Thurston Middle School Update

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

January 14, 2010

Dear Thurston Families,

It seems winter has finally struck New England. While snow days and delayed openings have been pretty rare occurrences during my time in Westwood, this past week we experienced both. Our **custodial staff and grounds crew** did a truly fantastic job getting the sidewalks and entrances ready for kids and teachers to return to school. Kudos also to our **bus drivers**, who managed the slippery roads with care on Thursday morning. Finally, I want to commend our **students**, who adjusted to the hectic Thursday morning schedule with ease and got right back into the spirit of learning after a day of frolicking in the snow.

I have an important reminder for **parents of 6th grade students**. **Copies of up-to-date physicals** are de in our health room by **February 1st**. In accordance with state regulations, students without current physicals on file after that date will be excluded from school until the records are updated. If your child does not have a current physical on file, you have already received notifications from our school nurse, Mrs. Sweeney. I will be sending out a final reminder as well this week via ConnectEd. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Sweeney at tsweeney@westwood.k12.ma.us or x2334.

At next week's **school committee meeting**, **Superintendent John Antonucci** will present his **proposed FY '12 budget**, which includes several important requests related to the middle school. The superintendent will also be holding a **budget forum for Westwood parents** on **Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00**. Please mark your calendars, and I hope to see you at one of these two events.

Finally, our **MCAS schedule for 2011** is now available online. Please see the forms and publications section of our website for a complete schedule, and contact us here in the main office with questions.

Have a great weekend!

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

PTO News

Save the Date for Guest Speaker Michael Thompson

Join the **Thurston Middle School PTO** in welcoming Michael Thompson to Westwood on **March 2, 2011 from 7:00 to 8:30**. A consultant, author and psychologist specializing in children and families, Dr. Thompson will meet with parents to discuss his book *The Pressured Child: Helping Your Child Find Success in School and Life.* Please mark your calendars to attend this exciting presentation! All Westwood community members are welcome.

Upcoming Woohoo I'm Not Cooking Fundraiser
January 27, 2011@ Jake 'n Joe's Sports Grille
A flyer will be coming home soon. Please watch for it and bring it with you to attach to your bill. Take out or Dine in *but don't cook January 27th*, because 20% of all purchases from Jake 'n Joes that evening benefit our PTO!

Thurston Night at the Celtics
The Celtics have been playing incredible basketball and Thurston families have the chance to watch them as they gear up for their play-off run. It is not too late to order tickets to order tickets to Thurston Night at the Celtics. The December deadline was only in place to receive the tickets in the mail for holiday gifts. There are good seats still available, but they are selling quickly now that we are all through the holiday rush! So please, use this as a reminder, if you are interested, order now. Join in the fun at the game and be near Thurston friends all at a special discounted rate for our school. Once the tickets reserved for our school sell out, they will be gone. There will be no other discounted Celtics game date offered this season. The flyer is available online for your convenience. GO THURSTON, GO CELTICS!

School Announcements

Parent Volunteers Needed
Auditions for the spring musical, *The Sound of Music*, take place **the week of January 24**. Ms. Cosimini, the director, is seeking parent volunteers to help supervised students while they wait to audition. If you are interested in helping out, please email Ms. Cosimini at gcosimini@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Teen Center Events
Is your middle-schooler looking for something to do on Friday nights? Look no further! "Friday Night Outs" will be taking place at Thurston from 7:30pm - 10pm on the following dates:

January 28th
February 11th
March 18th
May 6th

A DJ, gym activities and snacks will be available! Admission cost is $7. For more information, please email tgabriel@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call 781-251-2575.

Spelling Bee Update
Spelling bee practices will take place from **2:30pm to 3:30pm** on the following date:
Friday, January 21
Any middle school student interested in experiencing the spelling bee process is welcome. We'll have lemonade and cookies to help keep brains going at the end of the day. The Bee itself is coming soon—January 26th!

Drama Skits
6 Red Drama students will perform a series of **short skits** developed in their classes for parents and guests on **January 19 and 20**.

Grade 8 Parent Night
Westwood High School's Eighth Grade Parent Night takes place on **Wednesday, January 26, at 7:00 PM** in the High School Auditorium. Parents of all current 8th graders are invited to come and learn about

the high school and the transition process from 8th to 9th grade. For questions about the event, please contact the WHS guidance office.

NAEP at Thurston

Thurston has once again been selected to participate in **NAEP testing**. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a series of tests given to students in public schools throughout the United States. These are designed to monitor educational progress and to provide a snapshot of what our nation's students know and can do in mathematics reading, science and writing. A **random sample of Thurston 8th graders**, selected by test administrators from NAEP, will be asked to participate. The testing will take place the morning of **January 25** and students will tackle questions in **math, reading and science**. If your child is selected to participate, he/she received a letter with details this past week.

Internet Safety for Parents and 6th Graders

Katie LeClerc Greer returns to Thurston in February to speak with parents and 6th graders about internet safety and cyber-bullying. Mrs. Greer (neé Ms. LeClerc) is an internet safety expert who has worked with law enforcement agencies and many schools. Her presentations focus on the legal and safety issues of online communication. **Parents** are invited to attend on **February 8** at **7:00 in the Thurston Auditorium**. Katie will also be meeting with **6th grade students** on **February 9 at 8:15**.

Drop-Offs in the Office

Except in the case of emergencies (e.g., medication), please refrain from bringing items in for your students in the middle of the day. Calling students down for pick-ups disrupts classes—something we try very hard to avoid. In addition, we want to help students learn to accept greater responsibility for keeping track of their own materials and assignments.

Parking Lot Reminder

This time of year, traffic in our back parking lot tends to increase. Please make sure that when you drop off or pick up your child, you drive around the entire loop and pick up or drop off in front of the doors between the gym and cafeteria annex. Dropping kids off on the far side of the lot creates two safety hazards: students crossing the lot of foot and cars driving against traffic flow. Remember, the rules apply any time there is a major event, such as a WOSC dance, as well as before and after school. With your help, we can keep the back lot safe for everyone.

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.

Lunch Menu January 18-21, 2011

Monday 1/17	**Tuesday 1/18**	**Wednesday 1/19**	**Thursday 1/20**	**Friday 1/21**
Specials				
No School—MLK Day	Tony's Personal Pizza Baked Fries	Roast Chicken Rice Carrots	Pasta w/Meatballs Dinner roll(Wheat) Peas	Papa Gino's
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	Chicken Sandwich Hot Dogs Cheeseburgers BBQ Rib Sandwiches	Chicken Sandwich Hot Dogs Cheeseburgers BBQ Rib Sandwiches	Chicken Sandwich Hot Dogs Cheeseburgers BBQ Rib Sandwiches

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

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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	**1/17**	MLK Day—No School
Tue	**1/18**	7:00 K-12 Strings Concert (snow date)
Wed	**1/19**	Block 2 Student Council (reps only)
		6:30 6 Red Drama Skits
Thu	**1/20**	6:30 6 Red Drama Skits
		7:30 School Committee—WHS Little Theatre
Fri	**1/21**	7:30 WOSC Dance
Mon	**1/24**	*Sound of Music* Auditions (all week)
Tue	**1/25**	NAEP testing (selected grade 8 students only)
Wed	**1/26**	5:00 Spelling Bee (Thurston)
		7:00 WHS Grade 8 Parents Night
Fri	**1/28**	Final day of term 2

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