Thurston Middle School Update

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

January 6, 2012

Dear Thurston Families,

Happy New Year!

Student Council elections took place this past week, with each homeroom electing a representative and an alternate. Last year, Thurston's student council was responsible for spearheading the effort to install picnic tables in the courtyard, raising money for the Travis Roy Foundation and proposing a change to X-Block policy that proved successful in 8th grade. This year's representatives will meet once every few weeks to come up with ideas to improve student life at Thurston. Congratulations to all students who ran for student council this year. I look forward to working with the homeroom representatives in the months ahead.

Our school psychologist, Ms. Toomajian, has received a number of questions from parents about good books for middle school kids related to the topic of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Ms. Toomajian passed along this list to share:

Author	Title(s)
Jack Gantos	The Joey Pigza series, including *I am not Joey Pigza* *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* and *Joey Pigza Loses Control*
Caroline Janover	*Zipper, the Kid with ADHD*
Beth Walker	*The Girls Guide to AD/HD*
Susan Korman	*Bad Deals* (note: the plot of this novel centers on a character who is selling his ADHD medication)

If you have other titles to recommend, please send them my way.

James and the Giant Peach, our grade 6 play, is coming soon! Performances will take place Friday January 20 at 7pm, Saturday January 21 at 3pm, and Saturday January 21 at 7pm at the Westwood High School Little Theatre. Space in the Little Theatre is limited, so tickets will be sold prior to the show in addition to at the door.

Finally, on Wednesday, January 25th at 7:00 PM, parents of 8th graders are invited to a parent information night at Westwood High School.

All the best,

Allison F. Borchers
Principal
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PTO Update

Happy New Year and thank you to all of the families who have supported our PTO in so many ways this year! We are extremely grateful and have tremendous ways outlined to help our school, and ultimately our children, with all funds raised through PTO dues and profits from fundraisers.

Last year, we were able to purchase and construct in our courtyard, picnic tables for the students to enjoy at lunch during the nice weather. This year, we are looking forward to funding new microscopes and Chromebooks.

We are very excited to put the money to such good use and realize none of this would be possible without our outstanding Thurston families support! For that, and so much more, we thank you!

A few updates:

Westwood Merchandise
Once again, thank you to everyone who supported this very successful fundraiser. While the majority of all apparel has gone home, there were only a few back ordered items. Those items will be here the week of January 16th.

Thurston Night at The Chateau
Watch for a flyer coming home soon announcing our Thurston Night at The Chateau, coming **Tuesday, January 24th**. Dine in, take out, but please do not cook that night! When you present our flyer, 20% of your purchase, will go back to our PTO.

Thurston Night at the Celtics
Watch for a very special opportunity to purchase tickets to an upcoming Celtics game. Tickets will be limited and this offer is only good while supply lasts for this one particular game, so please watch for the announcement of the game date coming soon.

Happy New Year Everyone!

Joanne Ouellette, Jennifer Zonderman, Kelly Harrington and Bill Kearns

School Announcements

Thurston Spelling Bee
Another exciting event coming up soon is **Thurston's Third Annual Scripps Spelling Bee**. The Bee will take place on **Wednesday, February 15** at Thurston. Interested spellers should contact Ms. Chi Lam at: legalassistant1@verizon.net to sign up and receive a .pdf list of study words. Between now and the Bee, we are holding after-school practice sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sessions are held in room 122 from 2:30 to 3:30 on the following days: 1/10, 1/12, 1/17, 1/19, 1/24, 1/26, 2/7 and 2/9.

Students Applying to Independent School
Our guidance counselors and teachers have started receiving inquiries from families interested in exploring **independent schools**. If your child will be applying to private school, please make sure to follow Thurston **private school application guidelines** (available in the Forms and Publications section of our web site).

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.

Calendar of Events

Important dates and upcoming events:

Wed	**1/11**	1:10 PM 4:00 PM	Early Dismissal School Site Council Meeting (Library)
Thu	**1/12**	2:30 PM	Geography Bee
Mon	**1/16**		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No School
Wed	**1/18**	1:10	Early Dismissal
Thu	**1/19**	7:30 PM	Westwood School Committee Meeting
Fri	**1/20**	7:00 PM	*James and the Giant Peach* (WHS Little Theatre)
Sat	**1/21**	3:00 PM 7:00 PM	*James and the Giant Peach* (WHS Little Theatre)
Wed	**1/25**	7:00 PM	WHS grade 8 Parent Information Night
Thu	**1/26**		Term 2 ends
Fri	**1/27**		First day of term 3 Thurston Math League #4

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