

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 6

November 16, 2017

MESSAGE FROM MR. AZIMI

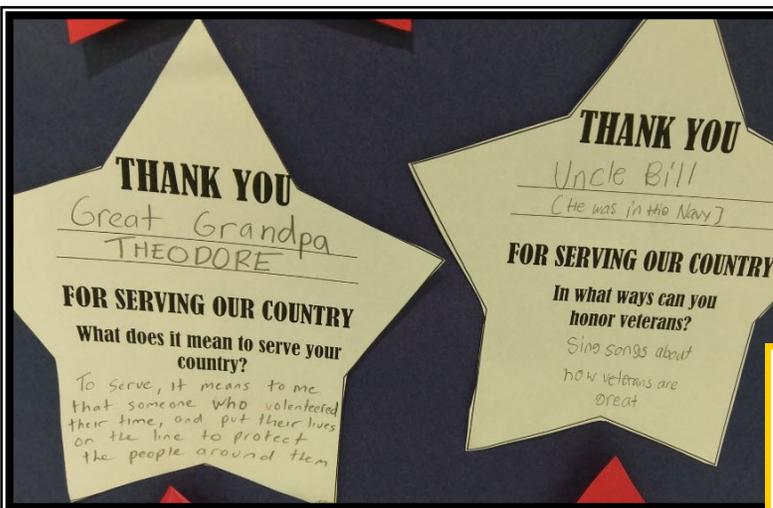
Dear Thoreau Community:

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and I would like to wish all of you a wonderful break. To that end, I have communicated to the Thoreau faculty the need to give our students (and themselves) a respite from the daily grind of school work during the Thanksgiving holiday.

While teachers may have long-term assignments that span over the course of a break, I have shared with the faculty to not assign homework, projects, essays, etc. to be specifically done over Thanksgiving. I want our students to spend time with their families and have the opportunity to catch a breath from school work. I want our teachers to decompress and put their lesson plan books and laptops away for a few days while they spend time with their families and friends as well.

My goal with this is to have students and teachers return back to school anxiety-free without the pressure of looming deadlines. Just so that you are aware, this is a unified message that the Madison pyramid principals send out at three times of the year: Thanksgiving, winter break and spring break. Again, I wish you all a happy and restful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,
Yusef Azimi



Thoreau 8th graders hang up personalized stars outside our library to honor veterans and military families.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Early Release (dismissal at 12:15PM) - Wednesday, November 22nd

Thanksgiving Holidays - Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th

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

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THOREAU MATTERS

Family Connections and Student Learning Plan: Exploring paths for your future!

Thoreau students will be introduced to Family Connection and the Student Learning Plan during the months of November and December.

What is Family Connection? Family Connection is an interactive tool used throughout the high school years to set goals and explore college and career options. Students will have opportunities to discover their personal strengths and interests, create goals to help achieve success, and plan for courses that meet high school graduation requirements. It also prepares students for life after high school. The **Student Learning Plan (SLP)** is a tool within Family Connection that is updated regularly as students' academic, personal, and career goals change. Students will use the plan to reflect on learning, document their accomplishments and experiences, and explore career interests. Parents, teachers and school counselors will assist students with the process.

Categories of the Student Learning Plan



Self-Discovery and REFLECTION

- Take strength and interest assessments
- Align assessment findings with career opportunities
- Continuously reflect on strengths and interests in an effort to grow and develop



Goal-Setting

- Realize the value of goal-setting
- Set annual personal, academic, and community SMART goals
- Continuously review and reflect on the progress of goals in an effort to become resilient, perseverant, and effective

Students will:



Career Awareness

Exploration and Planning

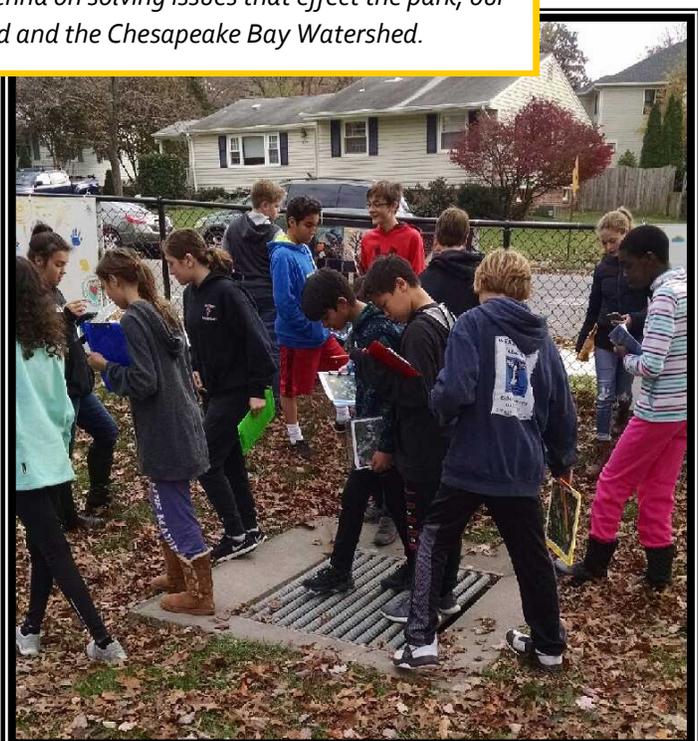
- Become aware and explore various career opportunities
- Research job-specific knowledge, skills, abilities, credentials, and salary potential
- Experience meaningful work-based learning experiences
- Build an effective resume



Educational Planning

- Be strategic in a backward-by-design approach, plan for the ultimate career, and then select the appropriate high school or postsecondary journey
- Select high school courses that will support career goals

7th grade science classes explored Meadow Lane Park on Tuesday and Wednesday. They are working with the Town of Vienna on solving issues that effect the park, our local Potomac River Watershed and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



Junior Thespian Troupe

Junior Thespian Troupe is an honor society that honors and awards excellent achievements among theatre arts students. Earning membership into the International Thespian Society (ITS) is an honorable achievement. Student officers are elected by their peers to serve as the voice of the Thespian Society's student membership. The officers provide leadership training, run workshops, sponsor student-oriented functions, and bring awareness and recruitment to the society.

Congratulations to this year's board of ITS officers:

President Natasha Karasick; Vice President Naomi Perkins; Secretary Molly Lundquist; Layla Hasanzadah (Publicity).

Students interested in joining should click [here](#). Theatre is a collaborative art and the large productions that Thoreau Theatre presents our public events which need parent and community support. Interested parent volunteers can find out more [here](#).



8th graders learn personal finance and budgeting skills on their Finance Park field trip this week.

Upcoming Holiday Attendance Reminders

In preparation for the upcoming holidays, please make sure to notify the school by emailing ThoreauMSAttendance@fcps.edu, by leaving a message at 703-846-8080, or sending in a note if your child will be absent.

If your child will be absent for three or more days, please follow Thoreau's policy for prearranged absences:

1. Send a note to the office or email ThoreauMSAttendance@fcps.edu providing the reason for the extended absence with your child 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 child will receive a "Prearranged 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.

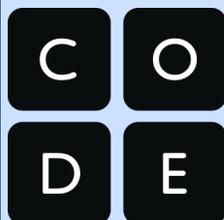


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News/Noteworthy

Fall Picture Retakes - Lifetouch will return to Thoreau for picture retakes tomorrow, Friday, November 17th, during Eagle Time and lunches.

Federal Impact Aid Survey - Impact Aid Student-Parent Survey forms were sent home with students on Wednesday, November 1st. If your child has yet to turn in this form, please remind him/her to return it to his/her 1st period teacher by Monday, November 20th. If your child needs a replacement form, please call Thoreau's main office and we will send a new form home with your child. If your employment has no federal connection, please check the box in section 5, sign, date, and return the form. If your employment is connected to the federal government or military, please complete either section 2, 3, or 4 where appropriate, sign, date, and return the form. For more information about this form, click [here](#).



Hour of Code - The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Thoreau will be hosting this after-school activity on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 4th, 6th and 7th in the Library. Students are welcome to come on one or all days and can work as individuals or in groups. For more information about this global event, click [here](#).

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

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

Thoreau Website:
www.fcps.edu/ThoreauMS

PTA Website:
www.ThoreauPTA.org

PTA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

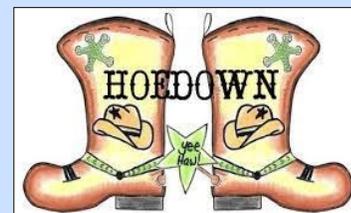
Thank you to all that joined us for our October PTA meeting!

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 21st at 9:30AM** in Thoreau's Eagle Hall.

7th Grade Family Dinner - Thank you to all that helped to make our 7th Grade Family Dinner and Dance on Wednesday such a huge success! Thank you especially to our co-chairs Mary Pat Julian and Kristyn Woldow!

Pies for Teachers and Staff - In November, the PTA Hospitality Committee will continue a wonderful Thoreau tradition where every teacher and staff member receives a pie for Thanksgiving! It is a favorite of our teachers and staff alike! Please [sign-up here](#) (apple, pecan and pumpkin). Don't have time to bake? [Monetary contributions](#) are also appreciated.

Dining for Dollars - Thank you to all that participated in our CAVA Dining for Dollars event! We raised almost \$200. Our next event will be at [Outback Steakhouse](#) in Vienna on **Thursday, November 16th from 4:00PM-10:00PM**. We will also be hosting a December Dining for Dollars event at the Vienna Inn all day on Monday, December 11th! Huge thanks to Michelle Alonso for organizing our Dining for Dollars events!



 Sign up for Giant Rewards today and earn money for Thoreau every time you shop! Click [here](#) and enter Group #02131 We are also looking for a Giant Rewards coordinator. Please contact [Beth Eachus](#) if you are interested.

Sincerely,
Beth Eachus

President@ThoreauPTA.org