

Thoreau Announcements

Published by the Thoreau School Parent Teacher Group

September 30, 2010

Please do not reply to this e-mail. For information on contacting the Thoreau Announcements or updating the e-mail address at which you receive the TA, please see the contact information at the end of this e-mail.

FROM THE PTG CO-PRESIDENTS

It was a busy week at Thoreau last week, and we have many people to thank. We would like to thank Sue Howard and Debbie Duggan for updating the Thoreau faculty and staff pictures in the front hall of the school. It was great having the pictures updated in time for Back to School night. We hope you enjoyed Back to School night! Thanks to the PTG board for their donations to the refreshment table. Many thanks to Nancy Zuffante; there wouldn't have been a directory without her dedication, hard work and support. Also, thanks to the volunteers who staffed the PTG table: Ellen Comeau, Erin Duggan, Nancy Schulman, Maria Scichilone, Rebecca Tubbs and Leanne Winkler. If you haven't paid your PTG dues yet, but still want a directory, we have some available. You can send in your dues and directory order form to school in an envelope addressed to the Thoreau PTG.

School pictures were last Friday, and what a beautiful day for pictures. Thank you to Robin Grace and her volunteers for coordinating school pictures.

Don't forget to RSVP for the Thoreau Parent Meet & Greet at the Walden Grill, **Wednesday, October 6th 8-10 PM**. We hope to see you there!

Have a great weekend! *Karen & Melanie, PTG Co-Presidents*

IT IS 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 place them in the PTG mailbox in an envelope labeled "Capital Request". Thank you very much!

Karen & Melanie

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING

Please mark your calendars for the New and Used Book Fair which begins with Family Night, **Friday, October 15 from 5:30-8:00** followed by the classroom visits on **Wednesday, October 20-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 are 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-Friday, October 15**, so start collecting your child's good quality books to donate to the fair. Please no adult books/videos/cd's, board books, or VHS tapes. Place your donations in a paper bag and remember to write your child's teachers name and 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.

METCO MESSENGER

The Concord/Carlisle METCO Family Friends Welcome Back picnic is this **Sunday, October 3, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** (rain or shine), Alcott School, 93 Laurel Street, Concord. This is a great opportunity to connect with METCO Family Friends and meet new families. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!** Bring your family, a blanket, a bike helmet for pony rides, and your favorite outdoor games. Pizza and drinks will be provided, Concord families bring salads, Boston families bring desserts. A bus for Boston families will depart from Franklin Park @ 1:15 p.m. and depart from Alcott for the return trip @ 4:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

The Concord Orchestra (51 Walden Street, Concord) has a very special offer for METCO Family Friends...look for a flyer to come home for details about how to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for family fun. Questions? Contact Laurine Verrilli: laurine.verrilli@gmail.com, 978-369-3245. Check out the Concord Orchestra's 2010/2011 program: <http://www.concordorchestra.com/2010-2011%20season.html>

This fall we'll be working on matching up our new Boston families with Concord families. We're particularly looking for Concord families of kindergarten girls who would like to be buddies with Boston kindergarten families. If you'd like to find out more about being a METCO Family Friend, please email Gretchen Nelson: glnelson@me.com Our October late bus Family Friends Tuesday is October 19! Looking for a fun Fall activity to do with your buddy? Consider apple picking! The Alcott PTG and Family Friends Group is organizing an outing (you provide your own transportation)...look for details closer to the date.

Please remember that for playdates each family (Concord and Boston) should send a signed, dated note to the school office at the beginning of school on the Tuesday of the late bus. The notes should include the plans for the afternoon and the names and telephone numbers of both families. Boston students can ride your child's bus with a note from their parents granting permission. If you're not coming for ice cream, please have students at the Alcott School playground by 4:20 p.m. for the 4:30 bus.

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

THOREAULY GREEN

Are you new to Thoreau? A returning parent? Have an interest in helping fellow parents green-up the campus and/or help provide our children with a 'green' education? Thoreauly Green (and Thoreauly Green Kids) is a four-year old, parent-led group that works with Thoreau staff and faculty to make Thoreau School an educated, committed green community! We've got lots of projects and ideas (and welcome more!) to engage the whole Thoreau community around all things green. We'd love to hear your ideas and take whatever time (little or lots) you have to offer. For those who are time-strapped, we have many single, one-time projects that might be best for your schedule. To learn more, drop an email to carolyn.wilkins@gmail.com and see if joining our first meeting works for you.

THOREAU PARENT MEET AND GREET

Please join us at the Walden Grille (24 Walden St., Concord) on **Wednesday, October 6th** from 8pm to 10pm for a Thoreau Parent Meet & Greet, hosted by your friendly, neighborhood PTG Board. Appetizers and desserts will be served, and there will be a cash bar. Please RSVP by **Monday, October 4th** to Karen Brown at dmbkjb@comcast.net or Melanie Bettencourt at thebettencourts@comcast.net.

SCHOOL DIRECTORIES STILL AVAILABLE

Most of you received your school Directory last week at Back to School Night. For those of you that still want one, we have plenty left. You can send in \$20 or a check made out to Thoreau PTG in an envelope marked PTG DUES and we will send a Directory to you via your child's backpack. Additional directories are \$5 each.

DIRECTORIES THANK YOU

I want to personally thank two people for their help with the Directory this year. Many thanks to Maria Schofield for all her efforts to help us get the correct data into the database in time for Back To School Night. In addition many of you may not know that we had a Directory crisis this summer and your PTG Co-President, Karen Brown, stepped in and did a huge amount of work validating the data and soliciting correct and missing data. She did this in addition to all her work as Co-President with a positive attitude and enthusiasm. I am indebted to her and know that the PTG is in good hands with her at the helm.

Nancy Zuffante

HELLO ONCE AND FUTURE LEGO CLUBBERS!

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Could have been a little warmer but we will take what we can get. :) Lego Club is a parent run club that brings Lego-lovers together to build and display Lego creations. So, as in past years, meetings will begin for the Lego Clubs in October. As in past years, we will divide the groups by numbers and grades. Last year there were 3 clubs. Each club is limited to 20 children given space constraints. We need 2 parent volunteers each month in order for the club to meet. Thanks so much to all the parents who volunteered last year!!! We figuratively and quite literally couldn't have had the meetings without you all! Each Lego Club meets once a month on **Thursdays from 3:15 to 4 pm** in the Art Room. Please email Sara Neville at johsar53@yahoo.com and Rose Waxler at rosewaxler@gmail.com by **Monday October 4th** if your child is interested in joining Lego Club. Please provide the following information. (Name of child; Grade/Teacher; Parent/Guardian's name; Cellphone number in case of emergency during club meeting time.) We will do our very best, of course, to accommodate everyone but there are space constraints. For those who emailed last year, please email again since we need to get an accurate count and as interest may have changed since June. If you are interested in leading one of the clubs, please let us know. It is a once per month commitment and a great way to spend time with your child and his/her friends!

Thanks so much again to everyone and hope everyone has a wonderful year!

Sincerely, Sara Neville for Rose Waxler, Melanie Bettencourt and Guozhen Dong

UNICEF TRICK OR TREAT BOXES ARRIVING IN OCTOBER

Once again, the PTG is supporting the "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" program this year. Orange collection boxes will be distributed to all students via their classrooms before Halloween.

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.

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.

PICTURE DAY

Picture Day was a huge success. Your children will bring the pictures home in their backpacks within the next 3-4 weeks. There will be a retake day if you are not pleased with the picture of your child and/or if your child was absent on Picture Day. The retake day will be announced soon. Please call Robin directly with any questions at: 617-480-6103 or email her at robin.s.grace@mssb.com.

Robin Silver Grace would like to thank the following volunteers for taking the time out of their busy schedules to help out during Picture Day: Julia Delsobra, Jen McGrath, Jinlin Zhang, Jenn Newbold, Joyce Degreef, Eileen Robichaud, Diane Taubner, Julie O'Brien and Lisa Derosa.

LUNCH MENU Week of October 4 – October 8

Monday	Homemade Chili with Nacho Chips
Tuesday	Early Release

Wednesday Spaghetti with Meatballs
Thursday Rotisserie Chicken
Friday Sorrento's Pizza

AROUND TOWN

THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Concord Public Library wants your feedback! How do you and your family use the library? What are your interests? Please fill out the short survey at <http://www.concordlibrary.org/> to help us with our planning process for future programs and improvements. The survey will end by early October, so do respond soon. It will take only a few minutes and will give invaluable information for the future of our wonderful Concord Free Library system. We appreciate your responses!

The Concord Library Committee

Sponsored by the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Parents Association

Please come to a special presentation by Tony Wagner on **Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00 pm** at the Concord Carlisle High School Library. In America today, there is a new Achievement Gap: a gap between the new skills that *all* students need in the 21st century versus what is tested and taught even in our best schools. There is also a Learning Gap between how the Net Generation is learning and collaborating out of school versus what they do all day in classrooms.

Mr. Wagner will help parents to understand these gaps and then explore the most effective strategies for preparing all students for careers, college, and citizenship in the new global knowledge society. He has served as Co-Director of the Change Leadership Group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education since its inception in 2000, and consults widely to schools and foundations around the country and internationally. His many publications include his latest book, "*The Global Achievement Gap: Why Even Our Best Schools Don't Teach the New Survival Skills Our Children Need—And What We Can do About It.*"

Sponsored by the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Parents Association

Registration for Girl Scouts Is Still Open

We would like to start Kindergarten and 1st Grade Daisy troops at Thoreau, but we need one or two more girls to join for each grade. If you are interested in registering your daughter for Daisies or for any of the other Girl Scout levels, or if you just have questions about what Girl Scouts are about, please contact Lisa Hansel at ccgirlscouts@gmail.com.

Thoreau Before-School Language Classes start next week.

The program meets once a week for 24 sessions, 7:45-8:45 AM. The \$432 fee (it works out to \$18 per class) covers instruction and materials. Parents may pay the entire fee now, or in two installments - \$300 upon registration and \$150 by December 1. The classes are offered by the Community Education Department and International Educational Systems (IES). Adult & Community Education programs are an optional, fee-based community service of the Concord-Carlisle Schools.

French, Grades K-2, #2158, Thursday, October 7-April 28

French, Grades 3-5, #2159, Thursday, October 7-April 28

Spanish, Grades K-2, #2160, Wednesday, October 6-April 13

Spanish, Grades 3-5, #2161, Wednesday, October 6-April 13

Chinese, Grades 1-5, #2157, Tuesday, October 5-April 5

Intermediate Chinese, #2156, Tuesday, October 5-May 17

(20 sessions, 12:45-2:15 PM \$360)

Information and enrollment at www.ace.colonial.net, (978) 318-1432.

Best regards, Court Booth
Concord-Carlisle Schools ~ Adult & Community Education

Concord's 375th Historic Treasure Hunt & Ongoing Celebration

A Warm Welcome to One and All!

The K-8 Treasure Hunt, with parents/grandparents in tow, begins **Saturday, October 2 at 3 pm** in front of the Emerson Umbrella, with an autumn fest, featuring family-music by John Fitzimmons, and good cheer.

The treasure hunt concludes back “under” the Umbrella with a celebration **at 5 pm on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 11th**. No rush (grand prize to one and all), rather an opportunity to deepen our appreciation for Concord by discovering, ever and anew, clues to the history of this celebrated community of which we are apart. Imagine

One and all are invited to jump in and join the hunt at any time along the way. Following old Ben (Franklin's) spirited introduction, (see Sept. 23 Concord Journal “Commentary”, p. 12), the first clue has, note, moved to the foot of Thoreau's “Invisible Mountain” in Monument Square, on the very spot where, legend has it, the Treaty with the Original Peoples of Musketaquid occurred, establishing the “plantation of Concord.”

Having traveled with the spirit of our forbears north-south-east-west throughout our town, the last clue leads us back to our homesteads, to discover under our roofs -- ‘midt kith and kin — our own treasures. Those treasures our K-8ers are invited to bring to the Umbrella on Columbus Day and receive the Grand Prize, before passing on the torch to their older siblings, parents and grandparents.

Together, we'll carry on the flame with further offerings, festivities that both commemorate the 375th anniversary of the founding of Concord and turn our gazes to the future.

A sneak preview, along with, on September 29, details on the festivities and the clues themselves, is/will be available at: www.concordium.us/vu.htm and www.ConcordMA.com/blog, For further information, contact Stuart Weeks at info@concordium.us or 781-266-8587.

The next issue of Thoreau Announcements will be edited by Anne Mulaney. 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 (eg. no bullet points, or underlining, please!) Deadline: 9 pm, Monday, October 4, 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/>