Thurston Middle School Update

Aim High ♦ Work Hard ♦ Help Someone Else ♦ Do the Right Thing

April 9, 2012

Dear Thurston Families,

It was a big celebration weekend in my household between the holidays and my son's ninth birthday. After consuming approximately three times my normal caloric intake, my thoughts have turned to the benefits of exercise. I have some good news for those of you looking to shake the dust off or to get your kids up and moving around.

During **April Vacation**, Thurston teacher and WHS coach Steve St. Martin will run a **three-day basketball clinic for boys in grades 1 – 8**. You can register and get more information at the Westwood Basketball Association web site: www.**westwoodbasketball**.org/.

WHS sophomore Sammy Brooks has joined forces with Thurston volleyball coach Denise Collins to offer an **after-school volleyball program for girls in grade 6 – 8**. The program will meet on Mondays and Wednesday from 2:40 – 4:00 in the Palladino gym. The program is open to both new players and those looking to refine their skills. Sign ups are in the office, and the program begins April 30.

The **8th Annual Thurston Fun Run** is coming! Last year, I challenged all Thurston students and staff to enter the race and promised to print the names of everyone who beat me in the email update. It was a very, very long list, but I'm hoping for an even longer list this year! The run will take place rain or shine on **Sunday, May 20 at noon**. Registration forms will come home in backpacks this week and will be posted online.

If you are thinking of a meal out this week, consider dropping by **Vello's**. Former Thurston student **Sean Cote's Relay for Life** team has partnered with the restaurant and **15% of food and beverage proceeds** (both eat in and take out) will **benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life**. Just present the voucher below when you pay.

Vello's Fundraiser

April 10th through April 15th

15% of Food and Beverage Proceeds to Benefit:

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Fundraiser
when you present this voucher to your server

Thank You for Your Support!

This offer can't be combined with any other offer or discount.

In other food-related news, a **very important announcement** about **Nutrakids**, the new online meal payment service, is posted in the Forms and Publications section of our web site. **If your child buys lunch or snacks at Thurston**, please make sure to read the letter.

Our **question of the day** has changed from geography to **science**! This past week, 6th grader **Roman Colon** correctly answered the following question: "On the evening of June 5, 2012, observers in North

America will have the opportunity to see something that will not occur again until the year 2117. What will they see?" Roman noted that Venus would pass between the Earth and the Sun—an event known as the Transit of Venus.

Our **search committee** started the process of reviewing **assistant principal applications** this week, and we'll be holding first round interviews over the course of the next several days. Finalists will be invited to return to Thurston right after April Vacation for full day visits. An **opportunity for parents to meet all three finalists** will be included, so please mark your calendars. The meetings will take place from **10:00 to 10:45 in the Cafeteria Annex** on **Monday 4/23**, **Tuesday 4/24** and **Wednesday 4/25**.

Finally, don't miss the chance to see **Thurston's spring musical *The Music Man*** this week! Cast and crew have been working very hard, and it promises to be a fantastic show! The matinee takes place on **Wednesday at 4:00** and the **Thursday and Friday** shows start **at 7:00**. All performances are in the WHS auditorium. Please remember that **Thurston students** who attend **must be accompanied by and sit with a responsible adult**. Also, these performances are a great opportunity to review **audience etiquette** (e.g., cell phones off and away, no coming or going during scene, when to clap) with your middle-schoolers and their younger siblings.

Have a great week!

Allison F. Borchers, Principal
(781) 326-7500 x2398
aborchers@westwood.k12.ma.us

PTO Update

SPRING APPAREL FUNDRAISER
Thank you for your tremendous support of our Spring Apparel Fundraiser.
All merchandise will be sent home with your children shortly after April vacation.

EIGHTH GRADE T-SHIRTS and TRACK AND FIELD T-SHIRTS
8TH Grade t-shirts and Track and Field t-shirts will also be sent home shortly after April vacation.

THURSTON NIGHT AT THE CELTICS
Many Thurston families enjoyed a very exciting game last Wednesday at Thurston Night at the Celtics. Just as exciting? Seeing a "Welcome to Thurston" on the jumbotron during the game!

SAVE THESE DATES...

NEXT PTO MEETING
Tuesday, MAY 8, 2012 - 7:30 pm

Thurston Middle School Fun Run
8th Annual 2 Mile Road Race
Sunday, May 20, 20012 12:00 PM
Save the date for the 8th Annual Thurston Fun Run. We will be using the same course so you can try to beat your time from last year. There will be awards and prize giveaways on race day!!

EIGHTH GRADE SEMI-FORMAL
Friday, JUNE 8, 2012...*more details to follow*

AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GIVE THE THURSTON, AND OUR CHILDREN, 24 NEW MICROSCOPES AND CHROMEBOOKS FOR TWO FULL CLASSROOMS. AN ADDITIONAL 24 MICROSCOPES WILL BE GIVEN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR IN SEPTEMBER.

None of this would be possible without our outstanding Thurston families' support!

THANK YOU!
Joanne Ouellette, Jennifer Zonderman, Kelly Harrington, Bill Kearns

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School Announcements

April Vacation Basketball Clinic
Westwood Basketball Association is pleased to announce Coach St. Martin and Coach Normant's April Vacation basketball clinic for players in **1st – 8th grades**. This clinic will be held during **April School Vacation** week: **April 16th – 18th 2012 at Westwood High School**
4th – 8th grades 9:00 – 10:30am
1st – 3rd grades 10:30 – 12:00pm
The cost is $50.00 per player payable to Westwood Basketball Association. This program is run by WHS coaches and with assistance of current WHS basketball players. Registration is online at www.westwoodbasketball.org or contact Steve St.Martin at westwoodhoops@gmail.com for more information.

Girls Volleyball!!!
Learn to play volleyball or come and improve your volleyball skills. These sessions will teach you the volleyball basics that you need know to make the high school team. If you are interested in becoming a more competitive player and have a passion for volleyball sign up in the front office today!

Where you sign up: The front office
Where we play: The Middle School Gym
Who: 6th, 7th, 8th grade girls
When: Mondays and Wednesday from 2:40-4:00
Starting date: Monday, April 30th - Wednesday may 30th

If you have any question please email Sammy Brooks at 14sbrooks@wpsstudents.org.

Dress Code Reminder
With the advent of warm weather a couple of weeks ago, and hopefully more good weather ahead, the time is right to remind everyone of expectations about appropriate dress at school. Our **school dress code** (which appears below) is pretty straightforward, but we do occasionally get the question "How short is too short?" from students as well as parents. A good "rule of thumb" that we try to use: shorts or skirts that do not reach a child's fingertips when her/his arms are relaxed and straight at her/his sides and probably too short for school.

> *Thurston's dress code is governed by health, safety, decency, and the protection of school property. Because of these factors, all students will be expected to wear appropriate clothing. Clothing that is disruptive to the educational process, poses safety concerns, and/or interferes with an individual's right to learn is not permitted. No student will be allowed to wear any style of clothing, footwear, or accessory that may be unsafe or hazardous. We ask students not to wear the following:*
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> - *hats or other non-religious head-coverings*

- *sunglasses*
- *shirts that display obscene language, violence; or references to drugs, alcohol or tobacco*
- *clothing that exposes midriffs or underwear (including bra straps); low-cut tops*
- *spaghetti-strap, halter or strapless tops*
- *short shorts or skirts; boxer-like shorts*
- *chains (e.g., wallet or belt chains)*

In addition, certain types of footwear may be prohibited in some classes for safety reasons. It is important for students to understand that the administration will be the final judge with regard to this policy. Students who do not follow the policy may be removed from class until more appropriate clothing is provided by parents, guardians, or caretakers. ***This policy applies to all school functions such as field trips, dances, etc.*** (TMS Student Hand Book 2011-2012, p. 5-6)

If you have any questions about our dress code, please feel free to contact me directly.

2011-2012 Yearbook Sale Extended

It is once again **yearbook ordering time**! Hard copies of yearbook forms were sent home and the sale has been extended this week! The cost is $25. Yearbooks can be purchased:

Online by going to:
http://jostensyearbook.com
•Click on: Find My School's Store (top, center of page)
•Type in "Thurston Middle School" and select Westwood
•Click on "2012 Yearbook" and follow remaining steps

Checks should be made out to Thurston Middle School. Please make sure it is signed and that your child's full name AND homeroom appear in "memo." Hand in with a fully completed Yearbook form.

Cash payment, please verify that it is the correct amount; place it in a sealed envelope with the completed form and child's name and homeroom on the outside. Your child should submit payment to his/her homeroom teacher.

Any questions, email **Mrs. Santabarbara** at: dsantabarbara@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Spring Track and Field

Track and field sign ups have officially ended. If you have any questions about the spring schedule, please contact Coach Marchbanks.

Canned Goods Collection

Thurston 8th graders **Bridget Doherty** and **Mary Cote** are **collecting canned goods** for **three great causes**. First, the cans will be used to **anchor the luminaries** that line the track in the **Relay for Life of Greater Norwood 2012**. After the relay, the cans will be donated to restock the **Westwood Food Pantry**. Finally, the **"boxtop" labels** will be removed from the cans and given to the **Sheehan School** boxtop collection. Collection boxes will be located near building entrances. I'll be providing updates throughout March and April as the girls work toward their **goal of collecting 2,000 cans**.

Morning Announcements on the Web

We are now posting morning announcements on the Thurston web site. If you want to read last-minute updates about after-school activities, check on spirit day attire, or see what else is going on from day to day, go to the home page of our web site at:

http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/index.cfm?pid=10207

School Lunch Menus

School lunch menus are now available on the Westwood Public School's district web site. Visit School Lunch Menus (http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/index.cfm?pid=22356) to see daily specials along with items available every day. We'll have printouts of the lunch menus available in the office as well.

Calendar of Events

Important dates and upcoming events:

Tue	**4/10**		6 Red Band/Chorus Elementary Music Tour
		X-Block	Student Council
Wed	**4/11**	1:10	Early Dismissal
		4:00	*The Music Man* (WHS Auditorium)
Thu	**4/12**		6 Blue Band/Chorus Elementary Music Tour
			6 Red author visit
		7:00	*The Music Man* (WHS Auditorium)
Fri	**4/13**		Tri-Ball Tournament
			Germ 3 Report Cards Distributed
		7:00	*The Music Man* (WHS Auditorium)
Mon	**4/23**	10:00	Assistant Principal Finalist Parent Meeting
Tue	**4/24**	10:00	Assistant Principal Finalist Parent Meeting
Wed	**4/25**	10:00	Assistant Principal Finalist Parent Meeting

Thurston Middle School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or sexual orientation.