



# Panther Post

## Thoreau Park Elementary School



Mr. Bickley, Principal

Mr. Keating, Dean of Students

Sept., 2021

*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 back Thoreau Park students and families! The 2021-22 school year has started as close to normally as possible with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff is committed to not only maintaining a safe learning environment, but providing a high quality education at the same time.

The old phrase “It takes a village to raise a child” has never been more applicable than in our current environment. We encourage and appreciate all that our Thoreau Park families do to support the education of our students. Please consider making the following activities a part of your daily family routines:

- Read together for 15-20 minutes every day. Children who observe the adults in their lives reading are more likely to become active readers themselves.
- Keep communication lines open with your teachers. This can be email, Remind messages, or phone calls.
- Ask your children how their day went at school and encourage them to provide detailed responses.

Thank you families for all of your patience and understanding during the opening of school and while we navigate the ever-changing challenges of educating during a pandemic.

***Ted Bickley, Principal***

### **New Staff - 2021-22 School Year**

We are excited to welcome the following staff members to the Thoreau Park family for the 2021-22 school year:

Ashley Fistek - Kindergarten  
Jessica Andrus - Title 1  
Breanna Kovacs - Title 1  
Cindy Mireiter - Gifted services (Thursdays)  
Clementine Jacobs - ELL services  
Jennifer Zarbo - classroom assistant for KDG and Grade 3  
Samantha Polczynski - Board Certified Behavior Analyst  
Stephanie Newcomer - Noon monitor  
Catherine Boehm-Delaney - Breakfast monitor

### **Attendance**

As a reminder, classroom instruction begins at 9:15am each school day. Students can enter through the Front Doors or through Door 10 near the back car loop off of W. 51st St. beginning at 8:45am. Please do not drop your child off before 8:45am as there will be no adult supervision until that time. Students will be directed to lines outside their classrooms (Gr. 1-4) or the gym (Kindergarten). Any student arriving after 9:15am will need to enter through the Front Doors and will be directed to the Main Office to get a tardy pass to class.

### **COVID Protocols 2021-22**

Families should access [this document](#) to review the current PCSD COVID Protocols for the 2021-22 school year. Parents and guardians should check their students for symptoms before they leave for school each day and keep their child(ren) home from school if they are sick or exhibit any of the symptoms listed in the document. As a reminder, masks or face coverings are strongly recommended for all staff, students, and visitors of every PCSD building.

## **Parent Resource Document**

Families can access [this document](#) throughout the year to find answers to commonly-asked questions. If you do not find the answer here, please call the Main Office at 440-885-2351 and leave a message. Someone from the administrative team will get back to you within 24-36 hours.

## **Nutrition Services**

Every student can receive a free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-22 school year through a grant from the federal government. Breakfast is available everyday from 8:45-9:15am. Students arriving tardy to school can receive a bagged breakfast until 9:30 each morning. The September breakfast menu can be [found here](#). Students receive 60 minutes for lunch and recess every day. Students can choose from 3 lunch options daily: hot lunch entree, cold lunch, or homemade peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Kindergarteners eat from 11:40-12:10pm; 1st graders eat from 12:05-12:35pm; 2nd graders eat from 12:15-12:45pm; 3rd graders eat from 12:45-1:15pm; and 4th graders eat from 1:15-1:45pm. Parents of students wishing to purchase snacks, ice cream, or milk (for packers) will need to add funds to their student's MySchoolBucks account. That website can be [accessed here](#). The September lunch menu can be [found here](#). More information about the Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Program can be [found here](#). Applications need to be completed only for students that are new to the district for P-EBT purposes.

## **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 Snapcode in the mail in late summer. If you did not receive a Snapcode 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).

## **PTA News**

We would like to WELCOME all our new and returning Thoreau Park Families! Our first meeting will be held on Monday, September 13 at 5:30pm in the Thoreau Park Media center. Not a member yet? No problem, we would love for you to join us. PTA is a great way to be a part of your student's education and a very rewarding way to give back to the school. Our memberships are only \$5.00. We have a wonderful school year ahead of us and many fun activities planned. Our new spirit wear order forms have been sent out, so be on the lookout for them. We are already in the planning stages for our Fall Fest with a Monster Mash Dance party and Truck or Treat in the works for October 29th. Since we had such a great response to our first "Truck or Treat", we are hoping to make it even bigger this year. Registration will be only \$5.00 per trunk, and there will be prizes for best decorated. We will also be asking for donations of unopened bags of individually wrapped candy. Look for trunk registration forms and ticket order forms in early October. For updates you can find us on Facebook, just search Thoreau Park PTA to join. In our group we share updates, changes and courtesy reminders. You can also email us at [thoreauparkpta1926@gmail.com](mailto:thoreauparkpta1926@gmail.com).

## **Discovery Center**

The Discovery Center is a FREE after-school program available to all 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students. There are 3 sessions each year, with the first session beginning October 4. Discovery Center is open Monday-Friday from 3:30-6:30pm each night. There is 1 hour of tutoring and 1 and ½ hours of enrichment programs daily. Registration information will be sent home with students September 13. Please contact Laura Coufalik, Site Coordinator, with any questions. Her email address is [coufalikl@parmacityschools.org](mailto:coufalikl@parmacityschools.org).

## **Marco's Pizza Nights**

Thoreau Park plans on continuing this fundraiser again for the 2021-22 school year. The plan is for these pizza nights to be the 2nd Thursday of each month, with the first

fundraiser scheduled for October 14. Remember, the class receiving the most orders will win a free cheesy bread for each student in that class.

### **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. Thank you for supporting our school and helping the environment at the same time.

### **PBIS Updates**

Many parents ask What is PBIS? The following is information from the Ohio Dept. of Education's website: **Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS), is a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes in school communities while preventing problem behavior. The key attributes of PBS include preventive activities, data-based decision making, and a problem solving orientation (Horner, 2000; Lewis & Sugai, 1999; Sugai et.al., 2000; Weigle, 1997).**

The PBIS Teams at Thoreau Park have worked hard over the past 5 years to implement effective strategies for all of our students. The state recently awarded our school the Silver Award for our effective PBIS Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs. This year, our team will work to earn the Gold award for our Tier 3 programs. More information on each of the PBIS 3 tiers of intervention will be explained in future issues of the Panther Post.

### **Embrace All**

Embrace All is a PCSD initiative to encourage acceptance, diversity and inclusion. Students will be able to participate in many activities throughout the school year. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

### **Home Liaison News**

Hello, my name is Cathy Catalano and I am the Home Liaison for Thoreau Park. A Home Liaison helps the students, staff and families with resources and assistance to make the

educational experience positive. I can be reached at 440 843-3526.

Every year we celebrate the Fathers or Adult Male Role Models of our students in September. In years past we have been able to celebrate before school outside, unfortunately we will not be able to do that this year. We still encourage Fathers/ Role Models to walk their students to school on September 23rd.

Attendance Spirit Week will be September 20-24. Look for a flyer soon with details.

Read [here for information](#) on Parent University Training Courses. More information can be found at [parmacityschools.org](http://parmacityschools.org).

### **Upcoming Events -**

Aug. 31-Sept. 14 - Fall Benchmark testing window  
Sept. 13 - PTA Meeting - 5:30 pm - Thoreau Park Media Center

Sept. 17 - All PTA Spirit Wear orders due today.

Sept. 17 - PCSD Foundation sponsored Clambake 4:00 - 7:00 pm - St. Sava's Picnic Area

Sept. 20 - Picture Day

Sept. 23 - Fathers/Guardians walk to school event - more information to come.

Oct. 4 - Session #1 of Discovery Center begins

Oct. 4 - PTA Meeting - 5:30 pm - Thoreau Park Media Center

Oct. 8 - No School - NEOEA Day

Please follow the Parma City School District on Facebook and Twitter (@ParmaSchools) for updates throughout the school year. You can also check the website for updated information - [www.parmacityschools.org](http://www.parmacityschools.org).

