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FROM THE PTG CO-PRESIDENTS

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. The Turkey Trot, last Wednesday, was a great event to kick off the long weekend. Thanks to Trish Siefer and Leanne Winkler, who coordinated the fun run. Thanks, too, to Tom Hourihan and Karla Keefe, who have been organizing the pep rally and leading the fun run for the past 26 years. And thanks to Jacqui McKenna for leading the Kindergarten run. We would also like to thank all of the parents who manned stations along the route and sent in oranges for the kids after the run. Speaking of kids, the 5th graders did a great job leading the pep rally. Kids, parents, teachers and staff all joined in on the chants and songs. It was a fun time!

Now, on to other Thoreau happenings. The Open Table food drive came to a close last week. Thanks to everyone who donated food and thanks to Amy Hoey for organizing the food collection.

As you are gearing up for the holidays, consider linking to your favorite on-line retailers through the Thoreau PTG website, www.thoreauptg.org. Click on the Thoreau Store to access links to a variety of retailers who donate a portion of the sales back to the Thoreau PTG.

Lastly, we would like to remind you that there is a Superintendent Tea with Diana Rigby this **Friday, December 3**, 3:30 – 5:00 in the Thoreau library. We hope you can attend.

Karen Brown & Melanie Bettencourt, PTG Co-presidents

ALL-SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Children's Programming welcomes Bash the Trash Environmental Arts on Tuesday, December 7. This show raises environmental awareness through instrument building, while making connections to the science of sound.

PARENT SURVEY

The parent survey on school safety and climate is still posted on the district website, <http://bit.ly/enZOH4>. Your careful consideration and responses to these questions will help Concord Public Schools as we continue to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. Please note that you will have to fill out one survey per student. Please complete the survey by **December 15**.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Hopefully, as the flu season approaches, most of you have had the flu vaccine and are getting adequate sleep, fresh air and exercise and healthy, nutritious foods. This time of year can be a challenge for not overextending ourselves. I have sent the pamphlet from the Mass Dept of Public Health, Flu: What you Can Do, to the Kindergarten classes. (I also have this in Spanish). I've also passed out Flu: What You Can Do (Caring for People at Home) to all the classes for

reference. I do have some extra pamphlets in the Health Office if anyone is interested.

Nicki Morina Richards, RN, MS

Thoreau School Nurse

ART ROOM REQUEST: CALENDARS AND OTHER ITEMS

As the end of this year approaches, we are getting ready for the new year — please keep the art room in mind! I am always in need of animal or landscape calendars for projects. Also — a more unusual request — I am trying to locate a taxidermy owl, pheasant, or other game bird for observational projects. If anyone happens to have one they would like to donate or know somewhere I could find one please contact me at khiltz@colonial.net. Thanks so much for all of the support.

Kate Hiltz, Art Teacher

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 11 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Attended by Ling Liu

1. School Committee discussed proposing a budget increase of 3% for next year. Although the Finance Committee requested \$100,976 reduction, the School Committee is firm on the increase it is mainly due to what they feel are reasonable labor contracts and increasing enrollment. The Finance Committee was scheduled to vote on November 18, 2010.

2. No Trespassing signs will be posted at CMS and the three elementary schools.

3. Thoreau teachers, Susan Erickson and Sue Howard, presented at the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators Annual Conference and were very well-received. The School Committee remarked that this demonstrates that Concord Public Schools are leaders in utilizing technology to enhance student learning experience.

For more details, see the notes posted on the School Committee's website or contact Ling Liu or Cheryl Kirkpatrick. www.concordpublicschools.net/school-committee.php

CHESS CLUB

Thoreau School Chess Club continues in the cafeteria **Tuesday mornings** from 7:45am to 8:50am. Children of all abilities are welcome, and it's never too late to join. Chess is a great way for kids to connect with each other and for parents to spend quality time with their kids. Parents can stay and play, too. Chess Tip of the Week: Castle early (the move where your king and castle change sides). We hope to see your child and her/his friends at Chess Club. If you are new, please send your name and phone number, and your child's name, ability, and teacher (so we know where he/she should go) to Kris Carlson (carlsonkw@gmail.com).

PTG FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We are off to a terrific start on this year's Annual Appeal. Thank you so much to the following families for their generous donations: Brown, DeGreeff, Del Sobral, Duggan, Gettel Beatty, Glazer, Glitzenstein, Heymann, Johnston, Koontz, Maguire Newman, Price, Rothermel, Shipe, Shulman, Sinclair, Swain, Wei, Yamartino.

There's still time to WIN one of the lovely 6 L.L.Bean fleece vests that are being raffled off. Don't forget to send your donation in by **December 3**. You can contribute you're your credit card online by clicking the "Donate" tab at www.thoreauptg.com or by check.

Natalie Gekle and Maria Scichilone, Fundraising Co-chairs

GIFT BOOK PROGRAM

With the holidays just around the corner, now is the perfect time to give the gift of a book for our Thoreau school library. You can make a gift in honor of a teacher or your child, if you like.

Drop by the library to check out the great selection of gift books. For suggestions or more information contact Laurie Garrison at chrisandlaurie@comcast.net.

LUNCH MENU Week of December 6 – December 10

Monday: Chicken Tenders

Tuesday: Early Release, No Lunch

Wednesday: Hard Tacos with Beef

Thursday: Beefaroni

Friday: French Bread Pizza

AROUND TOWN

It's Time to Spring into Action!

Registration for Spring 2011 lacrosse is OPEN through January 10th; after the 10th, interested players will be placed on a waitlist. Early registration ends January 3. Registrations received after January 3 will be charged a \$20 late fee. The CCYL Program offers lacrosse to girls in grades 3-8, and boys in grades 1-8. No experience is necessary. New players are always welcome! Volunteers are needed and welcomed, no lacrosse experience necessary. Please visit www.ccyouthlacrosse.com to register.

Festive Events Sponsored by Emerson Hospital Auxiliary

Annual Tree of Lights – The Emerson Hospital Auxiliary kicks off the holiday season with tree lighting on December 6 at 4:30pm in front of the White House at the Hospital. Lights for loved ones can be purchased for \$10 - \$25; contact Denise Haartz at 978-371-7211. The tree lighting will be followed by holiday refreshments in the North Assembly Room. Those who attend get the added bonus of a 20% discount off clothing and accessories at the hospital gift shop.

Annual Cookie Sale – On Monday, December 13, 9:30 - noon, the wonderful aroma of fresh baking will lead you to the North Assembly rooms and the Auxiliary's annual "Cookies by the Pound" sale. There will be a variety of holiday confections as well as a large selection of homemade quilts, holiday pillows, and other gift items for sale.

Concord Artist Lindsey Brown's landscape paintings will be on display in the hospital December 17 - February 14th.

Friday Night Movie Flicks

Friday night flicks return to the Concord Library. Movies will be shown at the Main Library at 7PM. They are free and open to the public! Here's the 2011 schedule:

Jan. 21, The Song of Sparrows (Iran, 2008)

Jan. 28, Floating Weeds (Japan, 1959)

Feb. 11, In the Mood for Love (China, 2000)

Feb. 25, Broken Wings (Israel, 2002)

Mar. 11, 7 Solos (USA, 2010) plus, a special appearance by featured musician, Wayne

Hankin

Mar. 25, Buddy (Norway, 2003)

Look for more information closer to the film dates on the Concord Library's Facebook page (<http://on.fb.me/ef9NQ3>) and on Twitter (@ConcordLibrary). For information call 978-318-3300 or www.concordlibrary.org. Sponsored by the Concord Library.

The next issue of Thoreau Announcements will be edited by Anne Mullaney. To submit an item, email announcements@thoreauptg.org. You will receive an e-mail acknowledgment that your submission has been received. Submissions must be school or community related and not commercial in nature. Submissions should be brief, with minimal formatting – no bullet points or underlining, please! Deadline: 9 pm, Monday, December 6 , 2010.

This message was sent to the Thoreau mailing list.

REPLIES GO TO THE LIST ADMINISTRATOR, NOT THE MESSAGE AUTHOR!

For support contact thoreau-owner@lists.ptg-concord.org.

Thoreau School: <http://thoreau.colonial.net/>

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