

PAW PRINTS

November 3, 2008

www.northandoverpublicschools.com/thomson

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 3rd – 5th Grade Bully Busters – Be a good Citizen
Nov. 4th – No School–Full day professional development
Nov. 6th – Open Mike Event
Nov. 11th – No School – Veterans Day
Nov. 12th – Salute to our Veterans
Nov. 12th – PTO Meeting @7:00pm
Nov. 24th - 25th –Early Release and Parent/Teacher Conf.
Nov. 26th – Literacy Day & EARLY RELEASE DAY
Nov. 27th & 28th – No School - Thanksgiving

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT SCHOOL LUNCH HAS INCREASED TO **\$2.25**. MANY STUDENTS ARE FORGETTING TO BRING THE \$0.25.

Also, we never let your children go hungry. When your child does not bring a lunch or doesn't like what you pack, lunch is always available but PLEASE RE-PAY THE LUNCH BY SENDING IN YOUR MONEY THE NEXT DAY. Thank you for your help.

FROM MR. GILLIGAN...

I would like to thank the North Andover Police Department for donating glow sticks to our students for Halloween. Detective Donovan and Staude along with “McGruff the Crime Dog” visited Thomson to deliver the glow sticks and talk about Halloween Safety.

The Redistricting Advisory Committee held a public hearing on October 28th at the North Andover Middle School Auditorium. The purpose of the public hearing was to allow community members an opportunity to provide input on the proposed redistricting. It was a well-attended meeting with active participation and discussion. If you were unable to attend we would still like to hear from you. Please submit questions and/or suggestions to the Advisory Committee via email at redistricting@northandover.k12.ma.us and check for updates for upcoming information or news regarding redistricting at <http://www.northandoverpublicschools.com/>

Raise a Reader:

Your child is responsible for what he/she reads. One of the best ways to help your child find the meaning in reading material is to have him/her consciously look for the main idea. As he/she reads, he/she should ask him or herself: *What is the big idea here? What is the main idea of the paragraph? What is this page about? What is the point of this chapter?* Just keeping those questions in mind will help him/her find the answer. It makes him/her think about the information. It helps him/her compare it to what he already knows. The result is better understanding.

Save the Date: On Wednesday, November 26th, we will celebrate our 12th Annual Family Literacy Day at Thomson School. Family members will be invited to come to school from 8:15-9:00 a.m. to read to their children. Details will follow in upcoming Thomson Paw Prints. We hope you will be able to make arrangements to come and join in the fun!

PTO UPDATES:

A BIG THANK YOU to Kevin Spicer for planting the four new trees at the school! We really appreciate Kevin taking the time out of his busy Saturday to get the job done. The trees were purchased with a grant from the Melanoma Foundation.

HOLIDAY FAIR VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED! The Holiday Fair is a fun filled day for families that includes arts and crafts, games, food, raffles and shopping. The fair will be on November 22nd from 10-3. Several volunteers are needed to work at various stations at the fair. You can volunteer as little as an hour so please consider signing up. If you would like to volunteer to work the day of the fair, please contact Sherrie Cashman @ sherriecash@verizon.net or 978-688-9101.

STILL LOOKING FOR CRAFTERS! If you know of a friend, family member or business associate who does crafting please let them know we are still looking for crafters for our Holiday Fair. They can contact Diane Camire @ 978-689-3742 or dianecamire@hotmail.com

The Annual **Thomson School Holiday Fair** will take place this year on Saturday, November 22nd. Once again, we will be raffling off theme baskets filled with items donated by the Thomson students. Items can be dropped off in the marked boxes set up outside the classrooms. All donations must be received by Friday November 7th. Please make sure items are new and unopened. The following are the themes for each grade level: **Kindergarten**-Be a Princess, Boy Action Figures; **First Grade** - Playful pets, Arts and Crafts for ages 4-7; **Second Grade** - Family Game Night Ages 5-7, Disney Mania; **Third Grade** - Movie Night, Cooking with Kids; **Fourth Grade** - Sports, Family Game Night (ages 8 and up); **Fifth Grade** Sleepover, Everything North Andover. If you have any questions please contact Holly Breen at HKBreen@comcast.net or (978) 258-8538.

Calling all artists! The PTO is looking for a Thomson student to design the cover of this year's holiday fair thank you cards. The cards are sent to each business that donates to the fair. If you would like to submit a drawing for consideration, please forward to the PTO no later than November 10th. The drawing must be on letter size paper and have a winter and/or holiday theme. At our meeting on November 12th, the PTO will pick the drawing to be used for the card. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Buzlaff at laurie.buzlaff@verizon.net or 978-852-2829.

North Andover CAM is looking for volunteers to run the camera for town meetings/events. Volunteers will be trained on how to use the equipment and cameras. If interested, please contact Brian Fraser at bfraser@northandovercam.org or 978-687-6570.

Do you have a question about the PTO agenda or what was covered at the last meeting? Do you have a topic you would like to discuss at our next meeting? If so, please email Laurie Buzlaff @ laurie.buzlaff@verizon.net or Sherrie Cashman @ sherriecash@verizon.net. We value your input and strongly encourage all parents to contact any PTO board member with questions or concerns.

Did you know you can help raise money for Thomson School every time you shop at Target? Go to www.target.com/tcoe and enroll Thomson as your school of choice.



BOX TOPS!!! BOX TOPS!!! The October tally has been completed and the boxtops winner for the month is MRS. SCHMIDT'S CLASSROOM!!! Display that trophy proudly and enjoy your free recess!!!!!! I am really happy on how many boxtops everyone is submitting - great job well done!!! Great job on all the boxtops submitted for the Target promotion - we are looking good for raising more money than last year with this program!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please don't forget to put your classroom along with your name on your collection sheets and/or baggies!!!!!! Everyone uses tissues, right? Do you know that on the bottom of each box of Kleenex is a boxtop - how easy is that to clip? As the holidays approach don't forget that many of the items that you use have the boxtops on them including crescent rolls, cookie mixes, cake mixes, frostings, ziploc bags, saran wrap and hefty cups and plates to name a few - they are on much much more than cereal!!!! Check out the site for more ideas at www.boxtopsforeducation.com.

AROUND TOWN:

GOT BASKETBALL?? The North Andover Crusaders Special Olympic Basketball Team will begin its third season on Tuesday, November 11th! This Special Olympics Unified Sports Basketball Team includes players (ages 8-18) with intellectual disabilities playing along side similarly aged non-disabled teammates. Special Olympics Unified Sports brings together Special Olympic Athletes and Team Partners building friendship, character, and leadership and inspiring greatness in ALL who participate. **Come join the fun!** The team will practice Tuesday nights (excluding holiday weeks) starting November 11th through February 24th. Practices are held at the Joseph N. Hermann Youth Center. The Elementary School teams will practice from 5:30 to 6:30pm and the Middle and High School teams will practice from 6:45 to 7:45pm. **WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR ASSISTANT COACHES!!!** Volunteering for the Special Olympics is rewarding experience, provides a meaningful contribution to our community, and is a lot of fun!! Please contact Kathleen Keith at northandovercrusaders@hughes.net for more information.

RECYCLING Go Green Tip of the Week: Recycle Batteries after Halloween & the end of Day Light Savings Time, there are dead flashlight, camera & smoke detector batteries. Only alkaline batteries are disposable in the trash. If you have any **rechargeable batteries**, they can be recycled at **Radio Shack** free of charge (no pun intended). Batteries from your power tools, cordless phones & lap tops are usually Ni-Cd batteries and require special disposal due to the toxic metals they contain. **Ni-Cd** batteries do reduce overall waste due to their rechargeable feature and all the metals in them can be recycled when disposed of properly. Lead Acid batteries are commonly found in emergency lighting and computer back-up systems. To identify lead acid batteries, look for the letters **Pb** on the battery. These can be taken to the **DPW** the **3rd Saturday of every month** for disposal as well as any **button type batteries** (found in watches, sound books, keychain remotes, small electronics).