no later than **Friday, January 12th**. No late referrals will be accepted.

AAP Level IV services are available to students in grades 3-8. Students may be found eligible for full-time placement in AAP Level IV Center classes through a central selection process and receive a highly

challenging instructional program in science, social studies and English.

Multiple criteria are reviewed by a central selection committee to determine eligibility for all FCPS advanced academic services. More information about AAP services available at the middle school level may be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, you can contact Thoreau director of student services Rebecca Aguilar at [rjaguilar1@fcps.edu](mailto:rjaguilar1@fcps.edu).

*Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, Va.*

*Happy New Year!*



### December News from the SCA

**Non-perishable Food Drive:** Thank you to everyone who participated in the canned food drive. It was a **BIG** success thanks to your support.

**Ugly Sweater Day:** Wear your ugly holiday sweater on Friday, December 15th.

**Coat Drive:** After winter break, the SCA will begin a winter coat drive. They will be collecting clean, gently used coats for those in need in our community. At the time of this publication it is 22 degrees outside! Look in your closets in preparation for this event.

### The Little Mermaid

Congratulations to all the students who are on the cast and crew!

Rehearsals will begin after winter break. Information for parents and students can be found on the Thoreau Theatre website at [www.thoreaumsdrama.com](http://www.thoreaumsdrama.com).



### News from the Chamber Choir

On Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber Choir performed a 20-minute holiday concert for the Vienna community during the annual Church Street Stroll.

The Chamber Choir traveled to the headquarters of Navy Federal Credit Union on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> to entertain their employees with a lunch concert.

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber Choir had the pleasure of being one of several performing groups to be invited to display their talents with some holiday music for the principals of Region 1.

The Chamber Choir was once again invited by Mayor Laurie DiRocco to perform at the annual Town of Vienna holiday reception which was held on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Choral Department Winter Concert was held on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Madison. This was a night of holiday music performed for the Vienna community by 160 middle school singers. These students represented four wonderful performing groups: Chamber Choir, Treble Choir, Basso Chorus, and Semester Chorus.



### Upcoming Family Life Education (FLE) Lessons

The FLE program for students in grades seven and eight is taught by health and physical education teachers. Building on information learned in late elementary school, students continue their study of basic anatomy and physiology as well as the physical, psychological, and social changes that occur during adolescence. Students are taught that abstinence from sexual activity is the only way to guarantee the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The emotional and social health unit includes instruction on abuse, internet predation, and healthy dating relationships.

Our Thoreau 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade health and P.E. teachers will be teaching the FLE unit during the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>. Parents/guardians may choose to opt their child out of all or part of the FLE program. Students who opt out are provided with age-appropriate, non-punitive alternate health instruction, and every effort is made to foster respect for family choices. If you wish to opt your child out of all or part of FLE for this school year, opt out forms are available online for grades 7 and 8 [here](#). Please complete the opt-out and return it to your child's teacher prior to FLE instruction.



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### News/Noteworthy

**SIS Holiday Schedule** - The FCPS Student Information System (SIS) will be unavailable for viewing weekly progress reports from Monday, December 18th through Sunday, December 31st. Please plan accordingly.

**Lost and Found** - All lost and found items that have not been collected will be donated over the winter break. Students should check in the main office by Friday, December 15th, if they are missing anything.

**Winter Weather Reminder** - Please remind your students to dress for the weather. We are seeing students come to school in the morning in shorts and tee shirts when the thermometer reads below freezing. Lots of layers are advised not only for getting to school, but to stay comfortable in the building. Don't forget scarves, hats and gloves or mittens!

**Thoreau Yearbook** - To purchase a yearbook, visit [MySchoolBucks](http://MySchoolBucks). To purchase a personalized yearbook, visit [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com). If you have questions or comments, please contact Ms. Galeet BenZion, Thoreau yearbook sponsor, at [gbenzion@fcps.edu](mailto:gbenzion@fcps.edu).

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Main Office: 703-846-8000  
Attendance: 703-846-8080

Thoreau Website:  
[www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS](http://www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS)

PTA Website:  
[www.ThoreauPTA.org](http://www.ThoreauPTA.org)

## PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Holiday cookies are very much needed for Thoreau teachers and staff!*

Thanks to everyone who donated pies for the November hospitality event. It was very much appreciated by all of our teachers and staff! December is here and we are continuing another holiday tradition with more baked goods for our awesome Thoreau staff. We plan to give every staff member a box of 2 dozen **COOKIES**. Please sign-up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45aba82fa13-holiday> to help and deliver your cookie donations by 8:00 AM on **Friday, December 15th**.

### *Holiday shopping!*

Support Thoreau when you shop for the holidays! Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1558999](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1558999) and Amazon will donate to Henry D Thoreau Middle PTA.

### *Dining For Dollars!*

Our next Dining for Dollars event is **Monday, January 22nd from 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM** at the **Church St Pizza (703-939-1155)**. No flier needed. A bucket at the register will be labeled Thoreau Dining For Dollars for your receipts. This applies to dine-in or carry out, but not deliveries. Huge thanks to **Michelle Alonso** for organizing our Dining for Dollars events!

### *Grocery Rewards!*

Sign-up for Giant Rewards today and earn money for Thoreau every time you shop. Just click <https://giantfood.com>, click savings and the Rewards and Programs. Find Give Back to Schools, log in and enter Group #02131. We are also looking for a Giant Rewards coordinator. Please contact **Beth Eachus** at [president@thoreaupta.org](mailto:president@thoreaupta.org).

Sincerely,  
Beth Eachus,  
Thoreau PTA President

*Thank you for the WONDERFUL parent support!*

