



# THOREAU DEMONSTRATION ACADEMY PTSA NEWSLETTER

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Tulsa, Oklahoma

October, 2005

## WHAT IS THE OKLAHOMA SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

By Thomas Padalino

The Oklahoma Scholars Program is an effort by area businesses and school volunteers to encourage students to complete challenging courses during their high school years that will prepare them for jobs or higher education after graduation. The initiative is a simple but high impact strategy to motivate students to stretch themselves academically in order to better prepare them for their post secondary educations. Every eighth grade student at Thoreau will participate in the preliminary stages of the program during the current school year. Each child has been provided with literature that will explain the fundamentals of the program and the steps that interested families need to take to participate. Oklahoma Scholars is endorsed by Tulsa Public Schools, Tulsa Metro Chamber and the Oklahoma Business and Education Coalition and meets the graduation requirements of the Oklahoma State Board of Education.

The main idea behind the program is that there is a direct relationship between the more rigorous the coursework that high school students take and the success that they experience in college and beyond. Adelman (1999) reports that, "The most reliable predictor of college success is the quality and intensity of the high school curriculum. Most significantly, the higher the level of mathematics completed in secondary school, the stronger the continuing influence on bachelor's degree completion.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 2	OKLAHOMA SCHOLARS PROGRAM (contd)	PAGE 3	WHAT IS OHLAP?
PAGE 3	STUDENT COUNCIL INFO.	PAGE 3	FALL TROMP INFORMATION
PAGE 3	FUNDRAISER DISTRIBUTION INFO.	PAGE 3	TURN IN VOLUNTEER HOURS
PAGE 4	NEWS FROM THE NURSE	PAGE 4	E-HOWL INFORMATION
PAGE 4	YEARBOOK PICTURE RETAKES	PAGE 4	THOREAU FOUNDATION UPDATE
PAGE 5	IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION	PAGE 6	ICE CREAM SOCIAL THANKS
PAGE 6	PTSA MEMBERSHIP & THOREAU PLEDGE INF	PAGE 6	2005-2006 PTSA OFFICERS
PAGE 7	PTSA INVOICE	PAGE 8	DATES TO REMEMBER
PAGE 8	CONTACT INFORMATION	PAGE 8	THIIS MONTHS "SAYINGS"

Completion of two experimental (lab) science courses is the second most significant factor in determining whether or not students will complete college.” Oklahoma Scholars are students who complete a specific sequence of academic coursework in mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies. The philosophy of the program is based on the belief that it is better to pass an academically challenging course than to get a higher grade in an easier course.

One study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education found, “That students who complete rigorous academic courses like the Scholars Course of Study enjoy on average a 13.1 percent wage advantage nine years after graduation, an effect that occurred regardless of whether the student attended college or not.” (Zucker and Dawson) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC, March 2002, “Adults with just a high school diploma earn \$6,000 less per year than those with an associate’s degree and nearly \$20,000 less per year than those with a bachelor’s degree.”

The Oklahoma Scholars course of study includes the following components:

Four credits of English, I, II, III, IV

Three credits of mathematics including Algebra I & II, Geometry

Four credits of science including Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

Three and one-half credits of social studies including World History and Geography, U.S. History and Geography, U.S. Government, Oklahoma History, and another social studies elective

Two credits of the same foreign language other than English

One credit of physical education

Two credits of fine arts, one music and one art

One credit of technology

What can parents do? A parent’s encouragement and support are essential in helping a student achieve their academic goals. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, each student will prepare a four year Scholars Course of Study plan with the help of parents and school counselors. Parents should work with school counselors and teachers to help their children to meet Scholars course requirements.

For more information you may access [www.centerforstatescholars.org](http://www.centerforstatescholars.org)

State Scholars' Difference on the ACT: 2.6

## What is OHLAP?

By Sandy Moore  
7/8<sup>th</sup> Counselor

**OHLAP** is now called **Oklahoma's Promise**. This is a program allowing students whose family income is less than \$50,000 per year to earn free tuition if they meet certain academic and conduct requirements. Students are able to earn scholarships for any college or university in Oklahoma. Students may sign up in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grades. I have presented this information with brochures to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Each student was given a pamphlet in which this program as well as some other sources for paying for college were included. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance. The website for these programs is [www.okpromise.org](http://www.okpromise.org).

## STUDENT COUNCIL

We, the student council would really appreciate the help from our fellow students for Thoreau's penny drive. We are collecting money for the hurricane victims.

You will bring your spare change to tribes/agenda reflection where there will be penny jars. Student council will collect the money and donate it to the hurricane victims. This event will be a competition between tribes. Who ever collects the most amount of money will be able to enjoy a doughnut party. Thank you for your participation.

. Sincerely,  
Your Student Council

## FUNDRAISER DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of Fundraiser items will be on Tuesday, October 25th in the Cafeteria from 3:30—5:00 p.m.

Please pick your items up at that time.

## FALL TROMP

*"Boo La Rue"  
Costume Ball*



*October 28, 2005*

Contact :  
Bridgett Brown -744-8858  
Stacy Wade – 625-1135

## 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@tulsaschools.org](mailto:nathate@tulsaschools.org).

**Dear Parents,**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING  
HEPATITIS IMMUNIZATIONS:**

There are many 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not turned in a record of their Hepatitis A and B immunizations. State Law requires these immunizations. I am currently recording the immunizations that I have recently received and checking the immunizations of each student. I will be contacting parents if their student has not received their Hepatitis immunizations. In many cases, the immunizations have been given and it is only a matter of getting a copy of the immunization to the school. If you are unsure of your student's status, please call. (833 – 9710)

**\* Students will not be allowed to attend field trips until a record of Hepatitis Immunizations is on file in the clinic. (at least one dose of Hepatitis A and one dose of Hepatitis B)**

There are several 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also who need to complete the Hepatitis A and B series. I am in the process of contacting these students' parents.

If your student is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, it would be very wise to start the Hepatitis A and B immunizations now. This is a state law requirement for entering into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

I appreciate your prompt attention and cooperation to this matter.

Sincerely, A. Meldrum RN

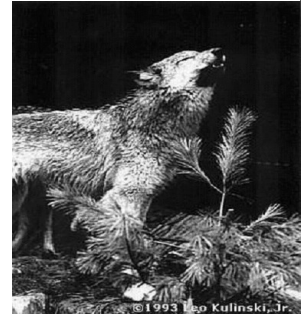
***YEARBOOK PICTURES:***

***School picture retakes will be on OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>.***

***Jostens will be directly collecting your 2006 Yearbook orders. Please be looking in your home mail for the order forms and instructions on how to contact them***

***Thank You!  
Amy McDaniels***

**KEEP IN TOUCH  
WITH THOREAU  
AND THE PTSA BY  
EMAIL!**



***THE E-HOWL***

**THE THOREAU E-HOWL** is an email list sponsored by the Thoreau PTSA. If you wish to add others to receive this list and updated, instant, archived information about Thoreau events and activities, (don't forget to tell your students, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc!)

**SIMPLY SEND A BLANK EMAIL TO:  
Thoreautulsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

All messages are conveniently archived at the PTSA website:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thoreautulsa/>

***Teachers' weekly agendas, calendars, and other useful info are posted at the school's official website:***

<http://tulsaschools.org/thoreau/>

**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 and desires to raise funds to support the programs in the school. Specifically, 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<sup>st</sup> Street, Tulsa, 74133. Thank you in advance for your support for this request.

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

With the November addition of the Thoreau newsletter, you will 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 still be available from the school office. However, if you prefer to continue receiving the paper version of the newsletter, please fill out the form below and return it to the office. We are happy to accommodate your communication needs.

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**NEWSLETTER:**

Please continue to mail the newsletter to our family.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**THOREAU ICE  
CREAM SOCIAL...**

**THANKS!!!!**

The Thoreau Ice Cream Social was a big hit once again! Thank you to all the student and parent volunteers who helped with this event. It could not have been done without you!

**PTSA MEMBERSHIP: \$5  
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S  
EDUCATION: PRICELESS**

If you have not yet joined Thoreau PTSA, sign up and sign on! We need *your membership and your participation* in Thoreau's PTSA. Please consider purchasing a \$5 membership for yourself and your child. Our goal this year is at least 100%. So far, 100% of the Thoreau Staff has joined and we hope our parents and students will do the same. As of September 15 we only had 222 paid memberships from parents and students. If you have a membership form, please send it in to school with your dues as soon as possible. If you need a form, call or email Kelly Greenough at 640-1561 or [ckgreenough@cox.net](mailto:ckgreenough@cox.net) no later than 10/15.

**2005 — 2006 PTSA OFFICERS**

**President: Susan Braselton  
749-0009**

**[Sbraselton@worldTVL.com](mailto:Sbraselton@worldTVL.com)**

**1st VP: Brita Cantrell  
749-5780  
[bhcantrell@cox.net](mailto:bhcantrell@cox.net)**

**2nd VP: Rhonda Ernst  
628-7777  
[rkernst@aol.com](mailto:rkernst@aol.com)**

**3rd VP: Diane Muselmann  
488-9790  
[muselmanns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:muselmanns@sbcglobal.net)**

**Treasurer: Jeanette Ross  
493-2689  
[jeanette\\_ross@nigc.gov](mailto:jeanette_ross@nigc.gov)**

**Secretary Lynn Staggs  
307-2319  
[c-lynn.staggs@mci.com](mailto:c-lynn.staggs@mci.com)**

**Delegates: Liz Klawitter  
585-9638  
[jlgaklaw@cox.net](mailto:jlgaklaw@cox.net)  
Territa Nathan  
592-1648  
[lddnathan@cox.net](mailto:lddnathan@cox.net)**

**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 per month \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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

**Return to School Office at Thoreau 7370 E. 71<sup>st</sup> 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**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 – Family Education Conference @ BTW  
 October 6 – Football @ LaFortune vs. Clinton-**HOME COMING**  
 October 10 – Girls Bball @ Webster 6:00/7:00/8:00 p.m.  
 October 13 – Girls Bball @ Monte Casino  
 October 17 – Girls Bball @ Rogers  
 October 18 – Football @ LaFortune vs. Hamilton  
 October 20 & 21 – NO SCHOOL  
 October 24 – Picture Retake Day  
 October 24 – Girls Bball @ Memorial  
 October 25 – Football @ LaFortune vs. Wilson  
 October 27 – PTSA Big Bash Fundraiser Party 3:30-4:15  
**October 28 – THOREAU TROMP 7:00-9:30 p.m.**  
 November 1 – Football @ LaFortune vs. Byrd  
 November 2 – Girls Bball @ Edison  
 November 3 – Student Led Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.  
 November 4 – Student Led Conferences 8:00-12:00-NO SCHOOL  
 November 7 – Girls Bball @ Edison  
 November 8 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Oxley Nature Center  
 November 8 – Girls Bball @ Edison  
 November 9 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Oxley Nature Center  
 November 30 – Girls Bball @ Edison  
 December 5 – Girls Bball @ Memorial  
 December 7 – Girls Bball @ Edison  
 December 8 – Girls Bball @ East Central  
 December 14 – Winter Concert 10:00 a.m.  
 December 15 – Winter Concert 7:00 p.m.

“Study depends on the goodwill of the student, a quality that cannot be secured by compulsion.”

Quintilian (ca. A.D. 35-ca. 100)

“I had three chairs in my house: one for solitude, two for friendship, and three for society.”

- 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.

**E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE TRAIL-BLAZER: [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'S--S573  
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 Tulsa OK 74114

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