

COLT E-NEWSLETTER

MAIN OFFICE: 541-744-5000

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Happy New Year!

Happy New Year and Welcome Back to all of our Thurston students and families. It is our sincere hope that the time away was relaxing and brought you peace and happiness.

January brings the start of a new year, and the end of a rewarding 1st semester at THS. With **only three weeks until Finals**, now is the time for students to believe in themselves, and get help when they need it. There are several positive ways a student can practice self-advocacy and ensure there is a strong finish to the Semester.

1. Students should try to acquire all the information they can.
2. Students should speak up for themselves.
3. Students should ask for help when they need it:
Remember, THS has a Tutoring Center in the THS Library.
4. Ask questions!!!

Simple strategies to encourage positive communication can help students and teachers reach understandings that will likely result in improved academic achievement.

Welcome to a new year, and an opportunity to finish strong.

ALICE Training at THS

On December 9th, Thurston students and staff were involved in a school-wide ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training. ALICE is the new emergency response protocol that has been implemented district-wide. Overall, the feedback has been very positive from both students and staff- As staff members walked around campus after the training the consistent response from students was they felt "empowered," "encouraged," and "better prepared." Students also said that ALICE is better than the old way of responding to emergencies on or around campus. This message is consistent in other buildings around the district. In the days and months to come the district will be working with staff, parents, and students on what future trainings and drills will look like. THANK YOU THS students and staff for making ALICE training successful!

[Thurston One Page](#)

For Current Information on the Calendar, bell schedule and how to contact staff visit the:

[Thurston Website](#)

To check out the schedule and see our events visit the:

[Events Calendar](#)

For times and locations of our sporting events visit the:

[Sports Calendar](#)

Connect with us and "LIKE" us at:

[THS Facebook](#)

Follow us on Twitter

[@thscolts](#)**Coats for Colts**

Next Friday, January 15th, the boys and girls basketball program and Thurston's Winter Coat Drive are teaming up. All adults who bring any size coat for a donation will receive free entrance to the boys and girls double-header games against North Medford HS. The coats will be used for keeping the Colt Community warm. Thank you and GO COATS!



Sincerely,
Freshmen Class of 2019

Important Dates:

- 1/8 - Early Release - Black Day
- 1/9 - College Goal Oregon
- 1/14 - 1/16 - Taming of the Shrew- Auditorium
- 1/16 - Robotics Tournament - Junction City - 9AM
- 1/18 - Martin Luther King Day - No School
- 1/22 - Hall of Fame Reception - Cafeteria - TBA
- 1/23 - Hall of Fame Dinner - Cafeteria - 5:30PM
- 1/25 - 1/27 - Finals Days - Schedule on website/Facebook
- 1/28 - 1/29 - Grading & parent contact day

College and Career Center**File Your FAFSA On January 1, 2016!**

On January 1, 2016 is the first time you are able to file your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if your student is planning to attend a two or four year college or university next fall. The FAFSA determines your family's eligibility for grants, work study funds, and low-interest loans provided by the federal government. Your FAFSA results may also qualify you for other money that is made available through independent scholarships and the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC).

To apply for funds, both the student and parent must complete separate portions of the application, and each person must have their own individual FSA ID. An FSA ID is comprised of a username and password and can be used to login to certain Federal Student Aid websites, such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. To get your FSA ID go to www.fsaaid.ed.gov. After securing your FSA ID, gather together your family's financial information and documents to process the FAFSA. There is a FAFSA worksheet (available either online or through the THS College & Career Center) that will help you get your information organized prior to filling out the actual FAFSA form. The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

IMPORTANT!! Please be aware that funds offered and distributed through the FAFSA are on a first-come, first-serve basis! Do not wait until April (when taxes are usually filed) to do this. At this time, use estimates and information from your previous year's taxes. You can update or revise your information if necessary. Most colleges and universities have made their offers for financial aid and admissions long before the tax filing date. Funds may already be distributed by this time, so file your FAFSA as early as possible.

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College and Career Center Cont..

Free Financial Aid Event - College Goal Oregon at THS

If you need some assistance filing your FAFSA and learning more about other sources of financial assistance for college, attend College Goal Oregon on Saturday, January 9, at Thurston High School (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) or on Saturday, January 16, at Lane Community College. This free event is open for drop-in hours between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Experts will be available to assist you in filling out your FAFSA online. You are asked to be prepared ahead of time by bringing various documents listed under the "FAQs" section at www.CollegeGoalOregon.org.

Parking Help

Reminder: Parents and students please do not park in the spots designated for the THS Child Development Center. These spots are for CDC staff and preschool parents to pick up their children in a safe zone from 7:00am-4:00pm.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important issue. If your student needs to purchase a parking space on campus, please come to the front office for the paperwork. Students need to have an assigned and paid parking space to park at Thurston. Questions? Call the front office 541-744-5000. Thanks!



You are invited!!

Save the Date!

College Goal Oregon...Ways to Pay for College

WHEN: Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 9:00-12:00pm

WHERE: Thurston High School

WHAT: Complete your FAFSA in one day, attend scholarship workshops: How to Write a Winning Essay, OSAC Scholarship Help, etc. Representatives from University of Oregon Financial Aid Office will be here to help

For both you and your parents, bring:

- Social Security Card
- Driver's license (if any)
- Final pay stubs for 2015
- Federal Income Tax Return for 2014
- Untaxed income records
- Current bank statements
- Current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records
 - Alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. Citizen)

It's FREE! Three \$100 Scholarships will be Awarded

How to get to the College & Career Center Website:
thscolt.space.com
go to College & Career Center

Upcoming Date:

January 9th College Goal Oregon... Ways to Pay for College!

Websites:

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.studentaid@ed.gov
www.oregonstudentaid.gov
www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
www.finaid.org

Naviance

<https://connection.naviance.com/thurston>
User Name: Your 6-digit Student ID number
Password: Birthday MM/DD/YYYY (use slashes)

Questions? Call Linda Urness 541.744.5157
or linda.urness@springfield.k12.or.us

Thurston's Pantry

Thurston High School is proud to partner with food for Lane County to provide food, school supplies, warm clothes, and toiletries free of charge to Thurston families. Thurston Middle School held a food drive before Winter Break and donated 1800 pounds of food to Thurston High Schools food pantry to help more students and families in the Thurston community. If you know of any one in need please call Thurston's main office and let us know. (541) 744-5000
Thurston High School's Food Pantry is an equal opportunity provider.

Martin Luther King Jr. Event

Please consider attending and supporting the annual MLK Jr. event on Monday, January 18th at Springfield High School. The theme this year is based on the quote, "The time is always right to what is right" MLK JR, Oberlin College Commencement Address 1965. The march starts at 1:30 at the Springfield Justice Center, followed by an art reception from students all around the district. At 2:30, the program will start, and will feature three THS 10th grade students who took 1st through 3rd places at the MLK Speech contest back in December. The speakers are: 1st place: Tiffany Hilkey, 2nd place: Charlie Emery, and 3rd place: Sean Gley. This is a totally free event and we hope to see you there!

Senior Information

January 8th - Miner's graduate services will be here at THS in the morning to place orders for Caps and Gowns.

Order online @ minersgrad.com.

January 9th - College Goal Oregon! Need help completing your FAFSA or Oregon Promise applications? Stop in on Saturday, January 9th from 9AM until 12PM and find "Ways to Pay for College".

February 16th-Early Bird deadline for OSAC

March 1st-Deadline for OSAC

May 31- Tickets will go on sale for Senior Breakfast and Graduation

June 10th- Senior Breakfast @ the Eugene Hilton from 8 AM until 10 AM (Price to be determined)

June 11th- Graduation @ the Hult Center at 1:00 PM (Number of tickets to be determined)