

THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

January 30, 2009

Important Dates

Mon., Feb 2

Instrumental Music
Informance
9:45am MPR

Tues., Feb. 3

PTO Meeting 7:00pm

Fri., Feb. 6

Used Book Sale & Pizza
Sale 4:00-7:00pm

Thurs., Feb. 12

Science Fair

Thurs., Mar. 5

Kindergarten Round-
6:30pm



Thurs., Apr. 23

International Night

Principal's Corner

Dance, Dance, Dance – For the second year, Thurston 5th Graders will participate in an 8 session Life Skills, Active Living & Dance Project on Wednesday's during their gym rotation. This Project was established to enhance efforts to improve the quality of life wellness programs for children. During class, they will learn dances (ballroom, hustle, etc.) and learn life skills for active living. The instructors are Calvin Siebert, whose professional name is "Mr. Smooth", and his wife, Jackie Siebert. The program will culminate with a program banquet on April 1 where the students will perform and showcase their newly acquired dance skills to parents and others. You are welcome to stop by the gym between 9 and 11 on Wednesdays to watch and/or participate.

February is Black History Month – All students will be receiving workbooks with a variety of exercises that can be used in class and at home which reflect on African American History and Achievements.

NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) will be held on February 9. It originated right here in Ann Arbor by Joe Dulin, principal of Roberto Clemente High School. The mission of NAAPID is to promote programs and activities that encourage the ongoing participation of parents in the educational lives of their children and to promote a partnership within the school community. This is a time for ALL parents to visit their child's classroom, attend a program and workshops. We hope to see many of you on that day. Remember to RSVP for the workshops. The Thurston 5th Grade Choir will perform at the NAAPID at Night program held that evening at Willow Run High School.

The **Lost and Found** is calling you. Do answer the call by looking through the many items and taking those that are familiar.

Patricia A. Manley, Principal

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Thurston Rain Garden Presentation

At 7:45 Tuesday, February 3 a representative from JFNew Environmental Consulting will be at the Thurston PTO Meeting to present information regarding plans for the Thurston Rain Garden Project. Everyone is invited to attend this presentation.



THURSTON SCIENCE FAIR SIGN-UPS

By Emily Thompson

Science Fair sign-ups will be accepted through Tuesday, February 3 (check the website for forms).

The Science Fair schedule is:

- Feb 11, 5-6 PM, Grades 3-5, Tri-fold drop-off
- Feb 12, Display Day during the day
- Feb 12, 5-6 PM, Grades K-2 set up
- Feb 12, 6:00-7:50 PM, Science Fair. Grades K-5



TRI-FOLD IDEAS: What should be on your tri-fold? Follow your teacher’s instructions! If you have no instructions and are an older or more experienced student, you might try the suggestions, below. Remember to put your name, grade, and teacher’s name in the lower right corner of the board.

Model or collection: Include a title, a picture or drawing of your model or collection, a description of how you built or collected it, the background on why it is important, and an explanation of what you learned!

Experiment: Include a title, a picture or drawing of your experimental set-up, your hypothesis, your experimental materials and methods, your results as a data table and as a graph, and a conclusion of what you learned. More presentation ideas: <http://www.scifair.org/>, <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/primer/> Have fun, get messy, and see you at the Science Fair!

INTRODUCTION to ACADEMIC GAMES
Learn how to play Equations and OnSets



Who. ... Any student, currently in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, who likes to play math games.
When ... Fridays, 3:45-5:15pm for 9 weeks, beginning February 6.
Where... Room 27
What to bring.... snack, pencils and paper.



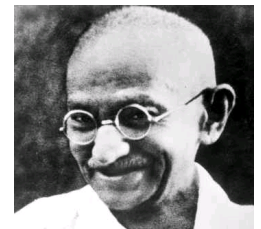
If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet on the PTO notice board or contact Dawn Barron at agates_a2@sbcglobal.net.

This Day in History

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, is assassinated in New Delhi by a Hindu fanatic. In an effort to end India's religious strife, Gandhi resorted to fasts and visits to troubled areas. He was on one such vigil in New Delhi when Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist who objected to Gandhi's tolerance for the Muslims, fatally shot him. Known as *Mahatma*, or "the great soul," during his lifetime, Gandhi's persuasive methods of civil disobedience influenced leaders of civil rights movements around the world, especially Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States.

Quote of the Day

“I cannot teach you violence, as I do not myself believe in it. I can only teach you not to bow your heads before any one even at the cost of your life.” Mahatma Gandhi, Indian political and spiritual leader (1869 - 1948)

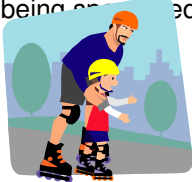


Raising a Daughter? Need Help?
Raising Strong and Confident Daughters Workshop
Thursday, February 19, 7:00-9:00 PM
King School, Multi-Purpose Room
Speaker: Carole Lapidos, M.S.W.



Every parent wants to raise his or her daughter to be strong and self-confident. This workshop will help parents understand the obstacles that often get in the way of girls reaching their full potential. We will explore ways our daughters are influenced by mainstream culture and how to protect our daughters from some of the toxic messages. Having strategies to help strengthen the connection between daughters and parents is the key to helping girls stay strong.

Carole Lapidos is the co-founder and director of Raising Strong & Confident Daughters, a local organization dedicated to helping young children develop a strong sense of self-esteem. **Registration is required.** Please contact Laurie Galia by phone, 734-996-9946 or by email at lquain@umich.edu to register for this workshop by February 13. This workshop is being sponsored by the King School PTO.



Raising a Son? Need Help?
Raising Strong and Gentle Sons Workshop
Wednesday, March 4, 7:00-9:00 PM
King Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room
Speaker: Carole Lapidos, M.S.W.

Boys are growing up in a very confusing world. There are so many conflicting messages about what it means to be a boy and a man. If boys are taking their cues from the culture, then they are losing access to a very important part of themselves. Parents raising sons today face many challenges. This workshop will explore the topics that impact how boys see themselves and provide strategies for parents to stay connected to their sons.

Carole Lapidos is the co-founder and director of Raising Strong & Confident Daughters, a local organization dedicated to helping young children develop a strong sense of self-esteem. **Registration is required.** Please contact Laurie Galia by phone, 734-996-9946 or by email at lquain@umich.edu to register for this workshop by February 27. This workshop is being sponsored by the King School PTO.

Time to Order Your Yearbook

By Caroline Engelbert



We are using a new yearbook company this year, so yearbooks must be ordered by March 1 if you want a copy. Yearbooks are \$12 each. To order go to www.schoolpictures.com and click on "order yearbooks". It is fast and easy, and you can use a credit card. You will receive the confirmation of your order via e-mail. If you absolutely cannot order online, order forms are available in the office. Paper orders will not receive a confirmation so please contact Caroline Engelbert to make sure your order was received. We prefer that you order online to make sure all orders are processed by the company correctly. Questions...please contact Caroline Engelbert at 996-9183 or email engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net.

The PTO... "Springs" into Action!

By Anne Darnell, PTO President

Come to the Feb. 3rd PTO Meeting beginning at 7pm to hear about exciting spring initiatives. This month's meeting includes a presentation from the University Musical Society and presentations and beginning discussions on the Thurston Parking Lot Restructuring project and the Thurston Rain Garden project. If you are curious, have opinions or ideas to share or want to be the first to volunteer your help in these areas, we'd love to see you at the meeting. Updates on all these projects will be published in this newsletter as well. Remember, **CHILDCARE IS FREE!**