

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 4

October 12, 2017

MESSAGE FROM MR. AZIMI

Dear Thoreau Community:

My purpose in writing this message is to ensure that our parents know about [SIS Parent Accounts](#). SIS stands for Student Information System and it is FCPS' secure solution for a parent to access all sorts of information about his/her child's grades, attendance, etc.

One of the benefits of having a SIS Parent Account (the mobile version is called SIS ParentVUE) is the ability to receive electronic weekly progress reports. The progress reports provide a summary of a student's grades at that moment in time. A parent that has registered for a SIS Parent Account with a valid email address, and has a child in grades 7-12, will receive these progress reports. Any parent who has more than one child in middle and/or high school will have all of their children's information in one email so as not to be inundated with multiple messages. (FCPS elementary schools do not use the SIS gradebook so they will not be included in these reports.)

Located in each parent account is a tab called "My Account." Parents have the option within this tab to choose which day of the week they wish to receive the progress reports. They also have the capability to opt-out out of the service entirely or designate a threshold for notification. For example, a parent can request an email only when his/her child's grade drops below 75%.

Aside from progress reports, parents can always seek additional information by logging into their SIS Parent Accounts. If even further clarification is required, parents should contact the appropriate classroom teacher. Any Thoreau parent who needs help with his/her SIS Parent Account should call the Thoreau main office at 703-846-8000 so that our staff can provide assistance.

Sincerely,
Yusef Azimi



Thoreau's Golden Eagle welcomes walkers on Walk to School Day last Wednesday.



The first 100 walkers received a shoe key chain from the FCPS Safe Routes to School program.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

PTA Meeting and Parent Program - Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00PM in Eagle Hall

Fall Pictures - Thursday, October 19th and Friday, October 20th

School Planning Day (Student Holiday) - Monday, November 6th

Teacher Workday (Student Holiday) - Tuesday, November 7th

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Thoreau Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee is hard at work capturing images of student life at Thoreau. Members have voted on a cover theme, color scheme, worked with a professional designer, and are now taking photos of every aspect of Thoreau. Students will continue to document events, illustrate, and edit this keepsake throughout the year.

Yearbooks are on sale for \$30 through October 31st. 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. This year's yearbook will be a hit and we are excited to share it with you.



Finance Park

All 8th graders will be going on the Finance Park field trip with their team in November and we need parent volunteers!

Your day will begin at 8:30AM at the Junior Achievement Finance Park (adjacent to Frost MS in Fairfax) and conclude around 1:30PM. You will be in charge of a "store front" and will help students regulate their budgets and make purchases.

The Finance Park staff will prepare you for the day and supply you with all the information you will need. If you can help out, please sign up [here](#). Visit www.myJA.org/financepark to learn more about Finance Park and see pictures of the facility.

Friday, November 10th:
Falcons (Mr. Bishop's 1st period and Mr. Cain's 3rd and 9th periods only)

Monday, November 13th:
Falcons (Mr. Bishop's 3rd, 6th, 8th, 9th periods only)

Tuesday, November 14th:
Alpacas (all Alpacas)

Wednesday, November 15th:
Turtles (all Turtles)



Superintendent's Community Conversations

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will host five *Community Conversations* this fall to hear what students, parents, employees, and members of the community are thinking about and what issues are important to them. Brabrand welcomes citizens to attend and take part in any of the upcoming sessions that are convenient for them. Citizens needing a translator can make a [request for services online](#).

The meetings will begin at 6:30PM with a meet-and-greet followed by discussion and questions from the audience from 7:00PM-8:00PM.

Meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- Wednesday, October 18th at Hughes MS
- Wednesday, November 8th at Hayfield SS
- Tuesday, November 14th at Irving MS
- Tuesday, November 28th at Chantilly HS
- Monday, December 11th at Jackson MS



Dr. Scott Brabrand
Superintendent of Schools

Digital Citizenship for Families with Teens

The FCPS Department of Instructional Services has created a free 4-part interactive multimedia course to support parents/guardians and their teens in talking together about what it means to demonstrate safe, responsible and ethical behaviors online. Click [here](#) to launch the course.

- Module 1 - Digital Citizenship for Parents/Guardians
- Module 2 - Respect for Self
- Module 3 - Respect for Others
- Module 4 - Online Communities and Civic Engagement

Additional digital citizenship resources from FCPS to support families can be found [here](#).



Our ESOL students learned about the college experience last Friday on a field trip to George Mason University.

Fairfax County Youth Survey

The Fairfax County Youth Survey will be administered to our 8th grade students on Friday, November 10th, and Monday through Wednesday, November 13th-15th. These dates correspond with our upcoming field trip experiences at Finance Park, and students will take the survey with their team as they return to Thoreau the afternoon of their field trip date.

The survey is a comprehensive, anonymous and voluntary survey given each year to students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. It is a collaborative effort between the Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools.

The survey examines behaviors, experiences and other factors that influence the health and well-being of Fairfax County's youth. The results provide a snapshot of the county's youth and serve as a barometer of the community's effectiveness fostering healthy choices in young people. The [results](#) of this survey are published each year and are used by school officials, youth leadership classes, youth serving county agencies, and local non-profits to determine the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs offered in schools and communities. It is also used to identify changing trends and areas of need. The survey is anonymous and no individual information is reported.

The Fairfax County Youth Survey asks questions about risky behavior, mental health, physical health, and safety. There are questions about behaviors related to alcohol, illegal drugs, and misuse of prescription drugs. Students are also asked about specific protective factors concerning health and safety.

Any parent who would like to opt out his/her 8th grade child from the survey, please complete this [form](#). This form should be returned to Thoreau Student Services by Monday, November 6th.



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News/Noteworthy

Marshall Road STEAM Night - Marshall Road ES is hosting a STEAM night on Friday, October 20th from 6:30-8:30PM. Mr. Guyer, Thoreau technology education teacher, will have a display at the event. There will be food, activities, and over 20 vendors.



Vienna Turkey Trot - Join the Thoreau Running Club for the 2017 Vienna Turkey Trot 10K, 5K, and Fun Run on Sunday, November 19th at 8:00AM at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Early bird registration ends on Tuesday, October 31st. This community event benefits the Madison HS "Pride of Vienna" Band and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. To register, click [here](#).



Video Game Systems Needed - Have you replaced your gaming console recently? The Video Games Club is looking for donations of gaming systems to accommodate the popularity of this after-school club. Please contact [Bob DeLuca](#) if you have a system to donate.

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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

Our next PTA meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00PM** in Eagle Hall. We will feature educational consultant Ann Dolin on *Getting Past Procrastination: Learn why kids struggle to stay organized, plan ahead, and focus and what you can do as a parent to help*.

The **7th grade dinner** will take place on **Wednesday, November 15th from 6:30PM-8:30PM** in the Thoreau cafeteria. All 7th grade students and their families are invited to enjoy an evening with DJ Noelle, as well as lots of games, giveaways, photos, an old-fashioned candy shop, dancing with new friends, and fabulous food! Dinner will be provided by Famous Dave's BBQ. For complete details and to RSVP for the dinner, click [here](#). To volunteer at the dinner, please click [here](#). For more information, please contact Thoreau parent [Mary Pat Julian](#).

Please join us for Dining for Dollars at **CAVA in Vienna** on **Thursday, October 19th from 6:00PM-10:00PM**. 25% of every meal purchased will be donated to the Thoreau PTA. Please mention Thoreau at the register.

We are making **Halloween treat bags** for the wonderful teachers, staff and bus drivers at Thoreau. Please sign-up [here](#) to help out with this fun treat. Please send in your contributions to the Thoreau main office by the end of the day on Thursday, October 26th. We are also looking for a few volunteers to help assemble the bags on the morning of Friday, October 27th.

Help is needed for the **Thoreau Garden**. The Garden Committee meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00AM-11:30AM and then committee members often go out to lunch. They focus on weeding, planting flowers, feeding both land and water turtles and fish, caring for the pond, filling bird feeders, moving plants, and building walkways. Come join them!

Volunteers are needed to assist with the **vision and hearing screening at Thoreau on Wednesday, November 1st and Thursday, November 2nd**. Shifts are short and help is very much needed so that every student can be screened. Training is provided. Please sign-up to volunteer [here](#).

Sincerely,
Beth Eachus

President@ThoreauPTA.org