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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful time over the December break. Hopefully, many of you and your children were able to enjoy all the snow we received last week!

There are a few important updates that I would like to share with all of you. First, on **Thursday, January 13**, there will be a meeting with families who participate in the METCO program at the New Mission High School in Boston from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Several staff members, PTG and SAC members, and I will be attending this event. We look forward to meeting with families to discuss Thoreau's current academic focus areas including the latest use of technology as well as upcoming school events, and to also answer any questions families may have.

Next, there will be a practice lock down procedure done for all students and staff the third week of January. Classroom teachers will continue to discuss this important safety procedure with students so that they are adequately prepared when we perform the lock down. Officer Scott will be joining us on the day of the lock down procedure. For those students who are younger, it is always helpful for parents to also remind students that we do this to be as safe and prepared as possible in school. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the practice lock down procedure, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Also, I met with Officer Scott and the Thoreau Incident Management Team (IMT) earlier this week to discuss current safety issues pertaining to parking at Thoreau. After a thoughtful and lengthy discussion, we all agreed it was important to make some changes to the parking at our school. We will no longer allow staff or families to park on the side entrance (along the curb with bushes) that is located directly behind the parking spots next to the cafeteria. This has become very unsafe as students and staff try to cross over. However, we will designate the parking spots in this side entrance as visitor parking spots for families. Staff will no longer park in these spots. Also, only Thoreau staff members will be permitted to park in the back lot, and in the spaces in front of the school. When all these spots are taken, staff members will park on the surrounding streets. Signs will be clearly posted so that everyone is aware of these important parking changes. Thoreau staff and the Concord Police Department will carefully monitor the parking changes to ensure that these new safety procedures are followed. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation in honoring these new safety changes so that we can better ensure the safety of all our students, families and staff members. As soon as the parking signs are in place, I will remind all families and staff members of these important changes.

Last, Court Booth, Director of Concord-Carlisle Schools Adult & Community Education, has asked me to share the following information with families regarding likely summer school dates so that families can use this for planning purposes. Please access the following website: www.ace.colonial.net. If you have any additional questions you can also contact Concord-Carlisle Schools Adult & Community Education at 978-318-1432.

Sincerely,

Kelly Clough

FROM THE PTG CO-PRESIDENTS

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful winter break and is ready for the second half of our school year. We look forward to seeing you at our first PTG meeting of the year – next **Wednesday, January 12th at 7pm** in the Thoreau Library. In the meantime, don't forget to sign up for the Spelling Bee and keep on the lookout for the Geography Quest. Also, if you want to get ahead on marking your new calendars, the approved 2011-2012 school district calendar is now available on the Concord Public Schools' website at <http://www.concordpublicschools.net/calendars.php>. Have a great weekend! *Karen & Melanie*

2011 ANNUAL THOREAU SCHOOL SPELLING BEE

Limited registration window for 2011 Annual Thoreau School Spelling Bee!

The deadline for registration for this year's Thoreau Spelling Bee is **Friday, January 14th**. All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are invited to participate in our annual Bee scheduled **on Saturday, February 12th**. Please assure your children that this is a very fun and low-pressure event; the more the merrier! 3rd and 4th graders participate in teams of three; 5th graders compete individually. Bee start times are: 3rd grade 3:30, 4th grade 5:00, 5th grade 6:30. Form your teams ASAP and please return one registration form per team by January 14th. Link to registration form is: <http://www.thoreauptg.org/SpellingBee2011.pdf>.

Suzy Symons, Spelling Bee Chair

BSO FAMILY CONCERT

Yes! We are planning a trip to Symphony Hall for the wonderful BSO Family Concert this year! This season, the family concert is **Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 10 am**. Adults are \$20 (plus \$2 service fee and postage) and kids are FREE. This year's theme is Community Pride: A Musical Look at Cooperation, Communication, and Conviction with music of Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and more. Pre-concert activities including the Instrument Playground, instrument demonstrations, and much more are available for all ticket holders from 9-10am.

If you would like to attend, please send a check payable to Jennifer Montbach for \$22 per adult and specify the total number of seats you need (i.e. 2 adults, 1 kid, \$44 enclosed). Mail to 45 Pine St. Concord 01742. I must *receive* your check by **January 10** (deadline extended due to the holidays). Because the concert is early this year (in years' past it was in April), I must be strict about the deadline; you may still be able attend if you are late but won't be able to sit with the group. Email me at jennifer@montbach.net with any questions.

THOREAU SCHOOL AUCTION

Save the date for the Thoreau School Auction! It is a fun-filled fundraiser and is a combination adult social and auction. **Friday March 11th at 6:30 pm**. More details to follow...

GIFT BOOK PROGRAM

Thank you so much to those families who purchased gift books for the library during the holidays:

Brisinger by Christopher Paolini Bought by Logan Schulman in honor of Nancy Dillon and Karen Pettyjohn

Panda Kindergarten by Joanne Ryder Bought by the Wei Family in honor of Maureen Silven

I Am Going! by Mo Willems Bought by the Wei Family in honor of Kelly Adams

Buster's Trip to Cape Cod by Oona Gaardner-Juntti
Bought by Julie Rohwein and Jonathan Aibel in honor of Lucien Aibel

To purchase a book for the library or for more information on the Gift Book Program please contact Laurie Garrison at chrisandlaurie@comcast.net.

MCAS SCHEDULE – SPRING 2011

March 22	Gr. 4 Long Composition
March 23	Gr. 3 and Gr. 5 ELA
March 24	Gr. 4 ELA
March 25	Gr. 3 and Gr. 5 ELA
March 28	Gr. 4 ELA
May 9	Gr. 3 and Gr. 5 Math
May 11	Gr. 3 and Gr. 5 Math
May 12	Gr. 4 Math
May 13	Gr. 4 Math
May 18	Gr. 5 Science
May 19	Gr. 5 Science

Please be mindful of these dates, and make every effort to have your child(ren) in school on time. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

LUNCH MENU Week of January 10-January 14

Unavailable at this time

AROUND TOWN

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION

On **Thursday, January 13** the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council presents the 18th Annual Martin Luther King Celebration from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Sanborn Middle School. The evening will feature the Holy Tabernacle Church Women's Ministry Choir and the Boston Children's Choir, in addition to the Willard 5th Grade Chorus, the Concord-Carlisle High School A Capella Chorus and the First Parish Gospel Choir. Join community members for an evening of hope and celebration. The event is free and open to the public.

BEFORE SCHOOL SPANISH

The before-school Spanish classes at Thoreau invite new students to join the second semester, a 12-week program starting next week. Classes meet for 12 sessions, 7:45-8:45 AM, \$237, materials included. Online enrollment at www.ace.colonial.net or call 978-318-1432. Community Education classes are a student-funded community service of the Concord-Carlisle Schools.

Spanish K-2 Wednesday, January 12-April 6 #3156

Spanish 3-5 Wednesday, January 12-April 6 #3157

CONCORD CONSERVATORY HOSTS BEGINNER OPEN HOUSE

Whether you are hoping your child is the next Yo Yo Ma or you just want to unlock/introduce your child to a musical journey, CCM is now enrolling a new session for beginner Suzuki cello lessons. Parents and children are invited to a **Cello Open House on Saturday, January 22, 1 - 2 PM**. This is a great

opportunity to meet the CCM Suzuki cello faculty, learn about the beginner Suzuki program and have your child try out an instrument. The faculty will also meet with each family and discuss whether your child is ready to start private instrument instruction. Information will also be available on how to purchase or rent an appropriate sized instrument. Children as young as age 4 may participate.

For more information about this event, call 978-369-0010, or email info@ConcordConservatory.org. The Concord Conservatory of Music is located in the West Concord Union Church at 1317 Main Street, West Concord. www.ConcordConservatory.org

CONCORD CARLISLE YOUTH LACROSSE

CCYL Registration Dates Extended 2 Weeks - but register now!

A recent change in league registration requirements allows us to extend the CCYL registration dates 2 weeks with early deadline now being **January 14**. The final deadline will be **January 21** (although registrations received between January 15-21 must pay an additional \$20 per player).

Register now at CCYL Online Registration page.

Bob Champey - CCYL Boys Program Director

Jim Rice - CCYL Girls Program Director

CONCORD CARLISLE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Registration for 2011 Spring Baseball and Softball is open until February 28th, 2011

Make sure we have a place for your son or daughter - signup now!!

Registration Starts: December 17, 2010

Registration Ends: February 28, 2011

If space is available, registrations for certain leagues may still take place after the end of registration. A \$25 late fee will apply.

To register go to www.ccyb.org

To increase the amount of baseball kids get to play, starting with the upcoming season CCYB will be having a pre-season, just like in the big-leagues. This pre-season will be two weeks prior to the start of the regular season. Practices, as well as pre-season games with umpires will take place.

Preseason will start the week of **April 11**, with the regular season for both baseball and softball starting the week of **April 25th**. The season will run six weeks, with two weeks of playoffs for the older leagues.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The 2011 Summer School will be in session for 4 weeks, 19 days, **Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 22**. Classes do not meet on Monday, July 4. Classes will meet Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to Noon at the Alcott School for elementary students and at Sanborn for middle school students.

This schedule assumes that the traditional school year will end on or before Friday, June 24.

This program, in its 14th year, has been successful in helping students master skills that proved challenging during

the traditional school year, and gain confidence for the next grade.

Classes will be funded by the district (Superintendent's Recommended Budget) and will be for students entering grades 1-8. The instructional program will emphasize reading, writing and math.

Students are eligible and recommended for Summer School if they have experienced a significant challenge meeting grade level benchmarks in reading, writing or math. Language Arts Specialists and Math Specialists, in consultation with classroom teachers, will make Summer School recommendations.

Parents will receive enrollment information by mail as soon as an eligible child is referred to the program, no earlier than March 2011.

Parents who anticipate that their child may be eligible, based upon their communications with their classroom teacher and other educators at school, are urged to reserve June 27-July 22. Regular attendance is necessary in Summer School classes.

Special Education students whose IEP specifically calls for a summer educational program are automatically enrolled in the Summer Special Education Program also housed at Alcott and Sanborn. The same schedule and timetable as the Concord Public Schools summer program applies. Special education students with IEPs not calling for summer educational services may be recommended for the summer school program if eligibility requirements are met.

The Concord Recreation Department will sponsor an afternoon program at Alcott and Town facilities, from noon-4:00 PM - call 369-6460 for information in the spring.

Community Education will offer fee-based morning and afternoon art and science workshops for K-5 children at the Alcott School as a service to students who wish a full-day program and their siblings. Sessions meet 9:00-Noon, and/or 1:00-4:00 PM, with supervised lunch period Noon-1:00 PM. Session weeks: June 27-July 1, July 5*-8, July 11-15, July 18-22. Summer School students who enroll in the afternoon program may sign up for the lunch period at no charge.

Transportation for Boston students will be provided.

Summer School services are funded by the Concord Public Schools.

For more information about elementary Summer School please contact Court Booth, (978) 341-2490 ext. 7150 or cbooth@colonial.net.

For more information about Special Education Summer School please contact Jessica Murphy, (978) 341-2490 ext. 8142 or jmurphy@colonial.net.

For more information about summer Concord Recreation Dept. programs call Laura Lunig at 369-6460 or llunig@concordma.gov.

The next issue of Thoreau Announcements will be edited by Laurie Garrison. 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, January 10, 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/>

Thoreau School PTG: <http://www.thoreauptg.org/>