

Volunteering at School!

Thornhill loves its parent volunteers! There are lots of ways to help, so if you are interested there are many ways to help that fit your skills and your calendar.

For the coordination of the volunteer program and the safety of our children we have a few requirements. All volunteers are expected to attend an orientation at Thornhill Elementary in September, and register with the school district. All volunteers must have current TB test results on file. If working alone with children, volunteers must also submit fingerprint results from the Department of Justice. These actions help provide common expectations in our school and help protect our children.

The following list will give you an idea of some of the volunteering opportunities that come up throughout the year:

- In the classroom: this is something the teacher may request at back to school night. It would be a regular time slot that you commit to during school hours. Volunteering in the classrooms is managed by the teachers, so the tasks may not be involving your child or other children. The purpose of classroom volunteering is to help the teacher.
- Support classroom activities at home: sometimes the teachers have other jobs (like stapling early reader books together), that you can do to help out, but you can do them at home when you have time rather than during working hours.
- Class parties: Most classrooms celebrate holidays with a party. Parents, coordinated by the room parent, are always needed to help run them. Many parents will send some sort of food or art project, and a few will show up to actually help during the party.
- Field trips: field trips always need drivers and chaperones. Forms are completed at the beginning of the year, or just before the trip. Expect 2-3 driving field trips for kindergarteners, and 2-3 walking fieldtrips.
- PFC: Parent Faculty Club (Thornhill's "PTA"). There are a number of positions on the board that one can take. Although not directly involved with the day-to-day activities, the PFC actively supports all school programs. A perfect position for someone who likes to work behind the scenes. Contact: *president@thomhillschool.org*
- PFC fundraising: We always need people to help organize and work at the fundraising events. The Walkathon and Auction are the two biggies, but there are other, smaller events too. Contact: *vpfundraising@thomhillschool.org*
- Staff appreciation lunch: this is another event that the hospitality chair will mention later in the year and ask for parent volunteers to help.
- Your own idea! Maybe you can think of a way to help. Office help on call, extra yard or cafeteria supervision at recess and lunch, gardening ... Just get in touch with the principal. Do not hesitate if you have questions!

After School Programs at Thornhill

After school programs at Thornhill Elementary are mainly fee based because we do not have a significant number of Title 1 children. Adventure Time, or "AT", is the main childcare provider. Adventure Time provides child care after school and sometimes on holidays. They are a private company that contracts with Oakland Public Schools to operate on about 10 campuses.

- The AT teachers get your child from class at the end of the school day and walk them to the portable. They will also pick up your kid if your child has an after school class.
- Check with them for the exact rules and prices, but usually you must sign up for a minimum of 5 hours per week. Once you are signed up, you can use drop in care in a pinch by calling.
- The type of care is mostly free play.
- Enrollment in AT happens in the spring after enrollment in school.

After school enrichment classes are another option. Providers offer a wide range of activities including Animation, African Dance, Comic Book Illustration, Chess, Choir, Creative Writing, Drama, KidzArt, Legos, Hip Hop, Mad Science, Mandarin, Mixed Media Art, Percussion, Power Speaking, Rock Band, Spanish and Tennis. The PFC puts out information about these programs and coordinates the calendar.

New this year are two (2) volunteer based programs, Homework Club and Morning Sunshine Practice. Morning Sunshine Practice will be lead by community volunteer from Montclair Dance Athletics between 8:05 and 8:35am Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. **Homework Club will be available if we have enough parent volunteers to staff the program from 3-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

This year, enrichment classes will begin in the 3rd week in the fall and continue for the remainder of the school year (36 weeks). In the fall, individual fliers will be posted to Thornhill's home page at www.thornhillschool.org the day following student assignment. Please click on individual flyers for class descriptions and registration information. For hard copies of these flyers, please stop by the school office.

Many of the programs we offer conduct registration online. But a good number of providers prefer paper registration. This year, all paper registration forms has been formatted such that they can be prefilled prior to printing. Please take advantage of this feature before printing registration flyers.

For session dates, general rules of conduct, class list and site map, please refer to the Thornhill Enrichment Program letter.