

THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

June 5, 2009

Important Dates

Mon., Jun. 8

Mrs. Kilbourn's Retirement
Party 3:42-4:30pm

Thur., Jun. 11

5th Grade Farewell Ceremony
9:30am

Fri., Jun. 12

No Bagels or Coffee Sales
Last Day of School, Dismissal
is at 11:51am

Have a Nice Summer!



Tues., Sept. 8

First Day of School

THERE WILL BE NO BAGEL OR COFFEE SALES ON FRIDAY, JUNE 12

If you are interested in
volunteering for Thurston Perks
in the Fall please contact Nikki
Bonevich at 327-9790 or e-mail
nikki@bonevich.com.

Principal's Notes

Dear Thurston Families:

At the beginning of this year I introduced our new Mission Statement at Curriculum Night. "The Thurston community is committed to nurturing, within each student, the joy of learning by fostering high academic standards, developing positive relationships, and promoting social responsibility." As we come to the close of this year, our hope is that you have seen our dedication to fulfilling our mission.

The year leaves me with many treasured memories: The success of our first Back-to-School Rally, the smiles and laughter of students who were at the Fall social, the awesome Halloween parade and the way it was executed, the walk to school day, the hard work and pride students put into showing their talent at the annual talent show, the wonderful feedback received from International Night, the excitement of movie nights and the Pancake Supper, the energy and enthusiasm for field day, the great anticipation of the Ice-cream Social, and most of all the joy of seeing our students grow in mind, body and spirit throughout the year.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your trust and partnership with the Thurston Staff and me.

Reminders:

1. NO AFTERSCHOOL CHILDCARE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 12. There will be before school childcare only.
2. The lost and found is overflowing. All items remaining after June 12 will be given to Goodwill.
3. Student Report Letters will be sent home in backpack mail on June 12. Please check for them.
4. Student/teacher placements will be announced in the fall mailing that you will receive in late August.

It is with much sadness we say goodbye to Ms. Amelia Polkowski and the CI class. Her K-2 CI class is moving to Abbot Elementary where there is already a 3-5 CI class. Having all grades in one building will make transitions to upper elementary easier for the students. We have very much enjoyed having them in our building and wish them well.

Have a wonderful summer!

Patricia A. Manley, Principal

Field Day Thanks

by Sandy Daida

Kids have been telling me that this was the best Field Day ever! What a great time the students had. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made it this Field Day happen!

Caroline Engelbert, Robin Moran, Yasuyo Furukawa, Erica Watkins, Lisa Hadrill, Lori Harrison, Tim Harrison, Kim Luevano, Susan Montgomery, Dave Schmitzerle, Evon Schmitzerle, Nancy Melzer, Iris Miller, Amrita Joshi, Laura Giles, Jimmy Tsai, Christine Brenner, Twysda Perkins, Margaret Baker, Tracy Briggs, Allan Joslin, Amy Blakemore, Diane Spillane, Marci Hires, Sarah Bristol, Elaina Sims, Karin Monnett, Kelly Delp, Kathy Botkins, Saisha Gailliard, Erric Morton, Jeff Barber, Doug Helmreich, Yi Keep, Steve Brabbs, Elizabeth Den Houter, Doug Wochna, Mahendar Edla, Pankaj Mithal, Shalini Mithal, Yuni Dewaraja, Nina Misek, Eugenio Soriano, Rex Stanczak, Jeff Silveri, Brenda Noble, Kazuko Sasaki, Haewon Cho, Tonysha Emerson, Shannon McCarren, Jennifer Barber, Margaret Weiss, Sherri Akuezue, Julia Molina, Jose Lopez, Ra-Mon Watkins, Tom Kent, Kathy Roeser, Paul Moor, Jeff Westfall, Sondra Bobroff, John Moran, Michael Anderson.

One Rain Garden Planted, One To Go!

by Margaret Weiss

On Monday, May 11, all three classes of Thurston third graders took turns assisting in planting the lovely new rain garden you may have seen at the school. The kids were given brief explanations on the importance of rain gardens and then shown how to plant the small plugs by employees of JF New and the Huron River Watershed Council. Ann Arbor Public Schools has given permission for a more permanent fence to be erected, one of wood and rope, so you should see that in place when the kids return in the fall. If you haven't yet seen the garden, please stop by. It's by the big turtle which is ably guarding the growing plants. If you have any questions about what is in the garden or just want more details about it, please feel free to contact me (colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or 997-6541) or stop by the PTO bulletin board.

Another rain garden is being planted this Saturday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Briarcliff right next to the Dolphin Pool (intersection of Prairie and Briarcliff Streets). Everyone is welcome to stop by and any amount of volunteer time is welcomed although if you can give an hour or two, that would be ideal. If you think you want to participate in this project and would like a little more information, please contact Joan Martin at the Huron River Watershed Council (jmartin@HRWC.ORG or call her at (734) 769-5123, ext.11. If you do come, just bring gardening gloves (if you have them) and a small spade (if you have one).

Kroger Community Rewards!

by Caroline Engelbert

If you would like to register your Kroger plus card to earn rewards for Thurston but you either don't have internet access or hate going on-line - we can help! We have a paper with a UPC code on it. You take the UPC code with you next time you go shopping and hand it to the cashier to scan with your order along with your Kroger Plus card. Within 72 hours, your Kroger Plus card will begin giving a percentage of each shopping trip to Thurston PTO. There is a UPC code attached to this newsletter, or you can pick up a form in the office. Questions or problems using this UPC? Contact Caroline Engelbert at 996-9183 or engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net.



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Retirement Reception for Mrs. Kilbourn

by Anne Darnell

Come join us to say farewell and best wishes to Mrs. Barb Kilbourn as she ventures out into the exciting world of retirement! A reception for Mrs. Kilbourn will be hosted by the PTO on Monday June 8th immediately after school until 4:30. Snacks and treats to share are welcome. In addition, if your child had Mrs. Kilbourn in the past, we would like to assemble a Best Wishes Booklet. Have your child create a page with the title(s) "Thank you for. . ." and/or "During your retirement I hope you get to. . ." Bring the pages to the reception where they will be added to the book. Contact Anne Darnell (Annedarnell@comcast.net or 913-0657) if you are able to bring a snack/treat.

International Masters of Japanese Martial Arts

by Julie Helmreich

Please join the teachers and members of Birankai International for an exciting demonstration of the dynamic modern martial art of Aikido, including open-hand and weapons techniques, as well as Japanese swordsmanship (Batto-ho). The demonstration will feature Aikido experts from across North America, Europe, and from the Aikikai World Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

FREE ADMISSION –COME AND ENJOY!

Concordia University Gymnasium

Ann Arbor, Michigan

7:00pm Sunday June 7, 2009

Hosted by Huron Valley Aikikai www.hv-aikido.com

2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

It wasn't long ago that I wrote the "Welcome Back to School" article for the newsletter. I mentioned how I knew fall was coming because the kids stopped asking to go to the pool and kept asking for cider and donuts. Well, here we are in June and my daughter has been swimming practically every day since the pool opened (despite the cool weather) and my son has been practicing his pitching and hitting at Sugarbush to prepare for his team's first game of the season. My garden is already overgrown and I have started packing for the first of three summer vacations my family will be taking this summer. Summer has arrived!

As I reflect over the 2008-09 school year, I want to **thank all the parents, teachers and staff** for making my job so enjoyable. We had lots of energy this year and implemented many great ideas. I will not be able to list everything we accomplished, nor will I be able to individually thank all the people that volunteered to make it all happen, but I do want to share some **highlights** and let you know that **your dedication, hard work and enthusiasm made a difference!**

* Sponsored the Fall Social, Turkey Trot, Holiday Giving Tree, New & Used Book Sale, Science Fair, International Night, Field Day & Ice Cream Social	* Submitted and received a grant for \$1000 from Global ReLeaf and planted 15 trees around the school grounds
* Paid for transportation for all Thurston field trips - approximately \$20,000 (with each grade going on multiple trips)	* Partnered with Huron Watershed Council and planted approx. 20 oak trees for a new oak savannah
* Covered costs of guest speakers for students	* Provided grant money to every lead classroom teacher
* Hosted EMU/Thurston football game (in the rain!)	* Hosted bagels and coffee on Friday mornings
* Held Walk to School Day through the Safe Routes to School program which is now applying for a grant to make improvements to our walking routes	* Made additional grant money available to teachers, staff and parents through a new grant application process
* Raised \$11,000 thru fundraisers like: fall bulb sale, spirit wear, Sally Foster and Kid Art	* Put on the Bride of Thurstonstein via the parent-run/community supported Thurston Players
* Began grassroots- redevelopment of the Thurston parking lot with much progress made on design	* Partnered with Huron Watershed Council and planted a new rain garden
* Held the Thurston Chess Tournament with over 200 area students participating	* Financially supported the 2 nd session of the ever-popular Math Fast Facts

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Sincerely,

Anne Darnell

PTO President 2008-09