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**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear Families,

All of the students and staff did a fantastic job on Monday participating in the morning evacuation drill. Officer Scott said that he saw a vast improvement in terms of students walking quietly, safely, and orderly to and from West Concord Union Church. I especially want to recognize our kindergarten students who did this for the very first time. They were incredible! They showed the school listening look, walked so very calmly, and waited patiently at the church, as we called on them to exit the building. Please also remember that we will practice doing a lock down procedure in mid December.

(Due to the nature of this safety exercise, we will not give out the time and date; however, teachers will be practicing this lock down procedure with students several times before we run the practice drill with Officer Scott.) Again thank you parents for your cooperation and assistance in helping your child understand the importance of practicing these kinds of safety drills.

An observation from a classroom last week that I'd like to share with all of you was witnessing grade 4 students doing Chinese calligraphy. It was wonderful to see students experiment with brush strokes, making Chinese characters and much more. I am very eager to return to their classrooms in the near future to see the poetry that they will create to go with some of their creative brush strokes.

I also visited several first grade classrooms recently where there were interesting math learning centers taking place. Some students were working on addition and subtraction facts, while others were making patterns, and others were working on geometric shapes. All the learning activities included a hands-on activity component.

It is very interesting to watch students at various grade levels interact with the Activboards. For example, in the lower grades, students know how to manipulate and move shapes with the wand and they are captivated by many of these and other engaging technological learning devices. Ask your child how their teacher uses technology in the classroom; it is very impressive and creative! There are so many creative and interactive ways that teachers are imbedding technology into daily learning for our students.

Last, the School Advisory Council (SAC) will begin in December. We are looking for 3 parent volunteers. This is a 2-year commitment. Please contact Donna Macone, 978-318-1300, if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Well, I have to say I am really looking forward to the upcoming and exciting Turkey Trot! I have been told by many staff and students it is quite fun and a wonderful tradition of Thoreau School. I am sure many of you are also looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday celebration. Below are some reminders of the dates and times for the upcoming events.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,  
Kelly Clough

**Tue., Nov. 23**  
**Wed., Nov. 24**

**Full day for Gr. 1-5**  
**11:20 AM-12:00 PM Turkey Trot**

**12:25 PM      Early Dismissal for all grades**

**Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 25 & 26    Thanksgiving Recess**

***FROM THE PTG CO-PRESIDENTS***

Countdown to the Turkey Trot! Please send in your children's permission slips if you haven't already done so. For safety reasons, it is important that every child is accounted for, trotting or not. On another Thanksgiving note, we are collecting non-perishable food items for Open Table now through next Wednesday, Nov. 24th. Donations may be left in the collection bin outside the Thoreau library. Every month that we don't have a general PTG meeting on the calendar, we will hold a Principal's Coffee so that everyone has a chance to hear Kelly speak and ask her questions. Please mark your calendars for the first Coffee of the year to be held on Wednesday, **Dec. 1st** from 9:30-10am in the Thoreau cafeteria. Future coffees will be held before school on **Feb. 16th** and on the evening of **May 4th**. Finally, there will also be a Superintendent's Tea on **Friday, Dec. 3rd** from 3:30-5pm in the Thoreau Library. This is a great opportunity to meet our Superintendent Diana Rigby and ask questions. Have a great weekend! *Karen & Melanie*

***PARENT SURVEY***

The parent survey on school safety and climate is posted on the districts website. Please complete the survey by **December 15**.

***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. We have had many new children join this year. Chess is a great way for kids to connect with each other and for parents to have quality time with their kids. Parents can stay and play, too. Chess Tip of the Week: Be patient! Open up as many of your back row 'power pieces' to control the center of the board before attacking. We hope to see your child and her/his friends at Chess Club. If you are new please send your name and phone, and your child's name, ability, and teacher (so we know where he/she should go) to Kris Carlson ([carlsonkw@gmail.com](mailto:carlsonkw@gmail.com)).

***OPEN TABLE FOOD DRIVE***

At this time of Thanksgiving, it is again time for our annual Thanksgiving food drive for our local food pantry. Open Table feeds over 200 guests each week and gives each family a bag of groceries to bring home. Open Table is able to do this because of the generosity of our community. We would like to help provide food for these families! At this time of year they need just about everything but these are the "most wanted" items: spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, coffee/tea/hot chocolate mix, cereal, tuna fish/canned stews/soups, jelly, children's snacks for school (juice boxes, pretzels, fruit cups, etc.), condiments (ketchup, mustard, cooking oil) and all other non-perishable food items. Please: **NO CANDY!** Our food drive will run through **November 24th**. There will be a box in front of the library for your children to bring their items in. Thank you very much for your generosity and contributions!

*Amy Hoey, Open Table Chairman*

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS: TURKEY TROT IS WEDNESDAY, NOV 24th!***

This school-wide, non-competitive, fun run around the Thoreau School neighborhood is now going on its 21st year! Following a pep rally, a mysterious, almost adult-like turkey leads the run! Different routes are designated for younger and older children. All are welcome to come and watch and cheer their kids on! Children should come to school in comfortable clothes and wear shoes they can "trot" in. If you have not already done so please return your child's permission slip. We need to receive a permission slip for every

child. This saves a lot of last minute calling to verify if your child will or will not be running. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering please email: Trish Siefer at [thesiefers@gmail.com](mailto:thesiefers@gmail.com) or Leanne Winkler at [leanne.winkler@gmail.com](mailto:leanne.winkler@gmail.com).

### ***PTG FUNDRAISING UPDATE***

The annual appeal request was recently e-mailed to all Thoreau families. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and critical to the functioning of the PTG events. Please participate in this year's campaign. Don't miss out on a chance to WIN one of the 6 fleece vests that are being raffled off by sending in your donation by **December 3rd**. Remember you can contribute with a credit card online by clicking the "Donate" tab at [www.thoreauptg.com](http://www.thoreauptg.com)

A big thank you to all the Book fair volunteers especially Debbie Duggan, Carolann Hanselman, and Fiona Stevenson for a successful event! Both Debbie and Carolann have been running the book fair for the last four years, many thanks for your dedication and hard work. Thank you also to Kate Hiltz for coordinating the artwork and Lisa Drew for helping stuff envelopes for the recent Original Works fundraiser.

Finally, please bookmark [www.thoreaustore.com](http://www.thoreaustore.com) if you plan on doing online shopping this holiday season. If you access the retailers on our site through our "store" they donate a portion of your purchases to Thoreau! Stores include Amazon.com, iTunes, and Toys R Us. Thanks for your support!

*Natalie Gekle and Maria Scichilone, fundraising co-chairs*

### ***GIFT BOOK PROGRAM***

With the holidays just around the corner, it's 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 of you like. Drop by the library to checkout the great selection of gifts books or for suggestions or more information contact Laurie Garrison at [chrisandlaurie@comcast.net](mailto:chrisandlaurie@comcast.net).

### ***LUNCH MENU Week of November 22 – November 26***

Monday	Chicken Tetrazzini
Tuesday	Hot Dog On a Bun
Wednesday	Half Day No Lunch
Thursday	No School
Friday	No School

### ***AROUND TOWN***

### ***FALL AND WINTER BASEBALL CLINICS***

In an effort to support off-season skills development for players of all ages, CCYBS wants help in getting out the word about the following skills clinic organized CCHS's Varsity Baseball Coach John Kelly. John is the Concord Carlisle H.S. Varsity Coach, Worcester Tornado Pitching Coach, and has spent 17 years in professional baseball.

### **Monday Baseball Fundamental Clinics (Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13)**

4:30 to 5:30 Ages 7-9 (Maximum of 6)

5:30 to 6:30 Ages 10-12 (Maximum of 6)

**Babe Ruth Hitting Clinics (Dec 1, 8, 15, 22)**

Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:00 Grades 7 -9 (Maximum of 6)

**Saturday Morning Pitching Clinics (Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18)**

10:00 – 11:00 Ages 7-9 (Maximum of 4)

11:00 – 12:00 Ages 10 -12 (Maximum of 4)

**Sunday Morning Hitting Clinics (Nov 21, 28, Dec, 5, 12,)**

10:00 to 11:00 ages 7-9 (Maximum of 6)

11:00 to 12:00 ages 10-12 (Maximum of 6)

**Early Release Day Baseball (Dec 7, 21, Jan 4, 11, 18, Feb 1, 15, Mar 1 ,8, 15, Apr 5, 12)**

Every early release day 1:30 to 3:00 (Maximum of 6)

Fall and Winter Baseball Programs are available to everyone. All Clinics are 4 weeks in length and will start over with new enrollment for another 4 weeks. \$100 per player per session. Maximum number per clinic is 6.

Early Release Day Baseball Clinics are available on all early release days from 1:30 to 3:00. \$25 per player per early release day. Maximum number of participants is 10.

All clinics will be held at the Fieldhouse in Sudbury.

For more information or to sign up please contact John Kelly at [JK@johnkellybaseball.com](mailto:JK@johnkellybaseball.com) or 978-660-5454.

*The next issue of Thoreau Announcements will be edited by Anne Mullaney. To submit an item, email [announcements@thoreauptg.org](mailto: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, November 29 , 2010.*

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

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