

# THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

May 29, 2009

## Important Dates

### Tues., Jun. 2

Parking Lot Discussion  
7:00pm

### Fri., Jun. 5

Ice Cream Social 5:00-8:00pm  
PTO Board Elections at the Ice  
Cream Social

### Thur., Jun. 11

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Ceremony  
9:30am

### Fri., Jun. 12

Last Day of School, Dismissal  
is at 11:51am

Have a Nice  
Summer!

### Tues., Sept. 8

First Day of School

## Newsletter Staff

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## Thurston Elementary Annual Ice Cream Social

**Friday, June 5 5:00-8:00pm**

**Come join the fun!  
There will be Pizza, Ice Cream,  
Games, and much more!**

**Don't forget to vote for your PTO  
Board while you are there!**

### AAPS Thurston Elementary Parking Lot Discussion by Bret Springgay

A Public Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00pm regarding the Thurston Parking Lot construction. The purpose of the parking lot meeting is to raise further awareness in the Thurston Community and adjoining neighborhoods about the parking lot/traffic safety concerns and possible solutions. This first meeting will also allow for listening, discussion, and dialogue with the district's engineer as planning moves forward. We would like to hear all comments, concerns, and questions.

### Yearbooks Are Coming!

by Caroline Engelbert

If you ordered a yearbook, it will be coming home soon. If you ordered a book but have not yet paid for it, it will not be sent home until payment is received. Please make checks for \$12 to Thurston PTO. Contact Caroline Engelbert at engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net with questions

**Getting to Know You... Mr. Baskin****by Kristen Hayden, Student Reporter**

Mr. Karem Baskin, Lunch Coordinator and After-School Child Care Director, is well liked by all who go to Thurston Elementary. When he was young, he went to Carpenter and Mitchell Elementary Schools. He says the things he would have liked at his elementary schools that Thurston has would be our nice teachers. His favorite subject in school was art, which I'm sure he was good at. At recess, his favorite game to play was kickball. When he was young, he said that he wanted to be a baseball player when he grew up.

A surprising fact about Mr. Baskin is that he can play two kinds of guitar, bass and regular. He says that he has enjoyed his three years at Thurston, and we hope he has many more great years.

**Campbells Soup Labels Program****by Caroline Engelbert**

Thank you to Dimitri Liske (246 points), Joseph Ryan (170 points) and Eli Engelbert (284 points) for collecting hundreds of soup labels! We don't have enough points yet to earn anything great, so we'll keep on collecting. Please save your labels over the summer! Look for eligible UPCs on Campbells, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson broth, Spaghetios and V8.

**Thurston School Improvement Team (SIT)****by Patricia Manley**

We are trying to create a list of Thurston parents who can be of assistance to our families who come to us speaking little or no English. We want to reach out to them immediately to assist with any questions or concerns they may have and to make them feel part of the Thurston community. The responsibility of these volunteers would include assisting at the beginning of the school year, anytime new families arrive, possibly attending fall conferences with them and helping them learn ways to be involved with school activities. If you are fluent in another language and would be willing to be on call to assist us, please contact Jubei Hughes at: [jubeihughes@aol.com](mailto:jubeihughes@aol.com). Please indicate what language you can assist with and give your contact information.

**Kroger Community Rewards Program****by Caroline Engelbert**

If you shop at Kroger, chances are you have a Kroger Plus Card. By registering that card with Kroger Community rewards, you can earn cash for Thurston WITHOUT having to reload those pesky giftcards! It's really easy!

1. Go to [Krogercommunityrewards.com](http://Krogercommunityrewards.com) (have your Kroger plus card handy)
  2. click on SIGN UP TODAY in the new customer box.
  3. Sign up for a rewards account by entering some information, creating a password and agreeing to terms & conditions.
  4. You will get a message to check your email. Click on the link in the email to verify your account.
  5. Click on MY ACCOUNT and use your email address and password to proceed. Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS and input your Kroger plus information and our organization number 82627.
  6. To verify that you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization name on the right side of the info page.
- YOU MUST REGISTER FOR YOUR PURCHASES TO COUNT.

This is a great and easy way for the PTO to earn cash! Please sign up today! Contact Caroline Engelbert at [engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net](mailto:engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net) with questions.

## **The Thurston Parent Teacher Organization Board Elections Friday, June 5**

Thurston PTO Board elections will be held the evening of Friday, June 5 at the ice Cream Social. We have some new candidates that we would like to have you get to know a little bit about. We look forward to having everyone come to the Ice Cream Social and please take a moment to cast your ballot for our Thurston PTO Board elections. Please see the next page for details on your PTO candidates.

### **PTO Board Candidates for the 2009-2010 School Year**

My name is **Wanda Brann** and I am the mother of two boys, one of whom attends the Thurston Pre-School and the other is a two year old on his way to Thurston soon. I grew up in Ann Arbor and after attending EMU I decided to give back to my home community and become an AAPS elementary school teacher. After years of seeing school PTO's from the teachers perspective I am very excited about the opportunity to be involved in the Thurston PTO as a parent. Please elect me to the Thurston PTO for the 2009-2010 school year.

My name is **Kelly Delp** and I am interested in being a PTO member at large for the next school year. A little about myself--I am a stay at home mom and I have 4 children. My oldest daughter is currently in 4th grade at Thurston and my other children are 1, 3, and 4 years old, so I will be a Thurston parent for a long time. I have always been a volunteer for activities at the school and have attended as many PTO meetings as possible. If you elect me I will make sure your opinions are heard at the meetings in the next year. Thanks, Kelly Delp

My name is **Lixin Fan**. We moved to Ann Arbor in Jan 1999. I will graduate from graduate school in August. Both my children, Kevin Fan and Kelly Fan, were born in Ann Arbor. This fall they are going to be in Fourth grade and Third grade. I would like to share the treasurer position for the PTO this coming school year. I am prepared to learn from the previous treasurer and each one of you!

**Martha Farmer** is interested in becoming our PTO Secretary for the 2009-2010 school year. She is the mother of Clayton Farmer, who enters the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in the fall. She and her husband, Terry Farmer, have been active as parent volunteers for various Thurston activities including SIT Committee membership, the Thurston Play, Cub Scout Pack 160, and such annual events as the Book sale, Fall Social, and Ice Cream Social. Martha is a Middle School Band Director in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and remains active as a professional performing musician around southeastern Michigan. She also teaches Sunday school at her church and serves as a church deacon.

Dear Thurston parents and children, my name is **Margarita (Rita) Shelley-Smith** and I would like to be a member at large on the PTO board in the 2009-2010 academic year. We are moving into Chapel Hill in the middle of July and this will be our first year at Thurston. My son, Joshua, will be attending the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. I have been an active member of the PTO since Josh started school four years ago and a board member at Northside for the past two years. I was the president during the 2007-2008 school year and treasurer in the current academic year. I would like to volunteer at Thurston and give strong support to all the excellent things you do for your school. Thank you for the warm welcomes we've received from the Thurston community and I look forward to serving you next year.

**Debbie Tsai** is the mother of Julia (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) and Joshua (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), she also has two younger children and she is often seen at many school functions with everyone in tow, as well as cub scout and brownie activities. Debbie has a background in accounting and is looking forward to putting to her skills to good use by being co-treasurer on the board in the 2009-2010 school year.

# Science Olympiad Results and Thanks

## Special thanks to our volunteers:

- The Thurston Science Community want to take this opportunity to thank the Thurston **PTO** for their contribution, and **Mrs. Manley** for her support.
- Our sincere thanks to **Mr. Johnson**, who was not only our co-head coach, but also guided the Thurston Science Team with his extraordinary leadership skills.
- The Thurston Science Community would also like to thank **Susan Montgomery** (Our past coach) for guiding us whenever we needed her help or advice.

## Our Sincere Thanks to:

Event supervisor from Thurston: Kinga Benkes

Potluck coordinator: Claudia Springgay

Raffle basket supervisor: Benny Cheung

T- Shirts project coordinator: Susan Keller

Bake Sale donations: Karin Monnett

Weso volunteers: Colin Brooks, Deepti Nair, Erica Watkins, Ira Kakade, Jim Monnett, Katie Richter, Lauren Miller, Margaret Baker, Ravi Ammungama, Sapan Goel, Seyoung Kim, Susan Yang

## Our coaches:

2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Amrita Joshi, Anne Darnell, Lisa Richardson, Ra-Mon Watkins, Sunita Banda, Uzma Ahamad

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Amrita Joshi, Hemali Amunugama, Lisa Genyk, Lisa Richardson, Mahrokh Soltani, Margaret Baker, Pat Easthope, Prateek Mithal, Shalini Mithal, Shekhar Kakade, Sunita Shanker

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Dami Jung, Heather Holmstrom, Jay Pandian, Lauro Ojeda, Mara Kent, Margaret Baker, Nejat Karabakal, Stacy Davis, Su Pandian, Susan Yang

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Akiko Ono, Andrew Keller, Jim Monnett, Kavita Girish, Margaret Baker, Mira Cooper, Peter Keller, Sevde Felek, Sita Somava, Yuji Fujii

## Best Sportsmanship Award

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Celia Kent, Nihar Joshi, Yu Jin Hyun

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Lana Stanczak, Parnaz Hojjati, Shalini Roy

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Deanna Springgay, Giselle Roca, Gwen Davis

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Aaron Keller, Ann Jung, Marcell Benkes-Toth

## 2nd Grade Results

Map Reading – 1<sup>st</sup> place: **Nihar Joshi and Yu Jin Hyun**. Coach: Amrita Joshi

Rock Hunter – 1<sup>st</sup> place. **Ira Tunkle and Celia Kent**. Coach: Lisa Richardson

Estimania –2nd place. **Shreya Banda, Zyde Mian and Vidya Srinivas**. Coach: Sunita Banda

Sink or Float –2nd place. **Vigil Watkins and Celia Kent**. Coach: Ra-Mon Watkins

What Went By? –3rd place. **Rebecca Darnell and Nihar Joshi**. Coach: Anne Darnell

# Science Olympiad Results and Thanks Continued

## 3rd Grade Results

Water Rockets – 1<sup>st</sup> place. **Ethan Easthope, Noah Stancroff and Denis Sorel**. Coach: Pat Easthope  
Map Reading – 1<sup>st</sup> place. **Elaina Baker and Shraeya Mithal**. Coach: Margaret Baker and Shalini Mithal.

Mystery Architecture –4th place. **Vishal Gaikwad and Nicole Kotov**. Coach: Amrita Joshi.

Pentathlon –4th place. **Parnaz Hojjati, Nicole Kotov, Calise Chiddick, Jake Genyk and Duncan Darnell**. Coach: Mahrokh Soltani.

What Went By? 5th place. **Lana Stanczak and Shalini Roy**. Coach: Lisa Richardson

Estimania –5th place. **Urja Sinha, Abraham Jung and Shriya Goel**. Coach: Sunita Shanker

## 4th Grade Results

A is for Anatomy – 1st place - **Rashmi Pandian and Richard Zhao**

Coach: Su Pandian and Susan Yang

Science Jeopardy – 1st place. **Justin Shim, Sage Garrett, Ningrui Wei and Ji-ho Hyun**. Coach: Dami Jung and Heather Holmstrom.

Circuit Wizardry –4th place. **Rashmi Pandian, Suzan Karabakal and Deanna Springgay**. Coach: Nejat Karabakal and Jay Pandian

Map Reading –5th place. **Gwen Davis and Deanna Springgay**. Coach: Margaret Baker

## 5th Grade Results

A is For Anatomy – 1st place- **Dhanuj Girish and Aisling Cooper**. Coach: Mira Cooper and Kavita Girish

Map Reading –2nd place- **Adela Baker and Nisha Gudal**. Coach: Margaret Baker

Estimania –3rd place- **Ann Jung, Aaron Keller, and Taryn Emerson**. Coach: Peter Keller

Water Rockets –3 rd place- **Marcell Benkes-Toth, Vanessa Noble, and Aaron Keller**. Coach: Andrew Keller

Write It, Build It – 3rd place- **Natsume Ono, Kai Inoki, Adela Baker, and Seyoung Kim**. Coach: Akiko Ono

Once again it was a pleasure working with you all and looking forward to another successful year at Thurston.

Su Pandian

(Co-head coach)