

Thoreau Announcements

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

I hope all of you are enjoying the fall weather despite the rain. The trees have begun to turn beautiful shades of yellow, red, and orange. I enjoy watching the younger students collecting bunches of leaves as they begin to fall from the trees onto our playgrounds.

Recently I participated in several student learning opportunities that I would like to share with you. Last week, I went with the third grade classes on a field trip to Drumlin Farm. The students and staff were engaged in many terrific hands-on learning activities centered on Native Americans and how they lived long ago. The students experienced sitting in a Wetu while holding and talking about Native American artifacts. There was an original artifact shown to the students and staff that was actually found right behind Thoreau School. They also played traditional Native American games and walked the trails of Drumlin Farm, and listened to the birds and other wild life, while observing their natural surroundings and learning about the use of various berries and other plants. The students also made cornbread and watched it cook in an open fire. There was a beautiful hawk perched 20 feet directly above us, guarding its prey. It was quite unique to see this hawk in the wild, so close up, and for such an extended period of time.

Next, I was invited to read the book *Rainbow Fish to The Rescue* to a second grade classroom this week. The students and I discussed the importance of sharing, inclusion, and how to show courage and stand up for things you believe in. We also talked about the information that comes at the beginning of the story, episodes/events that change within the story, and the ending of the story. Students were also able to articulate the “Big Idea” of the story.

In grade four, I witnessed students participating in a new literacy lesson from the *Words Their Way* program. The students were making various groups of homophones while timing themselves as they physically moved words into like categories while also saying the word aloud. Parents, please ask your fourth grader about this lesson. I also got to try out one of the rubber ball chairs! Hmm, maybe I should get one of these for my office!

During our most recent faculty meeting we reviewed MCAS data. We looked at current data as well as data from the past four years in grades 3, 4, and 5, in both ELA and math, and science for grade 5. Shortly, grade-level teams will also be looking in more depth at this data and other types of formative data to inform student learning and look at various ways to target instruction, based on what the data tells us. There will be an opportunity for families to also review this data with us at an upcoming PTG meeting.

The staff and I also attended a lovely breakfast hosted last Friday by fifth grade parents. It was so nice to meet with colleagues before school and enjoy so many delicious treats. Great way to start the

day! Many of us also used the new coffee maker, recently donated to the Thoreau staff by the PTG. Thank you very much!

Lastly, just a reminder that I've put a link to a parent survey on my Principal's Page (<http://thoreau.colonial.net/Teachers/PrincipalPage/>). We value and welcome your feedback. The survey will close at the end of October.

There is no school next Monday, October 11, in recognition of Columbus Day. Enjoy the long weekend!

Sincerely,
Kelly Clough

FROM THE PTG CO-PRESIDENTS

Happy October! Break out the fleece jackets...the fall weather is finally upon us! Many thanks to Carol Wipper for organizing the October Staff Breakfast, and also to all the 5th grade families who generously donated the breakfast goodies and fixings. The Book Fair is just around the corner, so please start gathering together all of your gently used children's books to donate. We look forward to seeing you all at the always fun and fabulous Book Fair Family Night on Friday, October 15th.

Enjoy the long weekend!
Karen & Melanie
PTG Co-Presidents

IT'S TIME FOR THE FALL CAPITAL COMMITTEE REQUESTS!

Requests may be submitted by teachers, members of the Thoreau administration, and/or parents. The item(s) requested must provide a long-term benefit for the whole school or across an entire grade level, and are not a recurring cost after the initial grant. Please include all details pertaining to the benefits and the costs in your proposals, and submit them, in writing, to Karen Brown: dmbkjb@comcast.net, Melanie Bettencourt: thebettencourts@comcast.net, and Leanne Winkler: leanne.winkler@gmail.com by **Friday, October 22nd, 2010**. You may also put them in an envelope labeled "Capital Request" and place them in the PTG mailbox. Thank you very much!

Karen & Melanie

MASSACHUSETTS HARVEST WEEK FOR STUDENTS

Last week, in celebration of Massachusetts Harvest for Students Week, Kids Eat Smart (formerly the Nutrition Coalition) teamed up with Verrill Farm and the Food Services staff at Concord Public Schools to highlight fresh, locally-grown food on school menus. On Monday, students "taste-tested" apple crisp prepared by Verrill Farm! Other farm-to school dishes that were sampled last week were baked squash, cucumber dill salad, carrots and celery with dip -- plus lots of local apples! If you're interested in learning more about Kids Eat Smart or volunteering, please contact info.kidseatsmart@gmail.com.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

What a great response of parent volunteers for lice screening this year. We were able to screen all but five classes the first day, and finished up the next day. The few positive cases that were identified are well on their way to being treated and cleared of nits. It is common at time of year to see infestations coming from various summer activities. It's up to each family to regularly check their own children's hair – do it on a weekly basis. Do not make the mistake of assuming you are fine until the next screening in January.

While you are examining your child, look for moles on the scalp and become familiar with their characteristics: size, shape, color, texture, location. In this way, if there are any changes, you will be able to recognize them and bring it to the attention of the doctor. A dermatologist regularly checks from head to toe, but I do not believe the primary care providers do this as a routine unless you bring it to their attention.

All of us need to give a big thank you to the following mothers who took the time to come in to help out: Meg Alexander, Aimee Bell, Karen Brown, Joanne Gervais, Maia Heymann, Andrea Hubbard-Nelson, Lissa McKinney, Carla Macy, Mallory Price, Diane Randall, Holly Rothermel, Maria Scichilone, Carolyn Wilkins, Meg Wright, and a very big thank you to Peggy Wargelin who has agreed to organize the volunteers with her trusty computer. It was great to see some new faces and to greet those friendly returning ones with all that positive energy!

Thanks again on behalf of all the Thoreau community.

Nicki Morina Richards, RN, MS

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING

Please mark your calendars for the New and Used Book Fair which begins with Family Night, **Friday, October 15, 5:30-8:00**. Family Night will be followed by the classroom visits on **Wednesday, October 20 through Friday, October 22**. The Fair raises funds for the school, provides books for the classrooms and the library, and is also lots of fun. We will be sending out a schedule of when your child(ren)'s classroom visits are, and will be looking for lots of volunteers to help. There will be pizza on Family Night and an activity in the library. Please contact Debbie Duggan at Deborah_duggan@hotmail.com or Carol Ann Hanselman at thehanselmans@msn.com with any questions about the New Book Fair.

Used book collection will take place beginning **Tuesday, October 12, and runs through Friday, October 15**, so start collecting your child's good quality books to donate to the fair. Please no adult books/videos/CDs, board books, or VHS tapes. Place your donations in a paper bag and remember to write your child's teacher's name and the total number of books donated on the bag and bring them to the school. Please contact Fiona Stephenson at tea44@comcast.net with questions about the used book fair.

UNICEF TRICK-OR-TREAT BOXES ARRIVING IN OCTOBER

Again this year, the PTG is supporting the “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF” program. UNICEF works in over 150 countries, providing children with health care, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency relief, and more. Everything that UNICEF does is for one purpose: to help children survive. Orange collection boxes will be distributed to all students via their classrooms before Halloween. If you have any questions, please visit the UNICEF website at www.unicefusa.org or contact Carol Wipper or Jean Easterday. Thank you for your on-going support.

LUNCH MENU Week of October 11 – October 15

Monday No School – Columbus Day
Tuesday Early Release
Wednesday Popcorn Chicken Bowl
Thursday Hamburger/Cheeseburger/Veggie Burger
Friday Sorrento’s Pizza

AROUND TOWN

CCHS Basketball Clinics for Girls in Grades 4-8

Get Ready for the Upcoming Hoop Season! Concord Carlisle High School Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Joe Bodenrader and the Varsity Team will conduct a series of basketball clinics at CCHS on Sundays this fall for all girls in grades 4 through 8. The clinics will stress individual skills and fundamentals, teamwork and team games. Clinics run Sunday, October 17 through Sunday, November 22: from 2 to 4 pm at CCHS Gym. Only \$45 for all 6 sessions or \$10 per session. Checks to: Friends of CCHS Girls Basketball. All proceeds to benefit CCHS Girls Basketball Program. Register to Bob Clarke via email at: clarker@comcast.net

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 should be brief, with minimal formatting – no bullet points or underlining, please! Deadline: 9 pm, Monday, October 11, 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/>