Congratulations to the Westwood Sixth Grade Travel Basketball 'A' Team! The team had the experience of a lifetime when they played on the parquet floor at halftime of the Celtics/Hawks game on Monday, January 11th.

Pictured back row, left to right: *Jack Frisoli, Patrick Reed, Bill Farley, George Farley - Official, Russell Verzino, Tom Rich, George Farley - Head Coach, 'Coach' Willie Maye, Asst. Coach Lorne Giroux.* **Front row, left to right:** *Ian O'Brien, David Ovalle, Nick Giroux, Anthony Fabiano, Michael Moran, Kyle Ouellette, Tim Fitzgerald*

Thurston Middle School Update

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

January 15, 2010

Dear Thurston Parents/Guardians,

I have two important updates regarding **Thurston's Student Council**. First, council reps held an emergency meeting on Thursday afternoon in order to launch a **fundraiser** for **relief efforts in Haiti.** By the end of the day Friday, Thurston was able to donate **$1000 to the American Red Cross**. Fund raising efforts will continue through the start of next week. Council members will also have the chance to **visit the State House in Boston** in early February. A special thank you to **State Representative Paul McMurtry**, who extended the invitation to our students and whose office is helping to make the visit possible.

I am pleased to announce that **Ms. Catherine Cornell** will be filling in for **8th grade science teacher** Ms. Johnson during her maternity leave. Ms. Cornell is an experienced math and science teacher who has worked in several private schools, most recently Dana Hall. She will begin working alongside Ms. Johnson next week in order to ensure a smooth transition for our 8 red science students. Please join me and the Thurston staff in welcoming Ms. Cornell!

Westwood **Superintendent John Antonucci** presented his proposed **FY'11 Budget** ay this past Thursday's school committee meeting. Thurston parents are invited to attend the upcoming **budget forum next Thursday at 7:30 in the Westwood High School Auditorium**. In addition, the **executive summary** of the proposed budget is now available on the **Westwood Public Schools web site.**

Jeff Wolfsberg will be speaking to parents on **Monday, February 1st at 7:30 PM** in the Westwood High School Auditorium . Mr. Wolfsberg is a highly regarded leader in the world of **school-based drug education and early intervention**. The focus of the parent presentation is to provide opportunities for dialogue, interaction, and sharing experiences. It provides basic information on adolescent development as it relates to the initiation of substance use and dependency. Parents learn accurate and up-to date information about underage drinking and other drug trends, and strategies to support children in choosing a drug-free lifestyle. The event is being presented by **Westwood High School, Westwood Youth & Family Services and Westwood Cares**. Funds for the evening are being provided by **Westwood High School, The Dedham Institute for Savings, and The Cooperative Bank**.

Finally, I am in the process of finalizing this year's **MCAS testing schedule**, which will be posted on our web site next week. Hard copies of the schedule will also be available in the office.

All the best,

Allison Borchers, Principal
Thurston Middle School
(781) 326-7500 x2398

School Announcements

WHS 8th Grade Parents Night
Parents of 8th graders, please mark your calendars. **January 27 is 8th grade parent night** at **Westwood High School.** Starting at 7 PM, parents will have the chance to learn about the 9th grade academic and extracurricular program, tour the building and ask questions.

School. Musical Auditions
Auditions for this year's musical, ***Bye Bye Birdie*, are coming soon!** Interested 7th and 8th graders should sign up outside room 107.

Scripps Spelling Bee
The Spelling Bee is coming up in early February! The in school-wide competition will take place on February 10. Contestants can sign up for after school practices (January 12 and January 21) in the office and access practice words online at: http://www.myspellit.com. Please contact Samia Chandraker at 781 269 5094 / schandraker@yahoo.com with questions or to register!

Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program
Thanks to Mrs. Marchbanks' enterprising homeroom, Thurston is now registered for Stop and Shop "Bonus Bucks." If you are a Stop and Shop shopper, please consider registering your Stop and Shop Savings Card for Thurston Middle School. You can register online at stopandshop.com (look in the "Our Stores" pull-down menu) or in the store at the customer service desk. Thurston will earn bonus bucks every time you shop!

Immunization Update for Families of Grade 6 Students
All 6th graders are required to submit a physical exam that was completed between 2/1/09 and 2/1/10. A copy of the physical form is **due in the health room by February 1, 2010.** In keeping with state regulations, students who do not submit a copy will be required to stay home from school until the form is turned in.

Old Key Donations Sought
If you are in the Thurston office, you might notice a new bucket for **key donations**. Thurston 8th grader **Colleen Mulhern** is collecting old keys which will be recycled as scrap metal through the organization **Keys for Hope**. The money raised through the Keys for Hope effort goes toward funding food pantries in participating towns.

Thurston Homework Posted Online
The Thurston Teams wiki, which is maintained by student volunteers, is designed as a "back up" system to help when a student is absent or forgets her/his agenda book. The wiki is linked to our web site (look under the "Our Staff" menu, go to "Teams," and then click on the "TMS Teams Wikispace") or you may go directly to the wiki at: http://tmsteams.westwood.wikispaces.net/.

Calendar of Events

Important dates and upcoming events:

Mon	**1/18**	No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tue	**1/19**	7:00 PM Strings Concert (WHS Auditorium)
Wed	**1/20**	6:30 Grade 6 Red Drama Skits (Thurston Auditorium)
Thu	**1/21**	6:30 Grade 6 Red Drama Skits (Thurston Auditorium)
		7:30 FY'11 Budget Forum (WHS Auditorium)
Fri	**1/22**	Thurston Math League
		7:30 WOSC Dance (grade 7 & 8 only)
Mon	**1/25**	2:30 Grade 8 Singing and Acting Auditions for *Bye Bye Birdie*
Tue	**1/26**	2:30 Grade 8 Dance Auditions for *Bye Bye Birdie*
Wed	**1/27**	Term 2 Grades close
		NAEP Testing—Grade 8
		1:15 Grade 7 Singing and Acting Auditions for *Bye Bye Birdie*
Thu	**1/28**	Term 3 begins
		2:30 Grade 7 Dance Auditions for *Bye Bye Birdie*
Fri	**1/29**	Cast list for *Bye Bye Birdie* posted
Sat	**1/20**	Eastern Junior District Band, Orchestra and Chorus

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