



Panther Post

Thoreau Park Elementary School



Mr. Bickley, Principal

Mr. Keating, Dean of Students

Sept., 2019

At Thoreau Park, we believe it is our mission to increase student achievement and social-emotional health through student-centered instruction, positive family-school partnerships, and providing a safe learning climate.

Principal Update

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year Thoreau Park families. I am excited to begin my 3rd year as Principal of Thoreau Park. We had a smooth beginning of the year as we welcomed our 1st - 4th grade students back on August 21 and our Kindergarten students on August 28. Please help me welcome the following staff members new to Thoreau Park this year: **Jim Sentz, General Music; Katie LaRicca, Phys. Ed.; Tami Taylor, Media Asst.; Meagan Arthur, Special Education Asst.; Jan Szabo, Noon Monitor; Pam Mayne, Noon Monitor; and Sue Amato, Title 1 (Guest Teacher for Mrs. Alaron while she is on maternity leave).** As a school and entire school district, the teachers and staff members will continue to focus on the following three things throughout the school year: **Effective instruction in the classroom, authentic literacy across all grade-levels and subjects, and making sure to take care of the WHOLE child and each child's needs.** As a reminder, doors open at 8:45 each morning for students to enter the building. Students can enter through 1 of 2 doors in the morning - the Main Doors at the front of the building OR through Door #10 at the back of the building by the car loop and blacktop. We will have 4th grade Safety Patrol members on hand to assist students to get where they need to go, either to the Gym to wait for their teacher, or to the Cafeteria for breakfast. Breakfast is served daily. If your child gets to school after 9:15, they can take a to-go breakfast bag to eat in their classroom. If a parent or guardian needs to enter the building, he/she will need to enter through the Main Door, sign in at the front desk, and wear a visitor's pass on their shirt to verify they have been given permission to enter the building. This is for the safety of our staff and students. I thank you in advance for following this very important policy. Please make sure to update your address and phone number with the Main Office if any changes need to be made throughout the year. This is essential when the school needs to contact parents in the case of emergencies or student illness. I wish you and your children a happy and successful school year at Thoreau Park.

Ted Bickley, Principal

District-Wide Safety Day on Sept. 13, 2019

Thoreau Park will be completing a Fire drill, Lockdown drill, and an Evacuation drill all on this date, as will all of the other schools in the district. Local police departments have been notified and will be available to assist us if needed. All of our students do a wonderful job of listening and following directions during these drills. Teachers will be preparing the students by reviewing A.L.I.C.E. protocols with them in the days leading up to Sept. 13. If you should have any questions, please contact the office.

Curriculum Nights

Thoreau Park will be hosting Curriculum Nights in the evenings in the coming weeks. These nights will give parents a chance to hear from teachers about the curriculum being used in the classroom, as well as a look at students' most recent benchmark assessment scores. The evening will begin in the cafeteria with a provided dinner. Then each classroom teacher will provide an overview of their curriculum for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten families will attend on September 11; 1st and 2nd grade families will attend on September 18; 3rd and 4th grade families will attend on a date to be determined. We would love to see you at an upcoming Curriculum Night.

PTA News

Thoreau Park's PTA is excited for a great year! Our President this year is Michelle Kerns. PTA memberships are now available. Please fill out your PTA envelope, enclose \$5 and return to your teacher/office. The class with the most memberships sold by October 31st will win a class pizza party! Please return Donut with Dad RSVP's and Lollipop order forms by September 13th. Make sure to join our Facebook page (Thoreau Park PTA) for the most up to date information, changes and courtesy reminders!

Fall Benchmark Testing

Students will take part in Fall benchmark assessments throughout the first few weeks of September, beginning September 4 and ending on September 18. Grades K-1 students will participate in aimswebPlus testing for reading and math. Grades 2-4 students will participate in MAP testing for reading and math. These assessments give teachers a gauge of where the students are academically since the end of last school year. Teachers will discuss these assessments in more depth during their Curriculum Night presentations. Please speak to

your child's homeroom teacher for specific testing dates or questions about the assessments.

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)

Thoreau Park is excited to announce that our school has been awarded the **Ohio PBIS Silver Recognition for the 2019-20 school year**. Our school previously received the Ohio PBIS Bronze Recognition for the 2017-18 school year. More information regarding the facts about the implementation of PBIS in Ohio can be found later in this newsletter. At this time, I would like to congratulate the staff members that served on the PBIS committees for the 2018-19 school year. Their hard work and dedication helped to make this recognition possible: Ted Bickley, Chris Keating, Gillian Alarcon, Cathy Catalano, Kim Costa, Adria Fisher, Stephanie Hoffman, Jodi Kassay, Patrick Montana, Nick Rolin, Kim Ryan, and Diane Seck.

Has your child been talking about the Rules of the Road at home? Maybe he/she has mentioned the yellow and red lines in the hallways. These initiatives are all a part of our PBIS plan at Thoreau Park for this school year. In order to have the safest learning environment at school, students are being asked to walk on the RIGHT side of the YELLOW tape in the hallway. We are also asking children to stop at intersections that have a RED line marked on the floor and to walk AROUND the sections marked by BLUE tape. Students following these Rules of the Road can be clipped up on their Clip-It chart and help to earn rewards and incentives for the class. Ask your child what he/she learned from the assembly held on September 5. We have a lot of fun things planned this year at Thoreau Park to acknowledge positive behaviors and successful academic progress. Please see Mr. Keating with any questions or comments.

PBIS: Bullying and Harassment pamphlet

Parents, please make sure to read over the pamphlet with your child(ren) and sign and return the attached form to your eldest child's teacher. At Thoreau Park, our staff teaches students that bullying is a pattern of behavior that is repeated over time. Bullying is not permitted at any time. If you have any questions, please call the Main Office.

Go Green Lottery!!!

The Go Green Lottery will continue this school year at Thoreau Park Elementary. All students who remain on green (Ready to Learn) and above in our behavior management system known as CLIP IT for 80% of the month have the opportunity to be entered into the lottery for a Pawsitive Panther yard sign. Every month, a name will be drawn for each grade level so we will have 5 winners a month. Continue to encourage your child to be READY to LEARN. Remember: **GREEN IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE!**

Classroom Attendance Incentive Program

Has your child mentioned that their class got to put a PAW up on the chart next to their classroom door? This is part of our school's initiative to increase daily student attendance and decrease student tardies and absences from school. Every

classroom will have a specific percentage of students that need to be present each day to earn a PAW for their calendar. This percentage will be based on data collected over a period of time at the start of each semester for each particular classroom. Each Monday, the classroom from each grade-level with the most PAWs will get to choose a prize for their class. This program worked to help our school decrease chronic absenteeism last year, so we look forward to it helping our Thoreau Park Panthers be at school each day this year as well.

Panther 200 Club

Every day, five student names are drawn and if your child is in their seat and ready to learn by 9:20, they will come down to the office to earn a pencil and draw a number. The number they select is where their picture will go on the *Panther 200 Club* board located in the main hallway. Make sure to look for it the next time you stop in the building!

Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser

Order forms and packets went home with students September 5. Orders are due by September 20. Orders can be completed online or sent into the school on paper. All proceeds come back to Thoreau Park for student supplies and activities. This is a sweet way to raise funds for our school!

Friday morning Mystery Announcers

The Office is looking for volunteers to read the morning announcements Friday mornings. Volunteers are asked to arrive at Thoreau Park around 9:10. Announcements begin at approximately 9:20 each day. After announcements, parents and guardians can enjoy a donut with their child and Mr. Bickley. If interested, please call Mrs. Pace in the Main Office to schedule a day. And remember, don't tell your child to keep it a surprise.

River Valley Paper Recycling Bin

Don't forget to bring all of your paper and cardboard to our recycling bin located in the main parking lot. Our school earns money for each ton of paper collected. There will be a Back to School Bonus week Sept. 15-21 where our school will earn an additional \$2/ton for all the paper brought to the bin that week. Thank you for supporting our school and helping the environment at the same time.

7 Habits of a Happy Kid: The Leader in Me

As a school this year, we will be focusing on building leadership skills in our students using the 7 Habits. Each month we will focus on one of the 7 Habits. Two students who exemplify the monthly habit will be selected by their classroom teacher to be the Student Leader of the Month. September's Habit is **Habit #1 - BE PROACTIVE**: You're in charge of yourself. Throughout the month, students will learn to do the following:

- I'm a responsible person
- I take initiatives
- I can choose my actions, attitudes, and moods
- I don't blame others for my faults
- I do good things, even when no one is around

From the Leader in Me, "part of being proactive is stopping to think before we act. Sometimes, we react to a situation immediately, without taking time to think about the results of our actions." At home, you can help teach and reinforce these skills by talking to your child about what they have learned about being proactive. Also, you can act out different situations with your child that will provide them the opportunity to think before they act.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 9-18 - Fall Benchmark Testing
Sept. 10 - ALL Summer Reading gameboards turned in
Sept. 11 - Kindergarten Curriculum Night (5:30)
Sept. 13 - District-wide Safety Day
Sept. 14 - Tour of North Ridgeville Acad. Center (10:00)
Sept. 16 - Immunizations exclusion date
Sept. 16 - Spirit day - Hat day
Sept. 17 - Spirit day - Red/White/Blue day
Sept. 18 - Spirit day - Wacky socks day
Sept. 18 - 1st/2nd grade Curriculum Night (5:30)
Sept. 19 - Fathers'/Role Model Walk to school (8:45)
Sept. 19 - Spirit day - Cleveland Sports day
Sept. 19 - Dr. Smialek visits Thoreau Park (9:30)
Sept. 19 - Meet the Candidates for PCSD School Board (6:30 at Parma Senior High)
Sept. 20 - Spirit day - Thoreau Park apparel OR wear Red and Black
Sept. 20 - Future Redman Night at PSH football game (7:00 at Byers Field)

September Library Programs

Library Card Sign-Up Month – Gr K – 12. Get ready for school with your own CCPL library card! #LibraryCardSignUp. Students are eligible for one-time fine forgiveness from September 1 – 30. Snap and post a pic of your library card with #GetLibraryCarded for the chance to win \$100! www.cuyahogalibrary.org/lcsm

Adapted Storytime — Ages 3 – 5 years with caregiver. Children with varying learning styles and abilities will learn together in a safe, supportive environment where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged. Saturday, September 14th at 11:00 a.m. at Parma Branch Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. <http://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/2667487>

Master Builders – Grades 3 – 5. Are you a LEGO™ fanatic? Want to tackle building challenges with friends? Bring your imagination and we'll supply the bricks. Saturday, September 14th at 2:00 p.m. at Parma Branch Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. <http://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/2483026>

Homework Center Open House – Grades K - 8. Join the Homework Center staff to find out all about the center and the help it can offer your child. The entire family is welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Tuesday, September 17th from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Parma Branch Library, 6996 Powers Blvd.

Sept. 21 - PCSD Marching Band Spectacular (7:00 at Byers Field)

Sept. 25 - PCSD Foundation Taste of the Towns (6:00-8:30 at St. Michael's Woodside; tickets can be purchased in the Main Office for \$30 OR \$35 after Sept. 16)

Sept. 26 - Kindergarten Field Trip

Sept. 27 - Parma Firehouse visits 2nd grade classrooms (9:30-11:00)

Sept. 30 - Strategic Planning for Consolidation Meeting (6:30 at Thoreau Park)

Oct. 2 - Donuts w/ Dr. Smialek (8:00 am Dunkin' Donuts 6919 Ridge Rd.)

Oct. 4 - Sept. Student Leaders of the Month celebration (10:00)

Oct. 7 - PTA meeting (5:30; location TBD)

Oct. 11 - No School due to NEOEA Day

Oct. 12 - Tour of North Olmsted Secondary campus (10:00)

Oct. 14-16 - Grade 2 COGAT testing

Oct. 16/17 - Parent/Teacher conferences by appointment (5:00-7:45)

Oct. 17 - Parma Council of PTA Family Night and Fundraiser at Kalahari Waterpark

Oct. 18 - End of Quarter 1; No school for students; Teacher in-service day

<https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Services/Homework-Help/Open-Houses.aspx>

Art Experiences— Grades K - 8. Engage your imaginative self with open-ended art explorations. Examine the works of art masters and explore various mediums such as paint, pastels and clay. All materials are included. Fridays at 4:00 p.m., Sept 27th to December 13th (no program Nov 29th) at Parma Branch Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. <http://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/2722519>

Ready Set Create! Building Challenges for Kids – Grades 2 – 5. Span-tastic Bridges; Building for Strength and Distance. Hands-on building and technology challenges give you the chance to solve problems, be creative and work with real engineers. Saturday, September 28th at 11:00 a.m. at Parma Branch Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. <http://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/3095778>

