



December 2014

**Where well  
rounded starts  
with well educated**

The Honor Scroll is a monthly-produced publication intended to showcase the energy and events that happen throughout THRS during the previous month. This publication will be enotified to your email addresses.

## Administration

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Assistant Principal

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## Pride of THRS



November's Assembly and Pep Rally ended with the students besting the faculty in the annual Old Boot Game. Mrs. Quintero provided color commentary for the hard fought battle as Coach Weller officiated. Before the game we were treated to a performance by our THRS Cheer Team, updates from our sport teams, and also honored Citizens of the Month.





# Old Boot Battle





# Branching Out with STEM

*"Too often we give children answers to remember instead of problems to solve."*

*-Roger Lewin*

There is a wide recognition that American students need broader and deeper science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education; however, many schools do not introduce this interdisciplinary approach until middle school. At Nobel Learning Communities, we believe that starting STEM education in preschool is important to help students build problem-solving, reasoning and critical thinking skills, as well as self-confidence and self-direction.

This fall, all of our principals and teachers have participated in professional development sessions to create innovative lesson plans featuring STEM activities. Both students and teachers are having fun exploring real-world problems together.

Below are a few ways that we integrate STEM in our classrooms and some ideas to try at home.

**Science:** In our classrooms, students participate in various science projects to practice close observation and experimentation. They make volcanos using baking soda, food dye and vinegar, observe the result of soda bottle geysers, and create rain clouds using shaving cream and food dye. Perform a science experiment at home by making a lava lamp using a plastic bottle, water, oil, and food dye. Ask your child to make predictions on what would happen to the ingredients in the bottle. Will the oil and water mix?

**Technology:** We integrate technology into our academic curriculum by providing opportunities for students to

explore changes in technology over time, use technology to express themselves creatively, and learn terminology relevant in this digital age. For instance, they explore sun dials, analog clocks and digital clocks and discuss how each item is used to tell time. At home, have your child look for different forms of technology such as computers, tablets, telephones and cell phones. Ask him to share the differences and similarities he sees.



**Engineering:** Our students work collaboratively to design and create inventions, while building communication, creativity and cooperation skills. They build boats and cars using cardboard boxes, make containers to grow plants, and build cities out of blocks. Continue the learning at home by asking your child to build a fort using pillows, assemble a tower from magazines, or create a necklace using macaroni and string.

**Mathematics:** We give children hands-on experience with math concepts such as pattern, size, shape and quantity. For example, student sort and count different types of cereal and graph their favorites. Take a nature walk with your child and have him collect leaves or small rocks in a basket. When you get home, ask him to count the objects and describe the colors, shapes and textures.

In summary, we provide numerous fun and challenging STEM projects to encourage collaboration, problem solving, decision making, creativity and innovation. Through these activities, our students build the foundation they need for a lifetime of learning.

**- Lauren Starnes, PhD**

**Director of Early Childhood Education**



***"Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me..."***

The most magical time of the year is here and there is nothing better than listening to the sweet sound of our children singing the age old classics to get into the holiday spirit. For me that is the best part of the holidays.

In the next few weeks, our students will experience the spirit of the season through many holiday projects as we celebrate winter holidays around the world. **Our TK Winter Concert** will be held on **Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. in the gym** and **Toddlers/Pre-K concert on Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. in the gym** as well. Students must report to their classroom by 5:30 p.m. on their concert night. While we would like all students to participate, please do inform your child's teacher if there is a conflict and your child is unable to do so. Please be on the look-out for information the teachers will send out in the next few days, regarding class parties and book exchanges.

I would like to extend a big thank you to our parents for their enthusiastic support for our canned food drive, volunteering at our bake sales and Book Fair.

On behalf of all of us at ECP, I wish you a joyous holiday season, filled with the love of family and friends and a New Year rich with blessings.

Warm regards,

*Joy Dasgupta*

Early Childhood Principal



## Dates to Remember

### December

- Dec. 1 Picture Re-takes
- Dec. 5 Santa Pictures
- Dec. 5 TK-4 Bake Sale
- Dec. 8 TK Winter Concert at 6 p.m. in the Gym
- Dec. 12 TK-2 Bake Sale
- Dec. 18 PreK-1 Bake Sale
- Dec. 18 Toddler/ Pre-K Winter Concert at 6 p.m. in the gym
- Dec. 19 Last day of school— 1/2 day for TK-8th - Regular hours for Toddler & Pre-K
- Dec. 22 to Jan 4 Winter Holiday—CAMPUS CLOSED

### January

- Jan. 5 1st day back to school for ECP
- Holiday care available for K-8th

## *Thank You*

Thank you Janet Nuckles, Patrick Kwan, Johana Camelo, Priti Advani, Adreienne Banks, Sonia Tummala, Pebble Anderson, Megan Malone, Rachel Do, Sadaf Charania and all of our wonderful PreK-2 parents for helping to make our bake sale an awesome success by donating your time, \$\$\$ and snacks!!! You're the best!



## PARTNERS PLANS:

THRS Partners invites you to the following events:

- ◇ 1/16 Fun Food Friday at dismissal
- ◇ 1/16 Partners Coffee Social/Festival of Friends Kick Off at 8 a.m.
- ◇ 2/6 Pajama Bingo Night 6-8 p.m.
- ◇ 3/2-3/5 Book Fair
- ◇ 4/17 Festival of Friends

## Calendar of Events

**Dec. 8** — Winter Concerts: TK at 6 p.m. ; Second and Third Grade at 7 p.m. in the Gym

**Dec. 10** — Winter Concerts: Kindergarten at 6 p.m.; First Grade at 7 p.m. in the Gym

**Dec. 16** — Fourth Grade Play 7 p.m. in the Dining Hall

**Dec. 16-18** — Middle School Exams; Early Dismissal for Middle School only

**Dec. 18** — Toddler and Pre-K Winter Concerts 6 p.m. in the Gym.

**Dec. 19** — Early Dismissal grades K-8

**Dec. 22** — Winter Break Begins

**Jan. 5** — ECP Classes Resume

**Jan. 6** — Elementary and Middle School Classes Resume

**Jan. 16** — End of Second Quarter

**Jan 19** — Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday; Campus Closed

Be sure to check the website for the most up-to-date calendar!

# Dolphins Tech Talk

This year, THRS rolled out a 1:1 iPad® program. All teachers from 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and students 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> received an iPad® at the beginning of the school year. In total, 150 new iPads were activated and enrolled on the program. Key staff members such as our new Vanguard teacher, Mrs. Washington, along with our new Head of School, Mr. Tom Heinly, received training from Apple over the summer. In addition to the 1:1 program, the school has 30 iPads® that are available for check-out through the IT office. Teachers are encouraged to utilize the devices to integrate technology in their classroom while making learning even more fun for our students. Enhancing instruction and promoting the use of this technology as a learning tool is quickly becoming part of our daily lives at THRS.

One of the IT projects this year is to replace all XP machines on campus. 20 new computers were installed in the computer lab, and the Middle School computer lab will also receive new computers in the coming weeks. Students in grades K-4<sup>th</sup> now have access to workstations in their classroom, all with high-speed internet. To date, our school has a 1:5 computer-to-student ratio.

- Angela Balouchestani  
IT Specialist