

THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

March 20, 2009

Important Dates

Fri., Mar. 27

Spirit Day: Pajama & Stuffed
Animal Day

Thurs. – Sat., Mar. 26 – 28

The Bride of Thurstonstein
performed at Clague

Tues., Apr. 7

PTO Meeting 7:00pm

Fri., Apr. 10

No School – Spring Break

Mon., Apr. 20

Return to School

Thurs., Apr. 23

International Night 6:00-
8:00pm

Mon., May 25

Memorial Day – No School

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Principal's Notes

Dear Thurston Families,

I am delighted to report that the first week of our new parking lot program has been successful due to the efforts of the entire Thurston Community. Students have arrived safely and the parking lot has had a continuous flow with minimum congestion.

Starting next week, we remind you of using the two drop-off zones, that were presented at the beginning of the year, allowing students to use the sidewalks to safely walk towards the building as well as allowing parents to get to their next destination.

Drop-off Zone One: Right off of Prairie and the School entrance.

Drop-off Zone Two: Through the Second Parking Lot at the exit side of the school parking lot.

It is important that students are allowed to get out of the vehicle at the sidewalk and that the driver of the car proceeds to allow the next family to drop off. Parents may still park in the second parking lot and walk their child(ren) to the building.

Again, thanks to everyone for helping to keep Thurston students safe!

Patricia A. Manley

Newsletter Contributions

We love to hear from you, if you have something you would like to contribute to the Heron Herald please submit your article to the Newsletter Editor at heronherald@gmail.com. We especially love those Heron in the Spotlight articles, keep them coming!!

Please keep in mind that deadlines for newsletter articles are the Tuesday of each week. If it is submitted after that it will be published in the following week's Heron Herald.

Staff Lunch - March 30**By Caroline Engelbert**

The annual staff soup lunch will be on March 30. Help is needed! I need a couple of people to help set up and clean up. (11:00 set up and 1:30 clean up). Food donations are much appreciated! We need homemade soups in crockpots, breads, salads, desserts and beverages. Please contact Caroline Engelbert at 996-9183 or engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net if you can help/donate. Please don't donate stuff without telling me first - it is so much harder to plan when I don't know what to expect!

Mark your calendars for the Spring Art Shows**Youth Art Month**

Come walk the town and see all of the different displays of art in the store fronts near Main Street.

Reception at Palio on Main Street 1:00 Sunday March 22, (Thurston's art will be on display at the Hands On Museum March 1- April 1).

Downtown Library Student Art Show -April 24-May 28

(24 Thurston students will have 2D art and about 24 will have 3D art).

Opening Reception May 7, 7-8pm

Ann Arbor Art Teachers Annual Show at the Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti. Come see what we do when we're not teaching! April 30-May 30.

Opening Reception Saturday May 2, 5-7 pm

Art Room Volunteers needed:

Mondays 2:40-3:35

Fridays 2:40-3:35

Please e-mail me at wysea@aaps.k12.mi.us if this time works for you!!

Amanda Wyse

Could This Be Your Year?**By Margaret Baker**

We are looking for Room Hosts for this year's International Night. So far we have...



China
India
Eastern Europe
United Kingdom

Japan
Korea
African American
Middle East



If you are interested in organizing a Country/Culture Room please contact Margaret Baker at 996-2337.

Art to Remember**By Caroline Engelbert**

There are more than 80 magnets still floating free in our community! The magnets are NOT FREE! The time to place an order for additional products has passed, but if you wish to keep your magnet, please send in \$5 by Monday, March 30. If you do not wish to pay for the magnet, please return it to the office ASAP. The school is REQUIRED to return all unpurchased magnets to the company. Contact Caroline Engelbert, fundraising coordinator, at 996-9183 or engelbert1996@sbsglobal.net.

Thank You Neal Foster and the Thurston Nature Center

The Thurston PTO would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to Neal Foster and his volunteers who helped to mulch over that very muddy path area at the back of the school by the pond and Yorktown. It was a big mess there and, with the ground so soggy, very difficult to find an easy way to get through. Wednesday morning, March 18, many of you may have noticed that that area was mulched over so we could actually walk on it again. Neal, we really appreciate you helping us out and caring about our students enough to help us with our mess.

Neal Foster is in charge of the Thurston Nature Center Clean-up Days. If you would like to help return the favor or just enjoy helping out in your community please contact Neal to find out more about helping with the Thurston Nature Center Clean-up Days or the Thurston Oak Savanna Project. Neal can be contacted at nealfost@umich.edu.

THE THURSTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENT

The Bride of Thurstonstein

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 AT 7:30PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 AT 7:30PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 AT 7:00PM

AT CLAGUE MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

This is the Thurston Community Players 35th annual original play. Please join a cast of 200 students, parents, teachers, and community members as they perform a musical about 3 possible princesses born in the Kingdom of Thurstonstein. The kingdom must hold a trial to discover the true heiress to the throne, as the coming-of-age princess contemplates which prince to marry from the neighboring kingdoms of Loganstein, Burnsparkstein, and Dickenstein. Directed by Phil Zaret, with set design by Dick Vail and Kami Meader.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR, ADULTS \$8, CHILDREN \$6

WANTED

...for Rain Garden Project

Seeking: Able-bodied adults and teens (kids, too!)
When: Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to...(you choose shift length and time)
Where: Thurston Elementary School
Description: See details below
Qualifications: Willingness to get dirty and sweaty
Benefits: Learn how to set up a rain garden, build muscles, burn off steam & more!

Interested applicants should contact Margaret Weiss at colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or call 997-6541.

Task	Equipment & Materials	Manpower	Time	Description
Till Compost and Turf Grass into Rain Garden Area	Shovels, wheel barrows, rotary tillers, gloves	2 adults to till; 6-10 persons total	8 hours maximum	Use rotary tiller to turn over & chop up turf grass to 9" deep, add compost during last passes w/tiller; shovel, wheel & spread compost
Construct Earthen Berm	Shovels, wheel barrows, rakes, mallets, blanket stakes, gloves	6-10 people	3-4 hours (or 2-3 hours)	Use clean earthen fill to create 1 ft tall x 3 ft wide by 20 ft long berm with 3:1 side slopes (6 ft wide overall); transport & compact earth into berm, rake smooth, seed w/fescue grass mix & cover w/erosion control fabric
Lay gravel/small cobble rock	Gloves	1 person	1 hour	Place large gravel/small cobble rock around the inlet pipe
Mulch Rain Garden Bed	Wheel barrows, pitch forks, shovels, gloves	6-10 people	1-2 hours	Spread hardwood mulch in 3" deep layer across rain garden
Install Drain Extensions & Grate to Existing Stormwater Pipe	Gloves	2-3 adults	.5 to 1 hour	Extend drainage manhole using adjustment rings & new drainage grate which will be elevated roughly 6" above surface of rain garden

Please complete this survey and return it to the office by this Monday, March 23. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Bret Springgay at bspringgay@claudiamyrealtor.com. Thank you for your participation.

**Thurston Elementary School
Parking Lot Survey
for Parents, Students, & Staff
2008-2009**

Please evaluate the proposed four options for improvements to the Thurston School parking lot. Choose the option which best supports the Thurston Community needs. We appreciate your comments.

Best Option

A B C D

Second Best

A B C D

Preschool/Kindergarten/First Grade Drop Off Zone (north end of parking lot, by dumpster)

Yes

No

Please list the advantages of the Option you selected:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Please list the disadvantages of the Option you selected:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Please provide any additional information or comments you would like: