



## Dates to Remember and More News...

**October 17-21** Fall break

**October 24-27** Parent conferences

**October 24-28** Signal Mountain Social Services Pumpkin Coin Drive

**October 24 & 25** MEF Phoneathon

**Friday, October 28** Early dismissal @ 11:40 and Halloween parties from 10:00-11:00

**Friday, November 4** School Assembly to kick off Book Fair Week

**Tuesday, November 8** Family Night @ the Book Fair @ 5:30

**Thursday, November 10** Grand Pals Day

## Notes from the Principal

Our school year is in full gear, and things are going very well for our Thrasher students and teachers. I need to remind you of some very important safety issues.

Kim Fookes, a Thrasher parent, has so graciously worked on our **new staff and faculty parking area in the front of school**. She has spent many hours spreading gravel, planting monkey grass and shrubbery, and laying a walking path.

**This new staff and faculty parking lot is not a drop-off or pick-up area for Thrasher children.** We have several walkers who walk through this parking area in the mornings and afternoons. For their safety and

8:30-10:30 for students with last names beginning with **A-M**

12:30-2:00 for students with last names beginning with **N-Z**

**Thursday, November 17** Fifth grade parents' information meeting @ SMMHS (time to be announced)

**Friday, November 18** *Reflections* submission deadline

**November 23-25** Thanksgiving break

**November 30-December 9** Signal Mountain Social Services Canned Food Drive

## Reading is Out of this World...

Please join us for the PTA's Annual Book Fair

November 7-11, 2011

Our daily shopping hours are:

**Mon** 9:00 to 2:30

**Tues** 9:00 to 2:30 and 5:30 to 8:30

**Weds** 9:00 to 4:30

**Thurs** 8:30 to 2:30

(Grand Pals event ends at 2:00)

**Fri** 7:30 to 12:00 (Kindergarten will shop from 9:45-11:10)

Please make plans to attend our two special events!

**Family Night with Dinner:**

Tuesday, November 8

5:30-8:30

**Grand Pal's Day:**

the safety of your own children, **please drop off and pick up your children at the designated back entrance of school.** While it may take a few minutes longer, our children's safety is assured as we have teachers appointed for the car line in the mornings and afternoons.

The back entrance doors are opened at 7:45 a.m. every morning. **Please have your child ready to exit your car as soon as you pull up to the designated drop off area of the car line. Make sure that agenda mates are signed, checks are written, field trip slips are completed, and all other items are completed before you drop off.** This preparedness insures that the car line wait will be minimized.

Children will remain in the dining hall until they are dismissed to their classrooms at 8:05 by our two designated Thrasher staff members.

**After you drop off your children and when exiting the car line in the mornings and afternoons, please do not use your cell phones until you are out of the Thrasher school zone. Please adhere to the 5 miles per hour speed while in the school drive and the 15**

Thursday, November 10

8:30-10:30 for  
student with last names **A-M**

2:30-2:00 for  
student with last names **N-Z**

Reservations are required for both "special events". Watch for more information to come home in your child's back pack. Check out our Book Fair website for more information at: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/thrasher/elementary>

**Please contact Kelly Drayer, Jamie Rehm, or Shannon Farr for more information or if you want to add your name to the volunteer list.**

## ***Reflections Art Contest***

We are continuing to work on introducing the *Reflections* Art Contest to Thrasher this year. This is a national PTA program designed to encourage students to explore their artistic talents. Students may submit their work in any of six categories, including visual arts, dance choreography, photography, film production, musical composition, and literature. Their entries must reflect the theme "Diversity Means...". Mr. McEvoy has linked the *Reflections* website ([ptareflections.org](http://ptareflections.org)) to the PTA section of the Thrasher website so that students can get all of the pertinent information to participate in the contest.

Our Related Art teachers, Mrs. Stagmaier, Mrs. Julian, and Mr. McEvoy, have agreed to introduce the contest to the students during the week of October 24<sup>th</sup> in their classrooms. The students will be able to work some in class if they choose, but they will have until November 18<sup>th</sup> to submit

**miles per hour speed while still in the school zone.**

Thank you for abiding by these safety rules. Our children deserve to arrive and leave school every day in the safest of environments.

Regards,  
Aimee Randolph

## **President's Notes**

Have you been in the halls of Thrasher lately? If not, you won't be surprised to learn that Thrasher teachers, students, and parents have not slowed down this fall! Just to get an idea of many of the activities, this newsletter is full of exciting information about all of the latest and greatest developments at Thrasher!

Thrasher students proudly knocked on doors and made phone calls to sell 4,000 Hamilton County coupon books. Sales proceeds are used to purchase and update our technology equipment, leveled text books, and other much needed learning tools for our students and teachers.

Thrasher fifth graders participated in the MEF Homecoming parade. The children had fun making signs, throwing candy, and showing their true Panther Pride.

their entries. The entries will then be scored by 'judges' in our community and subsequently submitted to the county for the state competition on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you or someone you know would be willing to help judge the entries, (judging will take place between November 28th and December 7th), please contact Carrie Fowler at [carrieparkerfowler@gmail.com](mailto:carrieparkerfowler@gmail.com) or Celestial Allen [celestialallen@gmail.com](mailto:celestialallen@gmail.com).

## Fall Sportswear

### Coming Soon

During the week of the Book Fair, fall sportswear will be available. We will be offering hooded sweatshirts for \$30 and flannel pajama pants for \$25. You can place your orders on Family Night or on Grand Pals Day. Order forms will go home with students on Friday, November 4 as well. The last day to order will be Thursday, November 10.

## Signal Mountain Social Services

### Pumpkin Coin Drive

Our Thrasher Student Council members will use their creative juices to make some fun (and funny!) pumpkins to display on the school stage during the week of October 24-28. Students can bring their spare change and vote on their favorite creations and deposit their coins in containers next to each pumpkin contestant. All proceeds will be donated to Signal Mountain Social Services!

## Schoolkidz Comes to Thrasher

We are very proud of our computer lab which was transformed into our up and running Apple Mac lab over the summer. Our students are on the cutting edge of technology as they are not only learning to keyboard but they are able to make films, Power Point presentations, and many other programs that will better prepare them for their middle and high school years and even years beyond them. Our technology teacher, Ricky McEvoy, is doing an incredible job teaching and getting our students excited about our fast paced world of technology.

In typical Thrasher tradition, we are proud to once again have 100% PTA membership of our parents and teachers! Not all Hamilton County Schools can make that claim! Thanks so much for your support and interest in our PTA!

Our teachers and parents are always striving to maintain high learning standards for our children. We are very proud of all or our accomplishments this fall.

Patti Marsden  
Thrasher PTA President

## Meet the New

We are excited to announce that all parents and students will have an opportunity to get their 2012-2013 school supply shopping done this spring! For those families interested, Mountain Education Foundation and Thrasher parents, Stacey Fraker and Jill Kadrie, will be coordinating school supply orders with Schoolkidz, a Staples subsidiary, for each grade level. More news will be coming after the first of the year!

## Teachers

Thrasher Elementary would like to welcome the newest members of our teaching family!



**Left to right: Michelle Bailey (K), Tracy Crosby (5), Danielle Lillie (4), Jennifer Lockwood (3), Hillary Gardner (1), Kathy Guagenti (3)**

Michelle Bailey has taught Brain Dance at Thrasher and earned her master's degree in Elementary Education. She taught second grade at Barger Academy of Fine Arts and first grade at St. Peter's School. She is returning "home" to Thrasher to teach children in our community. Her children, Jacob and Sarah Kate, are Thrasher graduates. Caroline is in the third grade at Thrasher.

Tracy Crosby is excited to be at Thrasher Elementary this year. In her thirteenth year of teaching, this is her eighth year teaching fifth grade. She attended Lee University and earned a degree in English/Reading for Elementary Education. She completed her master's degree in Education at the University of Tennessee at

Chattanooga. Her oldest son started kindergarten at Thrasher, and she couldn't be happier about sharing the experience with this welcoming school community! In her spare time she enjoys photography, do-it-yourself projects, crafting, reading, and theme parties!

Danielle Lillie grew up in a town outside of Tampa, Florida. She attended the University of South Florida where she received a degree in Elementary Education. Her first job in the teaching world was in a third grade classroom. She later moved to be with her same students when they reached the fifth grade. She and her husband moved to the Chattanooga area and fell in love with their surroundings.

Mrs. Lillie taught fifth grade at Red Bank Elementary for four years.

This year is Hillary Gardner's first year of teaching, and she is very happy to be at Thrasher with a group of wonderful children, families, and teachers. She attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for undergraduate and graduate

school, and she completed her master's degree in Early Childhood Education in July. Last year, she taught as an intern in kindergarten and first grade classrooms in Knox County and the Maryville City School systems. As a Chattanooga native, she is so happy to be back in Chattanooga, especially at Thrasher Elementary!

Jennifer Lockwood is happy to join our school as a third grade teacher this year. She earned a B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She has taught third grade at Red Bank Elementary School and taught at Highland Plaza United Methodist Preschool. This is her fifth year of teaching and loves the dynamic, child-centered and community-based school environment of Thrasher. When not teaching, Jennifer can be found reading a good book, spending time with her two daughters and husband or squandering her time away outside.

Kathy Guagenti has joined the third grade team. She has over nine years of experience teaching in Hamilton County. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Cincinnati and her

Master's degree from Ohio State University. She has two boys, Dominic, age 11, and Charlie, age 9, who attend Nolan. The Guagentis and have lived on Signal Mountain for fourteen years.

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