



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 11th

PTO Meeting 7pm

Friday, October 13th

Fun Pasta Orders Due

Picture Day

Thomson Night @ NAHS Football Game 6pm

Wednesday, October 18th

Early Release Day 1:45pm

Saturday, October 21st

Knights in Training Kids Run 9am

Sunday, October 22nd

Monster Mash Trunk or Treat 3pm

Sunday, November 5th

Fall Clean Up 11am

From the Principal

Hello Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to so many parents and students who attended our National Walk to School Day last Wednesday. We had a great crowd and many Thomson Staff met everyone at Grogan's field. A great way to start the day.

We had our 2nd fire drill of the year last week under the supervision of the NAFD. We improved our evacuation time and students did an excellent job of being quiet while leaving the building. We will have at least one more fire drill before the cold weather sets in.

Smile!! Friday, October 13th is school picture day!

Thomson students in grades 3-5 will be taking the MAP test in Math during the week of October 9th. Please note the total testing time in each area is from 30 minutes to 2 hours. I have included more information about our MAP testing below:

MAP Testing Info for Families October 2017

This fall marks the third year NAPS students in grades 3-5 will be taking the Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) Growth assessment. This computer-based assessment is used to determine student's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year in the areas of Math and Reading.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for each child's level of learning. Students are asked to answer questions that demonstrate their authentic use of reading and math skills. Questions vary in degree of difficulty, thus allowing the test to assess where each child is ready for learning.

Students will be asked questions that they find easy, challenging and just right. The correct answers are not revealed to them, nor is their score. Students are reminded to do their best and not worry about getting every question correct. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing.

Students take the math and reading tests on two separate days. All students have as much time as they need to finish the test. If they do not finish in the time allotted with the class, they joined other students in completing the test at a later time. Additional accommodations are built into the test, such as teachers clarifying directions and students using scrap paper during the math test.

The response to the MAP testing has been very enthusiastic and positive from both teachers and students. Students are gaining more familiarity with Chromebooks and online assessments. The MAP tests provide immediate, detailed, accurate information about academic performance, thus teachers like the alignment to teaching standards and the immediacy of the results. The MAP test focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement and teachers use reports from the assessments to inform instruction. Students will be assessed again using the MAP tests in January and June.

Mark your calendar!

Friday, October 13th – Thomson night at the NAHS football game. Thomson students get in free! Stop by to cheer on the team....game starts at 6:00pm.

The **7th Annual Knights in Training Kids Run** is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st as part of the 2017 Homecoming Celebration. Last year the THOMSON TIGERS dethroned the 4-time champion ATKINSON ALL-STARs...it was an incredible achievement. Please see Mr. Morgan's PE Update below for more information and registration details.

Sincerely,
Mr. Raymond, Thomson Principal

PTO Updates

October PTO Meeting

Please join us in the library for our monthly PTO meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, October 11th. Agenda items include reviewing open positions, discussing fall events, and voting on the bylaws and 2017-2018 budget. All are welcome!

North Andover Schools Enrichment Council Presents:

Mainley Stars Planetarium's program "The Changing Moon". This week, Scott Negley, director of Mainley Stars Planetarium, will bring a unique experience to the Thomson School's 3rd Graders with his inflatable planetarium. "The Changing Moon" explores the cause of the moon's changing appearance during its monthly cycle of phases. Students follow the moon's nightly progression, using observations to predict its next stage. Using a hands-on moon model and lamp, each child demonstrates the cause of the phases and shows how lunar and solar eclipses occur when the sun and moon are perfectly aligned.

Mabel's Labels

Last week Mabel's Labels flyers were sent home in your children's backpacks. These durable labels in a variety of colors and designs will help make sure your child's things stay out of Lost and Found. Be sure to select Thomson School PTO (North Andover) at https://mabelslabels.com/us/index.php/?__store=us_english_storeview and the PTO will receive 20%.

Fun Pasta

Fun pasta packets are coming home. Pasta comes in different shapes and even your favorite sports teams. Checks can be made to Thomson PTO with orders due October 13th. Online ordering at: <https://www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/thomson-elementary-pto>

Monster Mash Trunk or Treat

Monster Mash Trunk or Treat is back! Sunday, October 22, 2017 from 3-5:30pm. Games, food, and lots of fun. This event cannot run without volunteers; please sign up at volunteer spot. Also, trunk spaces are filling up fast. First come first serve for \$30 donation. Please reach out to Jennifer.lebourdsis@gmail.com with any questions.

Thomson Library Volunteers Needed:

Library Update: Thank you to all our library volunteers! One additional volunteer is needed for the following 3 classes.

- 2R - Ms. Radulski - every other Wednesday from 12:05-12:35pm starting October 11.
- 4M - Ms. Moreau - every other Monday 10:00-10:30am starting October 23 (October 9 is holiday).
- 5L - Ms. Lee - every other Monday from 12:05-12:35pm starting October 16.

Book Donations Requested: Throughout the year, the Thomson Library will be requesting specific donations to fill holes in our catalog. For October, we have started a Spanish language section. New and used Spanish books are welcome, including anything from picture books to chapter books. Donations can be dropped off at the front office. Many thanks!

October Flowering Bulb Drive

The Beautification Committee is asking Thomson families to consider donating flower bulbs to plant this fall in front of the school. Daffodils, Tulips, Crocus's and Hyacinths of all colors are great choices, as we have areas of both sun and shade to plant around the school. Our goal is to have a spectacular display in the spring – like last year! Together, we will be planting the bulbs as part of the Fall Clean-up event scheduled for Sunday, November 5th at 11am (details on this event to follow in the upcoming weeks). There is a box labeled “Flowering Bulb Drive” to collect the donated bulbs inside the front entrance (lobby) of the school. Thank you in advance and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joanna O’Connell (millerjoanna@comcast.net).

Around Town

Marching Band Competition

Enjoy the performances of 10+ marching bands when the North Andover Music Association hosts the NESBA Marching Band Competition at North Andover High School at 4pm on Saturday, October 14th. Adult tickets are \$10, students and seniors are \$8. Concessions will be available for purchase. Visit northandovermusic.org for more information.

October at the Stevens Memorial Library

The Crazy 8 Math Club will start on October 12th. Grades K-2 will meet Thursdays 3:30-4:15 and grades 3-5 will meet Thursdays 4:15-5:00. Where math meets mischief! You'll build stuff, jump over laser beams, make a mess and play with colors! This is not your typical math club!!!

Wear your costume to our Halloween Party on Wednesday, October 25th from 3:30-4:30pm. We will have Halloween games, crafts, and fun!

Book Groups will be meeting on Tuesdays at 4pm. On October 3rd, the Beginning Reader Books Club will discuss Today I Will Fly (Elephant and Piggie). The Early Chapter Books Club will discuss Clementine on October 17th. The Chapter Books Club will discuss Wishing Spell (Land of Stories Book 1) on October 24th.

Call the library to register for Dog Day Afternoon on Tuesday, October 10th, and get some reading practice and dog snuggling at the same time!

Family Flu Clinic

The Town of North Andover 2017 Family Flu Clinic for ages 3+ will take place on Wednesday, October 18th, 5-7pm, at the NAHS Field House, 4300 Osgood Street. Bring all insurance cards. For more information and downloadable forms, visit <https://www.northandoverma.gov>.

PE Update From Mr. Morgan

Hello parents/caregivers! I wanted to let you know about the upcoming annual Future Knights on the Run! This is VERY exciting news because the Thomson School is the defending champion and we badly want to keep our title and trophy here!! Winning last year for the first time ever, our school needs to have the highest participation rate to defend our title. This means we need our Tigers out in FULL FORCE showing school pride!!

The Future Knights on the Run takes places at North Andover High School on Saturday, October 21, at approximately 9:00 am. The run itself does not take long and even with the trophy ceremony it is over by 10:00 am. You can register online for the run at <http://www.knightsrun5k.com/> or you can also register the day of the race at the high school beginning at 8:00 am. Please keep in mind if you register online you would want to register for the Kids Fun Run and NOT the 5K (unless of course you personally want to run the 5K!). All participants receive a race bib at check-in, a Knights on the Run band bracelet and lots of great giveaways! The cost is \$10 with ALL proceeds going to the North Andover Athletic Association (please note: if your child would like to participate but the \$10 entry fee is a hardship for you, you can register at the high school the day of the race and speak to one of the people registering runners or you can email Steve Nugent, the race organizer, ahead of time at nugents@northandoverpublicschools.com for a reduced rate).

If you have any questions about the run, feel free to contact me by email at morgans@northandoverpublicschools.com or by phone at 978-794-1545, ext. 50920. I will be sending home a flyer about the run with your child this week. I hope to see you there as we work to successfully defend our trophy!!! The picture below is of last year's trophy ceremony.



Have something you'd like to be included in Paw Prints? Please e-mail your announcement to Claudia J. Soo Hoo at ThomsonPawprints@hotmail.com by Friday at 10 a.m. in order to have it included in the following week's newsletter. Including "Paw Prints" in the e-mail subject line is helpful. Content subject to approval. Thank you.