

Published by the Thoreau School Parent Teacher Group

November 4, 2010

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Greetings! Despite the false fire alarm last Thursday evening, as you know, The Show Must Go on, and it did! What a terrific performance by all the fifth grade students! It is easy to see why this Thoreau tradition continues! Please join me in congratulating and thanking all of the students and the fifth grade teachers, and in particular Mr. Lemaire, and Ms. Swain, the music teacher for all of their hard work, time, and dedication over these past two months to make this such a wonderful theatrical production.

Last Tuesday evening, I also had a special opportunity to listen to many wonderful poems written and shared by third, fourth, and fifth grade students who participated in the before school poetry program this fall lead by Mr. Bennett. What a treat that was! There were many different types of poems. Each student was asked to share two of their poems. There was quite a range of subject matters and tremendous creativity by all the students. If you haven't yet heard about Eggy, you might want to ask a fifth grader, it appears to be the rage!!!! Don't forget that all third, fourth, and fifth grade students who are interested in participating in the second poetry session, can do so this winter! Be on the lookout for future information from Mr. Bennett.

I also spent time in several kindergarten classrooms this past week. I observed students actively engaged in hands-on literacy centers, participating in the Lexia Reading Program, matching letter sounds with pictures, singing alphabet songs, adding and subtracting single digit numbers, and more. I also witnessed some students using the Activotes technological devices to express their knowledge of letter sounds.

I was also visiting in a first grade classroom where students were listening to a story about a "small moment." Students were then asked to write about their own small moment. As I walked around the classroom, it was exciting to hear students successfully share their "small moments" with a partner. It was even more powerful to witness each student begin writing about their moment.

Last, just a few reminders - **November 10 is a Professional Day** for staff, there is no school for students on this day. There is also **no school** for students and staff on **Thursday, November 11** in recognition of Veteran's Day. On **November 13**, the **PTG will be holding its monthly meeting**. At this meeting we will provide an overview of the Spring 2010 MCAS data. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM in the school cafeteria. We hope you are able to join us!

Sincerely,

Kelly Clough

METCO MESSENGER

REMINDER!!! Our November late bus Family Friends Tuesday is **November 16**, so please mark your calendars!

Your Thoreau Family Friends Team: Gretchen Nelson, Laurine Verrilli, Meg Alexander

PICTURE DAY

Picture re-take day is next MON, **the 8th of November!** Please make sure that you have emailed Robin Grace (robin.s.grace@mssb) if you plan to have your child sit for a retake on the morning of the 8th. Your child should bring his/her original pictures that AM-- but he/she can KEEP the class photo. The class photo comes with the package, anyway. Please let your child know that a volunteer will come to his/her classroom to bring him/her to the retake destination between 8:45-10 AM. Robin can also be reached by cell at 617-480-6103.

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 or Leanne Winkler at leanne.winkler@gmail.com.

LUNCH MENU Week of November 8 – November 12

Monday	Hamburger/Cheeseburger/Veggie burger
Tuesday	Shepherd's Pie
Wednesday	No School
Thursday	No School
Friday	Sorrento's Pizza

AROUND TOWN

WARNER'S POND COMMITTEE MEETING

Warner's Pond Committee Meeting, Thursday, **November 18th** at 9:00 a.m., located at the Harvey Wheeler Building

Please come and join us at the next Warner's Pond meeting and find out how you can help protect, preserve and enhance Warner's Pond. We are fortunate to have this Pond in our neighborhood. Let's work together to keep the pond a wonderful asset of West Concord, where we can continue to canoe, kayak, fish, ice skate and enjoy nature.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE AT THE LIBRARY DECEMBER 3-4-5, 2010

This year, the library's Holiday Book Sale will be bigger and better than ever. The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library are expanding the popular sale. There will be more children's books and a special

children's browsing area. In addition, like-new hardcover fiction, cook books, travel, garden, holiday novelties, poetry, mystery, sci-fi, DVDs, and CDs will be for sale. These books are the cream of the donated crop! Mint condition, suitable for giving.

The sale is **Friday and Saturday, December 3-4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** and **Sunday, December 5, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street, www.concordlibraryfriends.org

DAISY SCOUTS

Calling all first grade girls interested in joining the Daisies- the youngest branch of the Girl Scout organization. Our troop is recruiting! We plan to meet monthly on Thursday afternoons right after school. Girl Scouts focus on promoting self-confidence, leadership skills, and community service in young girls- while creating friends and having fun! For more information, or to register, please email Lisa at:

cgirlscouts@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MEETINGHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

The Children's Meetinghouse (TCM) of Concord, Massachusetts is an Infant/Toddler program and Preschool that has been providing enriching experiences to young children for more than 25years. This premier preschool is having an open house for prospective families on Saturday, November 6th from 9:00 to 11:00. We hope you'll visit!

CELEBRATE THE WILLARD SCHOOL'S NEW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM!

A new solar photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of the Willard School began generating electricity for the school in September. The system has already generated enough electricity to operate a TV for over 35,000 hours. It has saved the Town almost \$1,000 and reduced the greenhouse gases emitted in order to provide electricity to the school by more than 4 tons.

Join us for an Open House at the Willard School on **November 16th from 2 –4 pm** to celebrate our new solar PV system!

Touch a solar panel.

Watch a video about how the PV system was installed on the Willard's roof.

Learn to use a website that allows you to see how much electricity our new solar PV system generates during the Open House. And how to check on what the system is doing any time of the day – from your home or office!

Have cider and donuts.

Jan Aceti

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SCHOOL OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

Fall Concert Concord Free Public Library **Sunday, November 7, 2010 5:30 PM** Free

The Concord-Carlisle Schools and its Instrumental Music School celebrates its 31st year with its Fall Concert on Sunday, November 7, at 5:30 PM. The Concert is free and open to the public, and will be held in the acoustically superior main floor of the Concord Public Library.

This annual event will showcase ten faculty performers and three student musicians, including Carlisle's Kevin Barrow playing clarinet, Concord's Madison Douglas on the flute, and Concord's Fairchild Tang

playing violin. Faculty performers include Jon Amon, Sylvia Berry, Nune Hakobyan, Sargis Karapetyan, Robert Pettipaw, Jeremy Ronkin, Fred Sienkiewicz, and Andrei Sobchenko.

The concert will include works by Beethoven (Seven Bagatelles Op. 33) and Gabrieli (Canzona per Sonare No. 2), chamber music by Anton Arensky (Trio no. 1 in D Minor for piano, violin, and saxophone), and solo works by Arthur Honegger and Charles Koechlin. The program also includes solo piano, piano for four hands, and a brass quartet. A reception follows the concert.

The IMSCC offers private instruction in voice and instruments and aims to complement the local school-day music programs by providing private instruction after school in Carlisle and Concord.

For details about the concert and information on music lessons visit www.ace.colonial.net/imsc or call (978) 341-2490 x7152.

FENN SPORTS SALE

Don't miss the 42nd Annual Sports Sale at The Fenn School in Concord on **Saturday, November 6**. We'll have a large selection of gently-used sports equipment such as skates, cleats, helmets, bicycles, and much, much more. We will also have gently-used boys' blazers, dress pants and shoes for activities off the field. Specialists from Hardy's Ski Emporium will be on-hand to offer a wide selection of brand new skis and ski equipment at great pre-season prices. Come early for best selection! Doors open at 9:00 a.m. and close at noon. If you have any equipment you'd like to donate to the sale, volunteers will be on hand from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, November 5**, in the school gym. The Fenn School is located at 516 Monument St. in Concord.

KIDS' WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Thank you so much to the families who have donated clothes to the kindergarten classes in Rutland, VT and Worcester, MA. We've already made one delivery to some very grateful kids, just in time for some very cold mornings. The teachers have been amazed and heartened by your generosity. We are still accepting the following gently-used or new items: kids' hats, mittens/gloves, coats (especially girls) size 4-7, and boots (size 10-13). You may drop-off your clothing donations at: 155 Cambridge Turnpike anytime (we have a bin on the side porch) or we can pick-up items at your house on 11/7 or 11/14 (Please email us to let us know which date works for you).

Thank you so very much! Christine and Kevin Paulsen: paulsens@comcast.net

DEALING WITH DEPRESSION

Would you know if your child is depressed or anxious? Have you or anyone you know ever contemplated suicide? Come view the life-changing documentary: "Breaking Free from Depression" at CCHS (Little Theater) on Tuesday, November 16th from 7:00-9:00 pm, sponsored by the CCHS Parents Association. Sue Hanly, RN and her daughter, Caroline, will present their personal journey.

The more parents know about mental health issues, the greater the likelihood they can recognize warning signs and get their children the help they may need. This event is appropriate for adults and high school students. For more information, contact Janet Friedman at JRhodesFriedman@comcast.net or check out www.ProjectInterface.org.

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, November 8, 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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