



# Thoreau Demonstration Academy PTSA NEWSLETTER

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*Message from the Principal, Thomas Padalino*

### VOTE NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

It is timely that the topic for this month's article concerns the district school bond election scheduled for Nov. 8, 2005. On that date voters across the city will decide on the future status of Tulsa Public Schools in a number of critical areas. Tulsans from throughout the community have studied the needs of Tulsa Public Schools and developed a \$162.2 million bond package for voters' consideration. The 2005 bond proposal is the fourth step of a 1995-96 citizens bond development committee 20-year plan to create a safe, well-maintained, and up-to-date educational setting for Tulsa's school children.

On Nov. 8, 2005, Tulsans will have the opportunity to continue the progress of the 1996, 1999, and 2001 bond proposals. The 2005 proposal continues the 20 year plan to replace or rehabilitate school buildings. It adds textbooks, learning materials, and classroom technology for all children, improves libraries and replaces old school buses.

All this progress and the bond proposal WILL NOT RAISE TAXES. It will replace retired bonds and therefore, maintain the same tax rate level.

The bond proposal is divided into four packages for voter consideration. They are:

- 1) \$116.4 million for facilities
- 2) \$9.7 million for library improvements
- 3) \$29.6 million for textbooks and technology
- 4) \$6.5 million for transportation

That is the big picture of what is being proposed for the district. I also want to inform our families of precisely what this bond package will do for our site.

Specifically, Thoreau students will receive the following benefits:

- \$53,300 for library books
- \$18,000 for library hardware/software
- \$79,950 for textbooks
- \$150,000 for science labs and equipment
- \$3,000 for physical education and health education
- \$112,996 for computer/audio visual equipment
- \$9,487 for furniture
- \$200,000 for pool upgrades
- \$1,723,540 for heating/air conditioning

At the October meeting, the Thoreau PTSA unanimously voted to support this bond package. For additional information, interested patrons may review the complete package on the TPS website at [www.tulasaschools.org](http://www.tulasaschools.org).



## U.S. Students Take Tougher Courses, Achieve at Higher Levels

Today's students take tougher courses, achieve at higher levels, and earn more college degrees than they did 20 years ago, according to a recent report by the Center on Education Policy.

*Do You Know...The Latest Good News About American Education?* tracks the progress of U.S. education on 24 indicators that span school participation and course-taking trends, student achievement, school climate and public support, teacher quality, and higher education. The report also identifies key areas of concern that require additional improvement.

Overall, the report finds that "U.S. public schools have improved in many ways since the movement to reform

education by raising standards first took shape 20 years ago."

Among the report's key findings are the following.

- From 1985 to 2002, the percentage of Americans 25 or older who have completed high school jumped from 74% to 84%, and the percentage who completed college rose from 19% to 27%.
- The percentage of high school graduates completing a core academic curriculum—including four years of English and three years of each of math, science, and social studies—quadrupled from 14% to 57% from 1982 to 2000.
- The percentage of high school graduates completing advanced math

courses climbed from 26% in 1982 to 45% in 2000. Meanwhile, the percentage completing advanced science courses rose from 35% to 63%.

- On long-term NAEP trend assessments in math and reading, test score gaps between white and minority students have narrowed to the smallest margins in three decades.
- Rates of school-related crime and violence have fallen by half since 1992.
- The percentage of high school graduates immediately enrolling in college has risen from about 55% in 1984 to 64% in 2003.

The full report can be downloaded at [www.cep-dc.org](http://www.cep-dc.org).

## THE TULSA LITTLE 100

The Tulsa Little 100 is a bicycle relay race for middle schools based on the Little Indy 500 event held at Indiana University each year. The Tulsa event is comprised of an 80-lap (20 mile) Boys' Relay, a 50-lap (12.5 mile) Girls' Relay, as well as a 1-mile Individual Time Trial event for up to two riders from each team.

After being postponed for a day due to storms, the Thoreau Girls' Team, consisting of Heather Heck, Allison Cope, Mikhaila Hobbs, and Rachel Sharpe, took to the track. From the beginning Thoreau, Edison, and Lewis and Clark separated themselves from the other schools in the race, with Thoreau consistently sitting in second place.

One element of the race that makes it very exciting are the exchanges between riders. This occurs in a "pit area" (just like NASCAR) and is a crucial part of the event. Teams are penalized for incorrect and unsafe exchanges in the form of time penalties added to their actual finishing time.

As the race progressed it was clear that the Edison and Lewis and Clark were incurring time penalties while the Thoreau team continued to make flawless exchanges. In one of the closest finishes in the four year history of the event, Thoreau's Rachel Sharpe and the final rider for Lewis and Clark crossed the Start/Finish line with dead even two laps to go.

In the end, Thoreau finished second on the track and were

awaiting the final results after time penalties were assessed. Lewis and Clark, indeed, were penalized. However, a new rule allowing teams to utilize time bonuses from the individual race to offset penalties incurred in the relay allowed Lewis and Clark to persevere over the hard fighting Thoreau team. Thoreau's second place standing continued a strong history for the Thoreau girls in this event, having won the event in its inaugural year and placing 4th in 2004. For their efforts, the girls were presented a trophy. A \$500.00 check also will be presented to the school.

Unfortunately, due to the re-scheduling of the event, Thoreau was unable to field a boys' team this year. However, two members of the team, Hayden Te Ruki and Tim Brawner did represent the school proudly in the Individual Time Trial, with Hayden finishing 4th overall in that event. Tyler Brannon also deserves recognition as a team member who was very committed to practices and performing at his personal best. Unfortunately Tyler crashed and broke his arm during a practice and was unable to compete on the day of the event.

Finally, Thoreau would like to thank Ms. Hotaling for her continued support of this event and congratulate all riders for their commitment to practices and representing their school proudly. If anyone is interested in participating in this fun and very rewarding event next year, please contact Ms. Hotaling.



## THOREAU FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Thoreau Foundation is making its annual appeal to the families of the Thoreau community. The Foundation is made up of parents of current students who desire to raise funds to support the programs in the school. Specifically, supporting Microsociety, the outdoor classroom, and continued professional development for staff members have been identified as goals this year. Contributions should be made out to the Thoreau Foundation and sent to the school address. All donations are tax-deductible under the tax code 501(c)3. The address of the school is 7370 East 71 Street, Tulsa, 74133. Thank you in advance for your support of this request.

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THOREAU AND THE PTSA BY EMAIL WITH THE E-HOWL!

The Thoreau E-Howl is an email mailing list sponsored by the Thoreau PTSA. If you wish to subscribe to this list and receive updated, instant and archived information about Thoreau events and activities, simply send a blank email to:

Thoreautulsa-subscribe@yahoo.com  
(don't forget to tell your students, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc.)

All messages are conveniently archived at the PTSA website:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thoreautulsa/>

## YEARBOOK UPDATE

Picture re-takes will be November 7.

Please check your home mail for the Josten's Yearbook order form. Thoreau's yearbook will be ordered DIRECTLY through Josten's this year.

Thanks-  
Amy McDaniels

## 2005-06 PTSA OFFICERS

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## THOREAU PLEDGE

Send your pledge now! Make checks payable to: Thoreau PTSA

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thoreau pledge: Yes, I pledge \$90 \_\_\_\_\_ or \$10 month \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$90 for the year or \$10 per month for the following months (please circle):

Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. April May

Return to the school office at Thoreau Demonstration Academy, 7370 E. 71 St., Tulsa, OK 74133



2005/2006  
THOREAU DEMONSTRATION ACADEMY  
PTSA INVOICE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. PTSA Membership – \$5.00  
(Remember to include your Thoreau student(s) when purchasing your memberships)

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. THOREAU PLEDGE – \$90.00/year or \$10.00/month

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Student Directory – \$5.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) Name & Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THOREAU!  
PLEASE RETURN TO THE PTSA BOX IN THE OFFICE



## ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS

The State of Oklahoma passed legislation in 1987 that mandates HIV/AIDS Prevention Education be presented to students in public schools.

The Tulsa Board of Education approved policies addressing this legislation in September 1986. Tulsa Public Schools will provide instruction in 5th, 7th, and tenth grades.

Our school will be providing this instruction to 7th grade students on Nov. 14 and 15. The day of instruction is based on your student's science teacher.

As a parent/guardian you have the

option requesting that your child not participate in the HIV/AIDS Prevention instruction. If you choose to request that your child be excluded from this instruction, please contact me. A Parental Request for Student Exemption from Specific Classes Form will need to be completed prior to the scheduled date of instruction.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,  
A. Meldrum RN

### REMINDER

Please remember to sign in all of your volunteer hours. You may either use the volunteer sign-in sheet in the school office, call Diane Muselmann at 488-9790, or email Territa Nathan at [nathate@tulaschools.org](mailto:nathate@tulaschools.org)

### TEACHERS' AGENDAS

Teachers' weekly agendas, calendars, and other useful info are posted at the school's official website: <http://tulaschools.org/schools/thoreau/>

## NEWS FLASH! GET YOUR NEWS . . . IN A FLASH!

With this issue of the Thoreau newsletter, you have the opportunity to receive the news at your desktop. Not only will this save paper, trees and expense, it should provide a direct link between Thoreau families and our school.

All newsletters will be sent by E-Howl. If you have not sent in your email address to receive the E-Howl service, please do so. Send your email address to: [PTSA@cox.net](mailto:PTSA@cox.net).

In addition, paper versions of the newsletter will be available from the school office. However, if you prefer to continue receiving the paper version of the newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to the office. We are happy to accommodate your communication needs.

### NEWSLETTER

Please continue to mail the newsletter to our family.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 1 Football @ LaFortune
- November 2 SCHOOL TOUR 9:00 a.m.
- November 2 Basketball @ Edison
- November 3 Student Led Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- November 4 Student Led Conferences 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- November 7 Basketball @ Edison
- November 7 Picture Re-take Day
- November 8 Basketball @ Edison
- November 8 6th grade to Oxley Nature Center
- November 9 6th grade to Oxley Nature Center
- November 10 8th grade to Okmulgee
- November 16 SCHOOL TOUR 9:00 a.m.
- November 28 8th grade to Brady Theater
- November 30 Basketball @ Edison
- November 30 SCHOOL TOUR 9:00 a.m.
- December 1 Foreign Language Night
- December 5 Girls Basketball @ Memorial
- December 7 Girls Basketball @ Edison
- December 8 Girls Basketball @ East Central
- December 14 Holiday Musical 10:00 a.m.
- December 15 Holiday Musical 7:00 p.m.
- January 5 Boys Basketball @ Memorial
- January 9 Boys Basketball @ Edison
- January 11 School Geography Bee 9:00 a.m.
- January 13 School Spelling Bee 9:00 a.m.

“All great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties.”

-William Bradford (1590-1657)

“It is never too late to give up our prejudices.”

- Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Thoreau Telephone 833-9700
- Thoreau Fax 833-9720
- Attendance 833-9700
- Ms. Vick 833-9704
- Mrs. Moore 833-9707

Please contact the school office for the next newsletter deadline. Email address for the Trailblazer: [thoreaunewsletter@cox.net](mailto:thoreaunewsletter@cox.net)

Please e-mail your article as a Word attachment.

## THOREAU DEMONSTRATION ACADEMY – BLAZING THE TRAIL TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Tulsa Council of PTA – S573  
3027 S. New Haven  
Tulsa, OK 74114

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