Thurston Middle School Update

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

November 19, 2010

Dear Thurston Families,

Thank you to everyone who came out last Tuesday evening to attend out **fall PTO general meeting**. Parents had the chance to learn more about our new **developmental guidance curriculum** for grade 6, to get a quick overview of a few **school-wide initiatives**, to get the latest news about **PTO committees and activities** and to hear about **town government news**. Copies of the guidance program PowerPoint presentation and the school goals overview presentation are available on our web site. Special thank yous go to our TMS guidance counselors **Austin Bushey** and **Lois Riley**; PTO board members **Archana Prasher, Joanne Ouellette, Kelly Harrington** and **Chris Giovino**; and Board of Selectman Chair **Nancy Hyde**.

Term 2 report cards were distributed on Friday, along with the PTO Fall newsletter. A signed copy of the report card is due back at school by **Wednesday, November 24**. If your child's report card got lost somewhere between school and home, please call us in the office. We can mail or email you a new copy.

Middle is a good time to begin to place greater responsibility on children for having **conversations with teachers about school performance and grades**. Students who learn to ask questions and check in with their teachers now, are more likely to self-advocate and to better understand how their work impacts their performance as they gear up for high school and beyond. Many students will need help figuring out what questions to ask, along with practice asking those questions, before they approach their teachers, however. If your child is uncertain about why he or she received a particular grade or comment, or wants to improve in a class, you can help him or her come up with a list of specific questions (e.g., "My test scores were mostly B's but I got a C for the class. What brought my grade down?" "How can I improve my writing?" or "I do all the homework and come for extra help but I'm sill getting low quiz grades. What else can I do?") and then role play to practice meeting with a specific teacher.

Picture retake day is coming soon! See the detailed information under the "School Announcements" section below.

Finally, please note that there are **no after-school activities or late buses** this coming Tuesday, **November 23**. Buses and activities will resume after the Thanksgiving holidays (on Tuesday, November 30).

Have a great weekend!

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

PTO News

Student Directories
Directories were distributed earlier this week. If you have paid your PTO dues, your child should have brought a directory home in his or her backpack. If you did not receive one, please check those backpacks and then call or email the office. We'll double check our records and send a directory home if there has been an error.

Thurston Magazine Drive
We met our goal and raised over $12,000! If magazines do not arrive, please call Great American at 800.251.1542. If you would still like to order, you may do so online at www.gafundraising.com using the School ID # 1866235 . We receive 40% of the sales all year long. We truly appreciate the support from our families!

Apparel/Merchandise
The fall apparel/merchandise fundraiser was a tremendous success, grossing over $7200! Thank you to all of our Thurston families who participated. All orders will be sent home, unless otherwise specified, on or before Friday, December 3, 2010. There will be another Apparel Fundraiser in the Spring!

Thurston PTO "Woohoo I'm Not Cooking" Fundraising Opportunities!!!!!!!!!
CHATEAU NIGHT: We will have two fundraising dates with The Chateau Restaurant in Norwood this school year. Thursday, December 9, 2010 will be the first Thurston Day at the Chateau Restaurant in Norwood! 20% of all purchases of food and beverages from lunch and dinner, both dine-in and take-out, will benefit our PTO. Thank you to the Chateau for this wonderful fundraising opportunity to help raise money for our school!

JAKE 'N JOES SPORTS GRILLE NIGHT: We will also have two fundraising dates with Jake 'n Joes Sports Grille in Norwood this school year. Thursday, January 27, 2011 will be the first Thurston Night at the Jake 'n Joes Sports Grille in Norwood where 20% of all purchases of food and beverages from dinner, both dine in and take-out, beginning at 5:00 p.m., will benefit our PTO. Thank you to the Jake 'n Joes for this wonderful fundraising opportunity to help raise money for our school!

PTO Membership
PTO membership is over 82% our best participation in recent years! Thank you to all who have contributed. It is not too late to join. Simply send your $30 check made out to Thurston PTO in an envelope marked PTO Dues with your child. Your support directly benefits our children and the teachers who work so hard for them.

Thurston PTO Night at the Boston Celtics
Come and enjoy an exciting evening of basketball with your friends and classmates as Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and the Boston Celtics take on the Philadelphia 76ERS. The Celtics are sold out for the season, but tickets have been made available **exclusively** for the Thurston School. To order the tickets, please complete the form (online in the Forms and Publications section of the Thurston site) and either fax it to 617-854-8068, or mail it to:

Boston Celtics, Attn: Jim Davis
226 Causeway Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02114**.**

Tickets can be left at the ticket window to be picked up the night of the game, or mailed out to the address given.

Please contact Celtics representative Jim Davis @ 617-854-8086 to order tickets. For any general questions, please call Joanne Ouellette @ 781-320-0036. Call early for best available seat locations! Tickets ordered by December 17th will be mailed out in time for the holidays. A big "Thank You" to Joanne for organizing this special event for Thurston families!

School Announcements

Parent Volunteer for Yearbook

Do you use PhotoShop at work or enjoy tinkering with it and have acquired some skill in its use? The Yearbook staff is in need of some PhotoShop help for a project they would like to do. If you can help, please contact Mrs. Santabarbara at 781-326-7500, ext. 2308 or email dsantabarbara@westwood.k12.ma.us Thanks!

Picture Retake Day

Our photographers will return on December 2 (Thursday) for round two of school portraits. If your child missed picture day, or forgot the order form, this is another chance to get a school portrait. If you did not order portraits, you'll need to complete a new order form or place your order online in advance. If you would like retakes, your child should return the old portraits to exchange them for a new set. Follow these directions to order online:

1. go to www.lifetouch.com
2. create an account for your family
3. when asked "Which Lifetouch materials do you have?" select the middle option
4. enter payment information and your picture day ID: "RI050279Y1" (The first two characters are the letters "RI".

Follow the remainder of the directions.

Thurston's Second Scripps Spelling Bee (Improve your vocabulary!)

Thurston students have the chance to participate in our second annual spelling bee! The school spelling champion goes on to compete in regional Scripps Spelling Bee in Massachusetts in March 2011, and possibly the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May of 2011.

> **Practice session(s):** These will take place in the school and dates & times announced soon.
> **Thurston School Spelling Bee takes place on:** Short Wednesday, January 26, 2011 (Short Wednesday, February 9, 2011 will be the snow date).
> **Prizes include:** trophy & one year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica, second and third place recognition and award
> **Spelling words, definitions & pronunciations can be found at:** http://www.myspellit.com (we're not using the section called "words you need to know").

Please sign up for additional information by emailing your name, grade, and phone number to: schandraker@yahoo.com. **Any questions contact:** Samia Chandraker at 781 571 9582 or schandraker@yahoo.com.

Nursing Substitutes Needed!

Westwood Public Schools seeks substitute nurses at all levels to cover school buildings and attend field trips. Activities include first aid, medication administration, monitoring and assessing students for illnesses. Interested candidates should apply on line at *www.westwood.k12.ma.us*. Please call Leslie Davie, Hanlon School Nurse, at 781-326-7500 x. 7522, if you have any questions.

2010-2011 Middle School Girls Hockey
Registration for the Middle School Girls Hockey is underway. If you have not registered for the 2010-2011 please do so using the on-line registration system located on WYH web site www.wyh.org.
If you have any questions please email Lynne or Tom Sweeney @ sweenz5@verizon.net

Riding the Bus
I have a quick reminder for parents of students who take the **bus**: for safety reasons, students are not allowed to ride buses other than their assigned buses. Many of our buses are at or near capacity, and the addition of extra passengers could pose a safety risk. Starting next week, bus drivers and the bus coordinator will be checking bus passes periodically to make sure all students are on the correct bus.

Lunch Menu November 22-23, 2010

Monday 11/22	Tuesday 11/23	Wednesday 11/24	Thursday 11/25	Friday 11/26
Specials				
Cheeseburgers Baked fries Peas	Italian Meatball Subs	No lunch served	Vacation Day	Vacation Day
Grab & Go Specials *Grab & Go items are (1) ea. Day and rotated*				
Chicken Sandwich Hot Dogs Cheeseburgers BBQ Rib Sandwiches	Chicken Sandwich Hot Dogs Cheeseburgers BBQ Rib Sandwiches	No lunch served	Vacation Day	Vacation Day
Available Daily Pizza (Whole Wheat) Deli/Asst. Chicken Caesar Salad/entree Garden Salad/entree Pasta Marinara Bagel, Cream Cheese & Yogurt Daily House Salad (Caesar) Chicken Nuggets (baked) Daily Special(see above) Bacon, egg, and cheese Sandwiches Chilled or fresh fruit Cold Carrots or Celery sticks Choice of milk Choice of Juice **Please Note:** All of our fries are baked				
Desserts We offer a rotating selection Pudding (Chocolate & Vanilla), Fruit Cups, Assorted Jellos				
**** **Please note:**				

Menus are subject to change without notice due to extenuating circumstances.

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"Before placing your order, please inform your server if a person in your party has a food allergy"

Calendar of Events

Important dates and upcoming events:

Mon	**11/22**	TML #2
Tue	**11/23**	7 Red Student Recognition
		No after-school activities or late buses
Wed	**11/24**	Team Handball Tournament
		Grade 8 Student Recognition
		11:10 Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break
Mon	**11/29**	Professional Development Day—No school
Wed	**12/1**	1:10 Early Release for Professional Development
Thu	**12/2**	Picture Retakes
Fri	**12/3**	7:00 PM End-of-season Football Banquet (TMS Caf)
Mon	**12/6**	7:00 PM Chorus Concert (WHS Auditroium)
Thu	**12/9**	9:00 AM PTO Board Meeting
		4:00 PM Thurston School Site Council (TMS Library)
Fri	**12/10**	7:30 PM WOSC Dance
Mon	**12/13**	7:00 PM Band Concert (WHS Auditorium)
Thu	**12/16**	7:30 PM School Committee (WHS Little Theatre)
Fri	**12/17**	Thurston Math League #3
Fri	**12/24**	No School—start of Winter Vacation

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