

# Thurston THUNDER



Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future

October 31, 2016

## CALENDAR... Looking Ahead

- Nov. 1 Mendelssohn field trip  
9:40-11:50
- Nov. 3 Parent Group Mtg. 6 pm
- Nov. 4 Popcorn Day!
- Nov. 11 NO SCHOOL – Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 15 Papa’s Pizza fundraiser
- Nov. 17 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Program  
6:30
- Nov. 18 Popcorn Day!
- Nov. 18 Picture Retakes
- Nov. 21-Dec. 5 Change Drive
- Nov. 24-25 NO SCHOOL –  
Thanksgiving break
- Dec. 1 Parent Group Mtg. 6 pm

## Dec. 5-9 Book Fair

- Dec. 9 Popcorn Day!



## From the principal.....

Last month we participated in an event called *Socktober*. Our goal was to help our students understand the importance of giving back to our community by donating socks to the homeless. I am pleased to announce that TES students and staff collected over 1,000 socks! This means that together we have made a difference in the lives of those in need, and as a result, there will be more warm feet during the cold winter months. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

Did you know that there are multiple ways to stay connected to TES? Please find us on Facebook (Thurston Elementary School), Twitter (@Thurston\_Elem), and the Thurston Elementary Website (<http://blog.springfield.k12.or.us/tes/>). I’ll be posting exciting events on Twitter this year, so I hope you choose to follow us.

If you have not sent back your child’s pledge envelope from the TES Tech Read-a-thon, it is due at this time. Our goal was to raise \$6,000 to purchase additional personal devices for students and much needed software. As you may know, recent Bond funds will be used over the next couple years to purchase computers and iPads so that our student/device ratio is 2 to 1. The additional funds that we have raised during our Tech Read-a-thon will enable our ratio to be closer to 1 to 1—that means a student device in every student’s hand. **Currently, TES students have raised over \$7,000.** Way to go TES!!!!

Parent Teacher Conferences – December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

Parent Conferences are a very important time to check in with your child’s teacher. Conferences will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00am-8:00pm and December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00am-Noon. As usual, a conference request form will be coming home for you to indicate a preferred time for your 20 minute conference. If you would like me to join your conference, please let me know. If you

are unable to make these days work for your family – please know you can request a conference anytime with your teacher.

### Truancy – Attendance

This is an important reminder! If your student is sick or will be absent for any reason, please call and notify us at school. We are monitoring absences closely this year. State of Oregon law states - If your student has 4 unexcused absences in a 30 - day window, your student will be considered truant. Truant behavior will be reported to our building and school district truancy team. We value your efforts in keeping us notified about your student in being out of school.

### Supervision Reminder

We need your help – students are being dropped off at school before 8:00 am. This presents a safety issue since there is no supervision outside of the school until at least 8:15. Please help us keep your students safe by not bringing them to school prior to 8:15. If it is necessary for you to drop your child off earlier, please look into the “Early Start” program that Willamalane offers to ensure your child’s safety. Also, with the change of the weather – will begin having students coming into the building early at 8:25 am and sit in their morning meeting location in the gym.

*Warmly,  
Nicki Gorham*

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### Ravenous Readers



Each month at two of our morning meetings, we honor our most “ravenous” readers; students who read out of

school at least 1000 minutes earn a PhD certificate, students who read at least 650 earn a Master’s, and those who read at least 350 minutes earn a Bachelor’s award. The following are students we recognized in October for September minutes (we will recognize Kinders every other month...):

**PhD:** Abigail O., Jackson K., Tessa O., Alexis D., Evie W., Kaelee Y., Max S., Harlan M., Sofia W., Tristan M., Brody W.

**Master’s:** Aubrey W., Reid W., Hannah L., Hannah F., Annaliese S., Nolan W., Destin L., Bo W., Lillyan O., Abe S., Harper B., Mason S., Aaron L., Braden C.

**Bachelor’s:** Findley S., Colton C., Josie T., Conner S., Fin S., Peyton R., Liko D., Matthew C., Andrew J., Olivia R., Joshua L., Kenzie G., Averie G., Megan F., Steven H., Josiah M., Jacob E., Lily R., Khalil W., Laura S., Phaedra M., Logan R., Aiyanna B., Waylon S., Brooklyn

P., Kiernan S., Sophia B., Hunter R. Lola S., Connor M., Nathan S., David M., Carson W., Noah D., Owen M., Camden A., Olivia H., Jack H., Kenadee H., Holland P., Brady W., Addison H., Hayden W., Damon A., Camille G., Lukas M., Taylor M., Justin F., Maycie A., Ellery P., Landon D., Owen S., Kayden C., Tayla H., Sarah J., Reegan O., Olivia D., Alex Z., Peter G., Justice S., Piper P., Leo S., Abbi H., Xeniz D., Curtis J., Conner D., Aubrie W., Andre P., Morgan T., Cayden F., Makena S., Alyssa W., Gerardo C., Jayden P., Christina H., Camden A., Dillon L., Isabella S., Chloe C., Ramsey G., Tyler W., Caden K., Konner N., Xander R., Madelynn R., Maleah M., Adrianna H., George F., Gracie H., Karli M., Amber A., Logan B., Hailey M., Hadley H., Rosie M., Dexter C.



Help your child make good reading choices, and read every night!!!

## From the Health Room:

Any help you can give us with pants your child has outgrown and could be used as loaners would be SO appreciated. At this wet time of year, we try to keep students out of the puddles on the playground, but invariably there will be a student (or two, or ten) who slips into a puddle. We currently have just two pair of pants as loaners, so we'd love your hand-me-downs! Sweats are particularly helpful, as the sizing is flexible. Thank you!

## TES Gives Back!

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual change drive begins on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Each class will collect change, which will go toward gifts for families in our own school who could use a little TLC during the holidays. Last year we collected an amazing \$1682! Save your change, and help a TES family this holiday season!



## Parent Group Info:

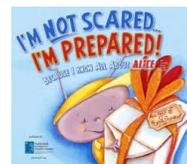
The parent group meetings are the first Thursday of every month; all are welcome! Minutes from the meetings are posted on our website under the Parent Group tab.



## Emergency Drill Trainings

Families, we thought you'd appreciate an update on the ALICE emergency training in our schools. Last year, we conducted training for both staff and students. This year, staff will receive refresher drills, and we will also be conducting practice drills for students.

**Elementary** students will receive three drills in the course of the school year. We will announce the times of these drills in advance and prepare students beforehand with tips from the "I'm Not Scared...I'm Prepared" handbooks. Students and staff will practice protocol for different scenarios.



At all times during the drills, staff will be on the lookout for any individuals who have a negative reaction to the drills, and counselors will be on hand.

While knowing that these incidents, though highly covered by the media, are actually quite rare, I think we can all agree that to be prepared is to be empowered. These drills are vitally important to ensuring that students and staff understand what is expected of them, and practice scenarios will also help the schools and emergency responders to continue to refine their procedures and practices.



For more information about ALICE training in our school district, visit <http://www.springfield.k12.or.us/ALICE>. Please contact Mrs. Gorham with any questions.

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## A B C's Of Student Success

**A** is for ATTENDANCE.

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling *and* in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!

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## A B C's Of Student Success

**B** is for BEDTIME.

*Awwwww, Mom! Already?* Sound familiar? On average, children need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. Sleep is important for many reasons. Lack of sleep can cause kids to be hypersensitive, impatient, or cranky. It is more difficult for children to concentrate and learn when they are tired. (Some doctors even believe that during sleep the brain "files away" what is learned during the day.) Encouraging quiet activities -- such as reading -- just prior to bedtime offers a transition that helps children relax. *Sweet dreams!*

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## A B C's Of Student Success

**C** is for CHOICES.

According to Jim Fay, author of *Becoming a Love and Logic Parent*, giving children choices is more effective than making demands. He suggests...

- Never give choices if it might cause problems for you or anyone else.
- Give only two options for each choice, both equally okay with you. For example, *Would you like peas or carrots?* or *Do you want to do homework now or in 15 minutes?*
- If the child doesn't decide within 10 seconds, make the choice for him or her.

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## A B C's Of Student Success

**D** is for DETERMINATION.

Children need to hear their parents say that making an effort, working hard, and planning ahead are important. We need to encourage children to set reasonable expectations, and celebrate with them when they make progress toward their goals. Children need to learn that sometimes they must sacrifice to achieve a long-term goal. Struggling with learning tasks from time to time is part of a student's "job." In the end, the feeling of accomplishment they get will lead to bigger and better accomplishments in the future!

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## **Annual Notification Document Location**

To the Student's Parent(s):

In order to more efficiently serve parents and patrons, Springfield Public Schools website has been updated to include information, in part, pertaining to annual parent/student notification such as Student Responsibilities & Rights Handbook, A Note to Parents About Directory Rights, Parent Notice Concerning Student Records, HIV/AIDS Curriculum Announcement, Teacher Qualifications, Parent Review of Materials.

To review the above information, please access the website at <http://www.springfield.k12.or.us/parentrights>  
Parents and patrons may also contact the school office for printed copies of any of the above documents.

Estimado padre:

Más servir efficient emente padres y a patrocinadores, el Público de Springfield Educa sitio web ha sido actualizado para incluir información, en parte, perteneciendo a notificaciones anuales de padre/estudiante como Estudiante Responsabilidades y Guía, Nota de Padre Con respecto a Registros de Estudiante, Plan de VIH/AYUDA Anuncio, el Maestro Requisitos, y Revisión de Padre de Materials.

Para revisar la información anterior, por favor acceda al sitio web en <http://www.springfield.k12.or.us/parentrights> Los padres y los patrones también pueden ponerse en contacto con la oficina escolar para copias impresas de cualquiera de los susodichos documentos.