Thurston Middle School Update

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

February 7, 2010

Dear Thurston Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are enjoying a relaxing Super Bowl Sunday with family and friends!

Term 2 report cards were distributed this past Friday, along with copies of our quarterly **PTO newsletter** and our **spring 2010 MCAS schedule.** A signed copy of you child's report card is due back at school this Wednesday. Back up copies of all items are available at the Thurston office, just in case. If you need a new copy, please drop by or contact Mrs. Fleming at x2336.

I am very proud to report that a record number of Thurston students were selected for this year's **MMEA Junior District Music Festival**. **Bobby Brennan, Sarah Danforth, Julia Deininger, Julia Ellis, Katie Horsfall, Emilie Magnan, Sophia Malonson, Katherine Santisi and Linnea Thomas** will sing with either the mixed or treble chorus. **Shaye Firman and Erica Oh** will perform with the orchestra, and **Sam Gantert and Heather Jeong** will play in the concert band. Thank you to our fantastic team of music teachers—**Mrs. Kenney, Mrs. Legere, and Mrs. Sanders**—for their work teaching and support these fantastic young musicians.

Congratulations to **Thurston's two MATHCOUNTS teams**! One of the temas team placed 8th at their chapter competition yesterday, and are waiting to here whether their score will cinch a wildcard spot at the upcoming state competition. Team members are **Andrea Masi-Phelps, Caitlin Cassidy, Artem Shkuratov and Radha Mastandrea** on team one; and **Lan Ngo, Shivam Sharma, Abi Gowda and Joyce Du** on team two. They are coached by 7th grade math teacher **Mrs. Coffey**.

Relief efforts for Haiti have continued this past week at Thurston, thanks to the **8th grade Blue Team**. 8 Blue decided to continue the excellent effort started by Thurston's student council with a very successful **shoe drive**. If you have new or gently used shoes of any type or size you would like to donate, please bring them in this week and drop them off in the office.

Good luck to all our spellers in this week's **Spelling Bee**! Thurston students will compete Wednesday evening at 5:00 at the Westwood High School Little Theatre. The winner will advance to the Massachusetts State Bee in March.

Best Wishes,

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

School Announcements

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Thurston Night at the Providence Bruins

Save the date for the upcoming **Thurston PTO Night at the Providence Bruins.** Thurston teachers, students and their families will have the chance to watch the Providence Bruins take on the Portland Pirates on **Friday, March 26.** Tickets are $13 each, and every student will receive a free P-Bruins hat at the game. To purchase your tickets, please look for the order form which will be attached to my weekly email update just after February break. The order form will also be posted on the website under "Forms and Publications." For more information, please contact Archana Sharma at aprasher_2000@yahoo.com.

Thurston Goes Green

Thurston Goes Green—the environmental club—gave a lunch presentation to all three grades on Wednesday highlighting the recycling and waste-reduction initiative at Thurston. Students got into the action as club members led a speed-recycling competition with reusable water bottle prizes! There are a number of easy things you can do at home to help your student go green (and save money!) in the cafeteria whether they pack or buy lunches:

- Provide a reusable lunch box instead of disposable paper bag
- Pack sandwiches in reusable sandwich boxes and other food items in Tupperware
- Avoid packing excess food; you'd be surprised how much gets thrown away untouched
- Purchase a reusable water bottle for your student to keep at school—these are allowed throughout the building and save a dollar a day or more!—Thurston Goes Green will be selling bottles shortly
- Limit your student's snack line purchases; some dispose of the rest of their lunch just to buy an ice cream bar
- Ask your student about recycling in the cafeteria and how they use it; model good reuse and recycling habits at home

Thank very much for your support—working together we can make a big difference!

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 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!

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	**2/8**	2:30 WOSC meeting
Tue	**2/9**	DARA testing (selected grade 8 students only)
Wed	**2/10**	1:10 Early Dismissal
		5:00 Thurston Spelling Bee @ WHS Little Theater

Thu	**2/11**	Grade 6 Term 2 Recognition
		4:00 Thurston School Site Council (rescheduled date)
		7:30 School Committee Meeting @ WHS Little Theater
Fri	**2/12**	Grade 7 & 8 term 2 Recognition
Mon-Fri	**2/15-19**	February Vacation Week—No School

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