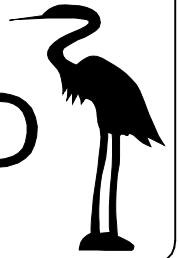


THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

February 15, 2008

Important Dates

Mon., Feb. 18

No School

Thurs., Feb. 21

Thurston Preschool Open House 6:30-7:30pm

Mon.-Fri., Feb. 25 – Feb 29

No school
Mid-winter Break

Thurs., Mar. 6

Thurston Kindergarten Round-up 6:00-7:00 pm

Mon., Mar 10

No school for elementary students

Thurs., Mar. 20

Spring Picture Day

Fri., Mar 21

No school

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Tuesday, February 19

Principals Notes

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE – for eight weeks, Thurston 5th graders will be participating in a pilot program one day a week during gym. It is the Active Living & Life Skills Project established to supplement efforts to improve the quality of life and wellness programs for children. During their Wednesday gym class, they are learning Ballroom Hustle Dances. The instructors are Calvin Siebert, also known as “Mr. Smooth”, and his wife, Jackie Siebert. The program will culminate with a banquet and performance by the students where they will showcase their newly acquired dance skills. If the program is successful at Thurston it will be considered for other schools in the district. You are welcome to stop by the gym between 9:00-11:00am on Wednesdays and learn a few steps yourself!

MEAP Results have not yet been released by the State. Once the results are released I will publish the information in the Newsletter.

Patricia A. Manley, Principal

No School for Students Monday, February 18

From the Music Room

You may have seen a new face in the music room recently. Thurston students that have music on Mondays or Thursdays have been introduced to my new student teacher, Mr. Spence. Mr. Spence is a percussionist from Michigan State University, and is splitting his time with Thurston and Tappan Middle School. He is doing a great job as he begins to teach the Thurston students. Welcome Mr. Spence!

This week, the 2nd and 5th graders traveled to Rackham Auditorium to see Wu Man and the Bay Area Shawm Band. Then, on Wednesday, the students were excited to have Wu Man come to Thurston to talk to us in a smaller setting!

Keep an eye out for a letter with information and dates to upcoming student performances. However, here are dates that you can put on your calendars.

4th Grade--March 17, 7:00pm, MPR
2nd/3rd Grade--April 15, 6:30pm, MPR
5th Grade--May 16--6:30pm
1st Grade--TBD
KDG—TBD

By Yael Rothfeld

Thurston Chess Team Wins State Title!

Four teams from Thurston Elementary competed in the state team chess championships on Saturday, February 2. Only one other elementary school in the state had more teams competing! Great job to all of those students who participated. It was the largest Michigan Primary Team Championships ever with over 600 students competing in 4 divisions thru the 6th grade.

The teams were:

Thurston Kings (K-5 division): Naveen Fujii, Michael Jang, Jungwoo Chang, Aaron Keller

Thurston Rooks (K-3): Oliver Barron, Suzan Karabakal, Leo Tunkle, Duncan Darnell

Thurston Bishops (K-3): Ryan Gudal, Isaac Brooks, Jeremy Hoy, Gwen Davis

Thurston Knights (K-3): Ira Tunkle, Joe Jang, Aidan Davis

Incredible Team Honors: Thurston Rooks took home 1st place and a state championship! They were the only team in the K-3 division to win all 5 of their matches. Great Job! They had a lot of competition with 50 teams competing in the K-3 division.

Outstanding Individual Honors:

- Gold Medal (winning all 5 games): Suzan Karabakal & Duncan Darnell
Thurston had 2 of the 9 total gold medals given out in the K-3 division out of almost 200 total competitors!
- Silver Medal: Oliver Barron (4 points)
- Bronze Medal: Jeremy Hoy (3½ points)

All those who participated represented their school and themselves in fine fashion. Everyone competed hard, supported their teammates, and showed great sportsmanship!

By Gene Darnell

School Closed February 25-29 for Midwinter Break

AAPS Strategic Plan for 2007-2012

For all who haven't already seen it, AAPS has outlined the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan on the AAPS website. It can be downloaded as a PDF file. There is a link from the AAPS website from the plan outline to the Team Leaders page that lists those leaders already in place. The Board of Education is expected to vote on the Strategic Plan at the Wednesday February 20 meeting. They are calling for those interested in volunteering to work on the outlined strategies to respond by May 18th.

Source: http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/aaps.about/aaps_strategic_plan