

THE HERON HERALD



A PUBLICATION OF THURSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

JANUARY 9, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri., Jan. 9

Talent Show Entry Forms Due

Tues., Jan. 13

Safe Routes to School Meeting
11:00-12:00

Mon., Jan. 19

No School – MLK Day Observed

Thurs., Jan. 22

SIT Meeting 4:00pm

Sat., Jan. 24

Thurston Chess Tournament

Thurs., Jan. 29

Talent Show

Tues., Feb. 3

PTO Meeting 7:00pm

Fri., Feb. 6

Used Book Sale

Thurs., Feb. 12

Science Fair

President

Anne Darnell, 913-0657
annedarnell@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Nikki Bonevich, 327-9790
nikki@bonevich.com

Website Content Editor

Anne Karabakal, 669-2084
annekarabakal@comcast.net

www.thurstonpto.awardspace.com

Principal's Corner

Happy New Year Everyone! It was great to rest but also great to come back.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Thurston Giving Tree. The designated families were overwhelmed with joy. Thurston continues to show what an amazing, caring community we are.

New Office Clerk – As you know Laura Hannaford is now the Principal's secretary at Clague. We will be interviewing for her replacement and hope to have someone in place within the next two weeks.

Cold Days – Remember to dress your child in layers and have them bring shoes or slippers to wear when they remove their boots. It would also be a good idea to send an extra pair of socks. Be reminded that students should remain outside until the 8:45am bell, unless the temperature is close to or sub zero. Students will continue to have recess unless it is too cold to be out for even a few minutes.

Snow Rules – Students have been reminded, "snow stays on the ground". This means no snowballs, ice balls, etc. should be thrown or kicked at each other. Students may build snow structures but should not wantonly destroy those that have been built. Please review this with your child at home.

MLK Day – We will observe MLK with an assembly on Friday, January 16. There is no school on Monday, January 19. You are encouraged to participate in the many local events scheduled for that day, which will be advertised in the Ann Arbor News.

Parent Involvement Day – NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) will be held on Monday, February 9. ALL parents are invited and are encouraged to visit for some or all of that day. Additional information and a schedule of activities will be coming soon.

Thurston "Galaxy of Stars" talent show will be held for parents and family members on the evening of Thursday, January 29 at 6:30pm. Show participants will also perform for the student body on Friday morning.

Patricia A. Manley, Principal

Come One Come All to U of M Women's Basketball

Watch your backpacks next week for vouchers to the February 1 game starting at 2:00pm. This is **Elementary Challenge Day** so show your Thurston Spirit and help us get a chance to earn money for our school while having fun at the game!

Thurston Science Fair is Coming, Feb. 11 and 12, 2009!

It's time to show off your model or collection, demonstrate a scientific principle, or describe a scientific experiment you have done! Signups start in January and are due January 27, 2009.

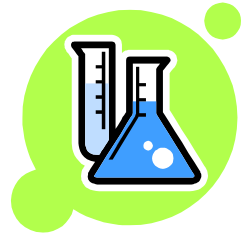
Set up, Grades 3-5: Third, fourth, or fifth-graders who have completed tri-fold boards (student council will be selling these) or poster boards may drop them off on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 5-6 PM. Please make sure boards are labeled with your name, your teacher's name and your grade in the lower right corner.

Display Day is Thursday, Feb. 12 and everyone at school can check out your project!

Set up, Grades K-2: On Thursday, Feb. 12, from 5-6 PM, students in grades K-2 may set up their projects and those grades 3-5 may bring in additional safe display materials from 5-6 PM. Please, no open flames, no live animals, no pathogens (no kidding!) at the Science Fair! Sorry, no electrical outlets are provided.

Thurston Science Fair: The Science Fair takes place on Feb. 12, from 6-7:50 PM. Adult and National Honor Society student "Listeners" will talk informally with you about your project! All students who sign up and participate will receive a certificate.

Clean up: Please remove your project by 8 PM on Thursday.



Save the Date and Sort Your Books

By Yvonne Stevens

Thurston's annual Used Book Sale is coming Friday, February 6. Yes, we have changed the date to avoid heat exhaustion and thunderstorms. No book sale in June this year. And instead of ice cream we'll be serving pizza. But other than that the event will still be the same. Lots and lots of books. Start gathering up your gently used books (both children's and adult) to drop off at school February 2-5. A volunteer sign-up form will be going home in your child's backpack. Indicate which shifts you'd prefer and return to the office by Friday, January 23. A Book Sale shift sign-up sheet will also be posted in the hallway near the office. We need YOU to sort books and help during the sale.



President's Blog – Happy New Year!

We have had a fantastic first half of the year and our students and PTO have accomplished a lot. As a PTO, this school year we have raised over \$4000 for our school and with some of that money we have purchased trees for our playground and new technology for the school which will allow teachers to show 3D images on an overhead screen. In addition, we have supported the Thurston Nature Center who applied for and received a grant to plant an Oak Savanna on the north side of our grounds and are working in a partnership to install an environmentally friendly rain garden in the front of our school (more about these initiatives in the spring).

Winter is a time of hibernation and if your family is like mine, we often succumb to the lull of our PJs, a warm blanket and a hot cup of cocoa right after dinner. But I discovered a few years ago, that there are some people who actually go out after 6pm. . . in the winter. . . during the week. . . in the dark and cold! And, I discovered an amazing thing. . . these are the people who don't get that dreaded winter illness called Cabin Fever! The great news is that Thurston is offering many opportunities for you to leave your house this winter and have some out-of-the-house, beat-the-winter-blues fun! We start the new year with the Thurston Chess Tournament and Thurston Talent Show. We continue into February with an evening PTO meeting, the Used Book Sale (yes! new time of the year), NAAPID, Science Fair, Martin Luther King Day, and of course, winter break. Before you know it, it is March and we can smell the beginnings of spring and look forward to the end of the month and the Thurston Play. Spring, of course, brings with it a whole host of other activities but I encourage you to embrace January and February, get involved, get energized, get out of the house and have some fun with your Thurston community! (Look in this newsletter and the PTO website for details about all of these events and of course, each one will need volunteers!)

Anne Darnell, PTO President