Thurston Middle School Update

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

July 6, 2012

Dear Thurston Families,

Welcome to summertime! I hope you had a fantastic Independence Day and are enjoying the warm (if a little wet) weather and time with friends and family. Throughout the summer, I'll continue to send out periodic email updates to keep you informed about what is happening in and around Thurston Middle School.

First off for this edition, I'd like to thank the very generous student volunteers who gave up some of their start-of-summer-sleeping-in hours to help out at Thurston on Tuesday, June 19th. Nearly 40 students signed up to help with various end-of-year projects. They did such a fantastic job that we ran out of things to do and had to send some of them home early! In addition, a brave group of rising 7th graders volunteered to be a "class" during a sample lesson for a Spanish teacher interview last week. They were thoughtful and courteous to the candidate and provided great feedback. Kudos to all our helpful volunteers, listed below, and my apologies to anyone who I left off the list!

Ben Adjami	**Olivia Goldberg**	**Casey Murphy**
Jake Antonucci	**Art Gurerra**	**Sean Murphy**
Andrew Antonucci	**Katie Harrington**	**Brad Orsini**
Oriana Attridge	**Holly Jenks**	**Ben Ouellette**
Mat Berluti	**Jordan Jud**	**Owen Plouffe**
Katy Brooks	**Rose Kearns**	**Nikki Ready**
Tommy Bruzesse	**Tim Kearns**	**Alison Reardon**
Aisha Chandraker	**Nick Kennedy**	**Katie Reardon**
Nevin Coyne	**Caroline Kremer**	**Ailis Robinson**
Patrick Coyne	**Christopher Lahiff**	**Katie Robrish**
Sean Coyne	**Michael Lahiff**	**Andrew Talcott**
Abby Diehl	**Fontaine Liu**	**Cameron Valentine**
MacKenzie Draper	**Lauren Malster**	**Samantha Varkas**
Marc Ellenberg	**Stephen Morrison**	**Edward Walsh**
Kayley Fiorino	**Ian Moscaritolo**	**Kathryn Watson**
Rachel Gilroy	**Max Moscaritolo**	**Leah Worth**
Tim Giovino		

Any soon-to-be 7th graders interested in volunteering to help with a French teacher interview next week (Wednesday, July 11 from 10 – 10:45), should fill in the Google form below. Volunteers will be part of a "class" as a teacher candidate teaches a sample introductory French lesson.

https://docs.google.com/a/westwood.k12.ma.us/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFppV1g5a2xIcHJVWlducHlaX0dJMXc6MQ#gid=0

I'll be reaching out with additional opportunities for students to help out throughout the summer, as we interview candidates for a few remaining positions and get the school organized and spruced up for next fall.

Our summer math work packet is now available in the Forms and Publications section of our web site. Students entering all grades (6 – 8) are asked to log at least five hours of math time each summer in order to practice problem solving, explore new concepts, and keep their skills sharp! Summer reading

requirements handouts are also available in the Forms and Publications section of our web site. I'll be emailing both handouts directly to students today as well.

The first session of Westwood's summer enrichment program wraps up today at Thurston. Students of all ages spent the past two weeks building lego masterpieces, learning to speak Spanish, refining their hip hop moves and making stuff out of duct tape. It was a lot of fun for everyone, and I look forward to seeing the session II kids and teachers in action next week.

Have a great weekend!

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

School Announcements

Food Services Update
If you haven't already done so, please register your child's lunch account on www.mynutrakids.com! Registration is FREE, and allows you to view 30 days' worth of meal/a la carte transactions, set up low balance email alerts and view payments made. Again, there is no fee to register. There is a small transaction fee for making payments online, which is preferred but not required. Checks may still be sent in payable to Westwood Food Services. We have received very positive feedback already from parents who love having access to their accounts 24/7. Alerts will go out once a month starting in September. Families without email addresses can call food services directly (x1301) for printouts of your student's purchase history and paper billing if needed.

Summer Reading
Summer reading requirements this year are as follows:

Grade 6 (one required)
All students read *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

In addition, the following are recommended reading options:
Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief, by Wendelin Van Draanen
Among the Hidden, by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Grade 7 (two required)
Students read a minimum of two books.
All students read *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
AND
At least one of the titles on the list of "100 Books to Read in Middle School"

Grade 8 (two required)
All students read *Dead End in Norvelt,* by Jack Gantos (only available in hardcover)
AND
Students should also read at least one of the following:
Beanball, by Gene Fehler
All of the Above, by Shelley Pearsall
My Mother the Cheerleader by Robert Sharenow

The **2012 "100 Books to Read in Middle School"** list is now available online in the forms and publications section of our web site.

Calendar of Events

Important dates and upcoming events:

Tue	**8/21**		Running Start program begins
Thu	**8/23**	4:00 – 7:00 PM	Open House
Tue	**9/4**		First Day for Students
Wed	**9/12**	1:10 PM	Early Release Day
Mon	**9/17**	2:30 – 3:30 PM	WOSC Meeting
Tue	**9/18**		Picture Day
Wed	**9/19**	1:10 PM	Early Release Day
Mon	**9/24**		Magazine Drive Kick-Off
Wed	**9/26**		No School—Yom Kippur
Thu	**9/27**	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Curriculum Night

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