Thurston Middle School Update

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

August 18, 2012

Dear Thurston Families,

Schedules are on the way! We finished stuffing and mailing yesterday afternoon, so you can expect to see an envelope from Thurston in your home mailbox shortly. If you are out of town or leaving shortly and have access to technology, Ms. Fleming can email your child's schedule along with some other helpful documents like supply lists. Just send an email request to vfleming@westwood.k12.ma.us. I want to thank Thurston's dynamic duo of administrative assistants, David Calandrella and Vera Fleming, who stayed extra late on a sunny Friday afternoon to make sure the job got done.

Our official **summer newsletter** is due out early next week on the web and via email. (This year, we are going green.) The newsletter contains in-depth information to help you gear up for the start of school. In the meantime, here are a few important highlights:

Open House will take place next **Thursday, August 23 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM.** Students and their parents can **drop by anytime** to tour the building, practice opening lockers, sign up for PTO volunteer opportunities, pay PTO dues, catch up with long lost friends, meet the administrative team, and check out the Chrome Book technology that we are hoping to have in each English language arts class sometime this year. For those of you who plan to pay dues, please bring your checkbooks. (Cash is accepted but checks are preferred.)

Bamboo Restaurant of Dedham is getting into the back-to-school spirit as well. They are holding a special **Thurston Middle School Night the same night as our open house**. If you dine in or order take out anytime between **2:00 and 8:00 PM**, just mention Thurston Middle School. The restaurant will donate 10% of the check to our PTO!

The **first day of school** will be **September 4.** On the first, day, students should report to morning locations (6th grade in the Auditorium, 7th in the Old Gym, 8th in the Palladino Gym). We will start the day with an extended X-Block period, to allow kids plenty of time to ask questions, review their agenda books, and get lockers set up and organized.

Please contact the office (x2336) with any questions you have as the start of school draws near.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend!

Allison F. Borchers, Principal
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aborchers@westwood.k12.ma.us

PTO News

The TMS PTO is pleased to continue our theme of **technology expansion** this school year!
The **Microscopes** will grace our science classrooms, **Chrome Books** have been added to through the school budget, and a **parent education** series around the technology in the schools and in our children's lives is being planned.

The TMS PTO funds activities for all grades (Hale, Pi Day, 8th grade celebrations, etc.) as well as projects with the teachers and administrators. The funding comes primarily through **membership dues** with additional support thru **apparel fundraisers** (fashions from our fabulous Joanne Ouellette) and the **generosity of local restaurants - The Chateau, Jake N Joes, and Bamboo**.

The PTO Board has **accepted the challenge to fund the final 2 classrooms Chrome book purchase**, allowing ALL language arts classrooms this technology - we thank you in advance for your support and encourage you to **consider an additional donation when you pay your dues.**

Please support our kids through a wonderful meal from **Bamboo** before or after attending the open house on Thursday, August 23rd. Bamboo will be donating 10% of their profits from the evening toward the fall field trips and Chrome Book Initative.

School Announcements

Summer Math and Reading
All Thurston students are expected to complete summer reading and math assignments. 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.

Students should plan to complete 5 hours of independent math work before September. A copy of the **"Summer Math Work"** handout, which incldues a list of web-based and text resources as well as a log for students to track their hours, is also in Forms and Publications.

Buses 2012-2013

Bus information is updated on the Westwood Public Schools web site. Go to the link below for more information, including an FAQ and who to contact for help.

http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/index.cfm?pid=23652

Food Services Update

Nutrakids is here, and we are encouraging all parents to register your child's lunch account at 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.) The food services department has 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 students' purchase history and paper billing if needed.

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.