



## Thurston Middle School Update

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

April 30, 2012

Dear Thurston Families,

With the official start of Little League this weekend, I know that many of you out there, like myself, will be spending some serious time hunkered down alongside baseball or softball diamonds during the next few months. My husband, who coaches soccer, gets annoyed at me for saying so, but I must admit I really prefer watching baseball—even third grade baseball—to watching soccer. I like to think of the game as a time-honored way for kids to develop longer attention spans and build character. Baseball is also an individual sport within a team sport: each player's role is distinct and involves specific skills, but when players trust and respect one another and communicate effectively, the results can be spectacular. The whole thing reminds me a bit of school.

**Nutrakids—our new school lunch account system**—launched last week, and I want to commend the **students, teachers on lunch duty, cafeteria staff and Mr. Bernazzani** for their work to make the transition a smooth one. While the kids used their lunch cards with the old system, the new system relies upon a 6-digit ID code that students enter on a numeric keypad. (A student photo pops up to ensure that codes are not misused.) Students have done a terrific job adjusting—each day the line has moved along a little more quickly—and the adults have all pitched in to make the process as painless as possible.

**Thurston Night at Bamboo is Tuesday, May 1.** Why settle for flowers on May Day when you can enjoy Yuen-Yang Spicy Beef or Volcano Maki? 15% of all food and beverages purchased between 5:00 and 9:00 PM will go to support Thurston's PTO, which in turn funds terrific opportunities for kid. See the message from our board members below for more details.

**Grade 8 semi-formal ticket sales** go on sale Tuesday during 8<sup>th</sup> grade lunch! The semi-formal is a fun-filled event and students will not want to miss the chance to join their classmates for one final dance at Thurston!

Earlier this afternoon, I sent out an email message to parents (via our automated notification system) and students (using our Westwood Public Schools Gmail accounts) regarding **the assistant principal** search. If you did not receive the email, please contact me so I can make sure we have your correct information on file.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison F. Borchers".

Allison F. Borchers, Principal  
(781) 326-7500 x2398  
[aborchers@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:aborchers@westwood.k12.ma.us)

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**PTO Update**

**ANNOUNCING EIGHTH GRADE SEMI-FORMAL TICKET SALE DATES:**

**(\$25 CHECKS PAYABLE TO THURSTON PTO)**

**Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> - Lunch block, Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lunch block, Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - Lunch and after school, Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> - Lunch and after school**

Plans are well underway for the annual 8th Grade Semi-Formal June 8th.

This event will feature a live DJ, photographer, entertainment, fabulous decorations and a surprise theme.

This is an exciting evening and ALL 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDENTS SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND!!

Tickets are \$25 (checks payable to Thurston PTO)

**BAMBOO RESTAURANT/THURSTON NIGHT:**

**THIS TUESDAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! MAY 1, 2012 - 5:00-9:00 pm**

15% of your total sales from dine-in, take-out (bar included) will go back to our school.

**Please take a night off from cooking and support our special night!**

**THURSTON FUN RUN:**

Race day registration begins at 11:00 am or send back the flyer sent home just before April vacation and pre-register.

The course is a 2 mile flat loop.

A family fee of \$45 will be reduced to \$35, single runner fee of \$15 will be reduced to \$10, **IF you pre-register by May16th!**

Please plan on participating in this very 'fun' run!

**SPRING APPAREL FUNDRAISER, EIGHTH GRADE T-SHIRTS and TRACK AND FIELD T-SHIRTS:**

All merchandise was sent home this past week.

There were only a few back ordered items which should arrive next week and will be sent home with your children immediately.

***SAVE THESE DATES...***

**BAMBOO RESTAURANT/THURSTON NIGHT:**

**Tuesday, MAY 1, 2012 - 5:00-9:00 pm**

**NEXT PTO MEETING:**

**Tuesday, MAY 8, 2012 - 7:30 pm**

**THURSTON FUN RUN:**

**Sunday, MAY 20, 2012 - 12:00 noon!**

**EIGHTH GRADE SEMI-FORMAL:**

**Friday, JUNE 8, 2012 - 7:00-10:00 PM**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GIVE THURSTON, AND OUR CHILDREN, 24 NEW MICROSCOPES AND CHROMEBOOKS FOR TWO FULL ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS THIS SCHOOL YEAR!**

**AN ADDITIONAL 24 MICROSCOPES WILL BE GIVEN IN SEPTEMBER, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR .**

**None of this would be possible without our outstanding Thurston families' support!**

**Joanne Ouellette, Jennifer Zonderman, Kelly Harrington, Bill Kearns**

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**School Announcements**

**Looking to Get Rid of an Old Laptop?**

**Laptops For Kidz** is a program that makes computers accessible to children who may not have access to one. Local businesses and individuals can donate computers to help students in need. If you have a Windows laptop that is "functional" and is equipped with a Pentium 4 or better processor that you are willing to donate, please contact Whitney Goodwin at [781.326.7500](tel:781.326.7500) x3312. In turn, we will permanently remove all data on the hard drive, protecting everyone's security, and reconfigure the machine with up-to-date software. This computer will then be placed in the hand of a Westwood student.

### **Teen Center Dance Volunteer Opportunity**

Westwood Youth and Family Services is looking for a parent (or two) to volunteer to coordinate the Teen Center dances for middle school students. Minimal time is needed. It is a great opportunity to meet the kids!! If you are interested please contact Denise Nagle at [denisenagle5@gmail.com](mailto:denisenagle5@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Thurston Fun Run**

The **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Thurston Fun Run** is coming! The run will take place rain or shine on **Sunday, May 20 at noon**. Registration forms were distributed last week and are also available in the office and online.

### **Dress Code Reminder**

With the advent of warm weather a couple of weeks ago, and hopefully more good weather ahead, the time is right to remind everyone of expectations about appropriate dress at school. Our **school dress code** (which appears below) is pretty straightforward, but we do occasionally get the question "How short is too short?" from students as well as parents. A good "rule of thumb" that we try to use: shorts or skirts that do not reach a child's fingertips when her/his arms are relaxed and straight at her/his sides and probably too short for school.

*Thurston's dress code is governed by health, safety, decency, and the protection of school property. Because of these factors, all students will be expected to wear appropriate clothing. Clothing that is disruptive to the educational process, poses safety concerns, and/or interferes with an individual's right to learn is not permitted. No student will be allowed to wear any style of clothing, footwear, or accessory that may be unsafe or hazardous. We ask students not to wear the following:*

- hats or other non-religious head-coverings
- sunglasses
- shirts that display obscene language, violence; or references to drugs, alcohol or tobacco
- clothing that exposes midribs or underwear (including bra straps); low-cut tops
- spaghetti-strap, halter or strapless tops
- short shorts or skirts; boxer-like shorts
- chains (e.g., wallet or belt chains)

*In addition, certain types of footwear may be prohibited in some classes for safety reasons. It is important for students to understand that the administration will be the final judge with regard to this policy. Students who do not follow the policy may be removed from class until more appropriate clothing is provided by parents, guardians, or caretakers. **This policy applies to all school functions such as field trips, dances, etc.** (TMS Student Hand Book 2011-2012, p. 5-6)*

If you have any questions about our dress code, please feel free to contact me directly.

### **Canned Goods Collection**

Thurston 8<sup>th</sup> graders **Bridget Doherty** and **Mary Cote** are **collecting canned goods** for **three great causes**. First, the cans will be used to **anchor the luminaries** that line the track in the **Relay for Life of Greater Norwood 2012**. After the relay, the cans will be donated to restock the **Westwood Food Pantry**. Finally, the "**boxtop**" labels will be removed from the cans and given to the **Sheehan School** boxtop collection. Collection boxes will be located near building entrances. I'll be providing updates throughout March and April as the girls work toward their **goal of collecting 2,000 cans**.

### **School Lunch Menus**

**School lunch menus** are now available on the Westwood Public School's district web site. Visit School Lunch Menus (<http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/index.cfm?pid=22356>) to see daily specials along with items available every day. We'll have printouts of the lunch menus available in the office as well.

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## Calendar of Events

### Important dates and upcoming events:

<b>Mon</b>	<b>4/30</b>	2:30	WOSC Meeting
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/1</b>	5:00 – 9:00	Thurston night at Bamboo Restaurant (Dedham)
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/2</b>	8:45 1:10	PTO Board Meeting Early Dismissal
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5/4</b>	4:45 AM	WOSC trip departs
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5/5</b>	~8:00 PM	WOSC trip returns
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/8</b>	X-Block 7:30 PM	Student Council PTO General Membership Meeting
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/9</b>	4:00	School Site Council
<b>Mon</b>	<b>5/14</b>	2:30	WOSC Meeting
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5/15</b>	4:00	Grade 8 Red Sox Trip I
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5/16</b>	1:10	Early Dismissal
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5/17</b>	7:30 PM	School Committee Meeting
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5/18</b>	7:30 PM	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance

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