



Panther Post

Thoreau Park Elementary School



Mr. Bickley, Principal

Mr. Keating, Dean of Students

Nov., 2020

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

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic as a community and school district, I am frequently reminded of how amazing our students, staff, and families are. The unknowns of what the coming weeks will hold has been our reality for several months. This uncertainty of how we will educate our students (outside of all the other unknowns we are working through) causes a great deal of anxiety for all of us. However, when I see the flexibility of our staff, the perseverance of our students, and the understanding of our parents, I am not only encouraged, but excited for the future of the Thoreau Park Community. At some point, things will begin returning to normal and I am confident that we will emerge with a higher self-awareness of our ability to educate students in any scenario.

I would like to express my sincere and heart-felt gratitude to everyone in the Thoreau Park family for their efforts the past several months. Our students constantly give me hope that the future of our community, country, and world will be in compassionate, empathetic, resilient, and worthy hands.

Ted Bickley, Principal

Issue 73 - Construction Bond Levy

We are excited to present to our voters this November Issue 73 that has the potential to dramatically renew the education we provide to our students and, in a larger sense, revitalize our three communities. If voters approve our construction bond issue, Issue 73, we will build two new secondary campuses (Grades 6 - 12)

on the current sites of Normandy and Valley Forge. We will also transform Parma Senior High School into a Community Educational and Wellness Center, in partnership with University Hospitals. The state of Ohio, through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), will contribute \$69 million toward the cost of these projects and homeowners will contribute \$18.96 per month per \$100,000 of their property value. The term of the bond will be 37 years. Please consider Issue 73 when you vote.

Annual Emergency Contact Form

This school year, the Parma City School District has transitioned to an all online way of updating student emergency contact information. In years past, parents have been asked to complete the Blue Card each year and return it to school. This year, the district is using an online Refresh form. The form can be [accessed here](#). Parents should have received a Snap Code in the mail in late summer. If you did not receive a Snap Code and still need to update your child's emergency contact information, please contact Mrs. Pace or Mrs. Klump in the Main Office at 440-885-2351 as soon as possible so we can have up-to-date information for your child(ren).

Distance Learning

While the school district is in distance/remote instruction, please refer to the [Thoreau Park Distance Learning for Families document](#). There are many helpful links contained in the document with answers to many different questions. The building will be open until 7:00pm Monday nights for student materials

pickup. Parents only have to come to the school if they receive a message from their child's teacher that there are materials for their child to be picked up. An important reminder for families is that small group intervention groups meet in the afternoon. The time that your child will have small group instruction varies from classroom to classroom. Teachers will update parents each Monday in their weekly communications, or Week at a Glance, of days and times of the small group meetings for the week. Please have your child sign in to those afternoon meetings for extra support for reading and math.

CoGat Testing - 2nd grade

The CoGat (Cognitive Abilities) test that was originally scheduled for early October has been rescheduled for the week of November 16. The test will be administered to all students in 2nd grade.

What is the CoGat? The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is a multiple-choice K-12 assessment that measures reasoning skills with different types of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal questions. The CogAT is a group-administered aptitude test commonly given as an entrance exam into school's gifted programs. The test is given in 3 parts over 3 separate testing sessions/days of school.

Parma City Schools will be able to administer the test either in-person or remotely if the district is still in distance-learning. Please reach out to your child's 2nd grade teacher or Mr. Bickley if you have any questions about CoGat.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our Fall parent/teacher conferences will be held on November 12, 2020 from 5:00-7:45. They will be held virtually, either over Google Meet or by phone. Homeroom teachers will be sending invitations to selected students' families soon. Please call the school office if you have any questions.

School Pictures

Ripcho Studios has agreed to reschedule school pictures to a date later in the school year, most likely early Spring. When the new date(s) are finalized, we will let all parents and guardians know.

November Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all our Thoreau Park Panthers celebrating during the month of November.

11-1 Luis G./4th grade	11-1 Aaliyah W./1st grade
11-2 Chase G./3rd grade	11-3 Bane V./2nd grade
11-6 John C./KG	11-7 Caleb F./3rd grade
11-7 Maya M./KG	11-11 Annabella F./2nd grade
11-12 Mia K./1st grade	11-13 Dewey P./3rd grade
11-14 Hunter H./KG	11-14 Mason P./3rd grade
11-15 Nevaeh G./4th grade	11-17 Kelsey K./2nd grade
11-20 Amelia C./4th grade	11-21 Stanley F./KG
11-22 Jovanni M./4th grade	11-23 Payton M./ 4th grade
11-24 Arianna W./2nd grade	11-25 Vincent K./1st grade
11-26 Ameena S./2nd grade	11-28 Anayah C./2nd grade
11-30 Anjolie D./1st grade	11-30 Jaden I./4th grade

PTA News

Thank you again for supporting our Chipotle fundraiser! Our next meeting will be held via ZOOM November 2nd at 5:30. Find us on Facebook, just search Thoreau Park PTA to join. In our group we share updates, changes and courtesy reminders. Stay safe Panthers!

PEA (Parma Education Assoc.) Food Drive

Our school will be collecting non-perishable foods and paper products for the Parma Hunger Center at Parma Lutheran Church. The collection will happen on **Monday, November 9, 2020** during student work pickup times. Each grade-level will have a certain product to donate. See the table below -

Kindergarten	Cereal
First Grade	Canned vegetables
Second Grade	Soup
Third Grade	Rice/pasta/noodles /canned meat or tuna
Fourth Grade	Baking products/desserts/ canned fruit
Staff	Paper products

The grade-level with the most participation will receive a prize.

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 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.

Veterans Day - November 11

Our staff and students are very sad we will not be able to honor local Veterans at our annual breakfast and recognition assembly. Although students will not be physically in school to celebrate, our school is working on ways we can recognize and celebrate Veterans virtually. Look to our website and follow our school on Twitter (@PCSDthoreaupark) to see how our students will be recognizing Veterans. The staff and students of Thoreau Park appreciate all Veterans' service.

Chevy Trax Raffle



Would you like a chance to win a 2020 Chevy Trax? The Parma City Schools Foundation is raffling off a Chevy Trax SUV in addition to other prizes. The raffle is being held December 10, 2020, at the Board Office. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from Mrs. Pace or Mrs. Klump in the Main Office. Fifty percent (50%) of the ticket sales Thoreau Park makes are given directly back to our school! The Grand Prize is the 2020 Chevy Trax, 2nd Place prize is \$500, and 3rd place prize is \$250. Winner does not need to be present to win their prize.

Parent University Training Classes

How to Talk to your Child About Alcohol & Other Drugs - Nov. 18, 2020 - 5:30-6:30 pm - Virtual event. [Register here](#)

Home Liaison - Cathay Catalano

FATHERS WALK -Thank you for sending in pictures of the important father figures in your student's life. The slide show will be on the website soon.

SPIRIT/UNITY WEEK - We had some great participation from students and staff for our yearly Unity day/Spirit week. Many classrooms focused on being kind, accepting and including all.

Please reach out if you or a family member is struggling with their feelings such as anxiety, depression or just needing extra support. I can be reached at 440-843-3526. The Parma City School District partners with OhioGuidestone and Nancy Lowrie and Associates, LLC. to provide counseling services. Remember to Pause, Breathe and Reset.

Embrace All Initiative

Thoreau Park will be participating in the district's Embrace All initiative. This program will assist students and staff in honoring the uniqueness of each individual and embrace diverse backgrounds, values, and points of view to build a strong, inclusive community and to live in a multicultural society. As a school community we will be learning about ways of showing respect and kindness to all who may look, act or think differently.

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)

How can I support my child during remote instruction/distance learning? It is a good idea to set up a routine for your child just as if he/she were coming to school every day in person. Have your child wake up and complete their morning routine, eat a healthy breakfast, and get their area ready for the day of learning. Set aside a space for your child that is setup for learning with as few distractions as possible. Children learn best with structure and routines. Have a desk or table setup with the supplies your child will need throughout the day. Help your child sign in to their Google Classroom at 9:15 each morning. Recognize your child when you see him/her following along with the lesson and meeting or exceeding the teacher's expectations. Click on [this link](#) to read about tips for helping your child during a pandemic. Parents can read [this handout](#) that offers ways to support parents with PBIS at home.

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!**

PBIS: Bullying and Harassment pamphlet

Parents, please make sure to read over the pamphlet that was sent home in early October with your child and sign and return the attached form to your 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 and ask to speak to Mr. Bickley or Mr. Keating.

Homework Help

Looking for homework help? Mr. Costa, Parma Branch library's new Homework Mentor, is available to assist students with schoolwork at the library and by phone!

Cuyahoga County Public Library - Parma Branch

Kindergarten – Grade 8

Monday through Thursday

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

6996 Powers Blvd., Parma

440-885-5362



Need Homework Help?

The Cuyahoga County Public Library - Parma Branch offers homework mentoring Monday through Thursday for Grades K - 8 from 4 – 6:30 PM in person or by phone!

Upcoming Events

Nov. 3 - No School today. Please vote!

Nov. 12 - Evening Parent/Teacher conferences held virtually.

Nov. 13 - No School today - End of the first quarter.

Nov. 18 - Chipotle PBIS fundraiser (see flyer below)

Nov. 23 - Report Cards available on Home Access Center

Nov. 25-27 - No School - Thanksgiving break

Dec. 23-Jan. 1 - No School - Winter break

DO GOOD WITH BURRITOS



Join us at our restaurant for a fundraiser to support Thoreau Park. Just come in to the Chipotle at **7683 W Ridgewood Dr** in Parma on **Wednesday, November 18th** from **4:00pm to 8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Thoreau Park.

NEW! ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP

Use code FFD3MD9 before checkout in 'promo' field. Orders placed on Chipotle.com or through the Chipotle app for pickup using this unique code will be counted towards the fundraiser.



All online orders must be placed for pickup at the same time/location of the fundraiser. Delivery cannot be counted at this time. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

