

THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

May 8, 2009

Important Dates

Sat., May 9

Thurston Rain Garden Project
9:00am-12:00pm

Mon., May 11

5th Grade Musical in the MPR
shows at 6:00pm & 7:00pm

Wed. May 20

5th Grade Instrumental Music
Concert in the MPR 7:00pm

Fri., May 22

Field Day 12:30pm-3:48pm

Mon., May 25

No School – Memorial Day

Fri., Jun. 5

Ice Cream Social 6:00-8:00pm

Thur., Jun. 11

5th Grade Farewell Ceremony

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A New Column

Welcome to “Getting to Know You...”, a new section of our Heron Herald. These will be articles written by 5th Graders about members of our Thurston Staff. This is a great chance for our students to become reporters for the Heron Herald, learning to interview people and write informative articles, and for all of us to get to know our teachers and staff a little better. Please look for more “Getting to Know You...” articles in the future.

Don’t forget to contribute to our “Heron in the Spotlight”.

Getting to Know You...Mr. Anderson

By Student Reporters: Taryn Emerson and Leah Miller

We had the privilege of interviewing the spectacular Mr. Anderson, the evening custodian. He has been working at Thurston Elementary School for nine years now and he has been doing a phenomenal job. He went to Northside and Mac Elementary Schools as a child. Mr. Anderson is from Ann Arbor Michigan. He chose to work at Thurston for his career because he likes the building and the students more than any other school that he has ever worked at. Mr. Anderson is an exceptional custodian and he always does his job.

A couple of surprising things about Mr. Anderson that you probably don’t know are that he likes to travel a lot and he also enjoys cooking. The one thing about Thurston that he wished that he had when he was in elementary school is a teacher like Mr. Johnson because he is awesome and is always active in the learning curriculum. When he was in elementary school, Mr. Anderson’s favorite recess games were Baseball, Kickball, and Dodge Ball. It is an honor to have a custodian like Mr. Anderson. He does his job right and he makes the school clean for everybody.

Quote of the Day

“Mistakes are the portals of discovery.” James Joyce, Irish author (1882 - 1941)

Principal's Corner

Dear Thurston Families,

The school year is quickly coming to a close and we are busy planning end of year events and celebrations. I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the contributions and dedication of all of you. Parents of the Thurston community are the best in the district. Truly "Exceptional!" Anne Darnell has done a wonderful job of guiding the Thurston PTO and I appreciate all the things she has done throughout the year.

Back to School Rally – the School Improvement Team (SIT) is planning to again host this rally the week before school begins, in August. You will receive details in the fall mailing so be sure to look for them. Looking ahead, SIT will need two more parent members next year. SIT meets once a month to oversee the implementation of the Thurston School Improvement Plan. Please contact me if you may want to join the continuing parents who are: Jubei Hughes, Carrie McGee and Martha Farmer.

Congratulations are in order for 3rd Grader, Duncan Darnell and 5th Grader, Anri Sorel who are receiving a Recognition Award for participating in the 2009 Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search with over 28,500 of the most able third through ninth grade students and qualified for the search by attaining outstanding academic achievement in the math and/or verbal areas.

MEAP – MEAP results letters have been put in the mail and should be received this week or early next week. Below I have listed the current Thurston and District percentages. Our writing continues to improve, however we have a slight drop from last year in other areas. These scores do not reflect how well the students do in meeting the district grade level report card outcomes or the state grade level content expectations.

English Language Arts

Thurston	3 rd /87.3%	4 th /91.3%	5 th /92.4%
District	3 rd /89.9%	4 th /88.8%	5 th /87.8%

Reading

Thurston	3 rd /88.9%	4 th /96.5%	5 th /92.4%
District	3 rd /91.3%	4 th /91.9%	5 th /89.7%

Writing

Thurston	3 rd /82.5%	4 th /60.0%	5 th /83.3%
District	3 rd /78.8%	4 th /64.7%	5 th /78.7%

Mathematics

Thurston	3 rd /96.9%	4 th /95.0%	5 th /92.7%
District	3 rd /96.3%	4 th /94.3%	5 th /92.0%

Science

Thurston			5 th /94.1%
District			5 th /91.6%

Patricia A. Manley, Principal

Come See the Show!

By Yael Rothfeld

Thurston's 5th grade musical is Monday, May 11th. Join us to see characters such as Thelonious Monk, Ella Fitzgerald, Louie Armstrong, and Count Basie. There will be two performances in the Multipurpose Room - one at 6:00pm, and the other at 7:00pm. Student Council will be selling refreshments in between. It will be a great performance!

MR. TEST'S FIELD DAY PLEA FOR HELP!

By Sandy Daida

Field Day will be held Friday, May 22, only if we have enough parents to help. Mr. Test NEEDS parents by 12:30 to the end of the school day. To date, we have 13 parent signed up and WE NEED A TOTAL OF 40 parents who will help direct each class for one of the games!

We still need to borrow 10 more large drink jugs, 1 more wagon, and 4 more large clean buckets. We also need lots of people to fill 100 water balloons and have them to school by 12:30 for the event.

Please contact Sandy Daida – sandy.daida@sbcglobal.net or 761-8941 – and let her know how you can serve our kids. Thank you Thurston parents for your support.

Volunteers Needed for Art Portfolio Day

By Amanda Wyse

Sorting and bagging the art so that it makes it home safely is a big event! Come join the fun! Please let me know if you are able to help during any of these times (wysea@aaps.k12.mi.us). Thank you!

Tuesday May 26 1:15-3:40

Monday June 1, 8:45-11:40 and 12:40-1:50

Wednesday June 3, 1:20-3:40

Wednesday May 27 1:15-3:40

Tuesday June 2, 1:20-3:40

Friday June 5, 12:45-2:45

Anxiety Disorders in Children and Adolescents: An Educational Forum

Tuesday, May 12 from 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Huron High School "New Theater"

2727 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor

To learn more about anxiety disorders in children and adolescents, including the latest research advances and treatment options, we hope you will join us for this educational forum. This event is free and open to the public, and is appropriate for parents of students at any grade level. AAPS staff members are also encouraged to attend.

Kate Fitzgerald, MD, a clinical lecturer in the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Program and member of the Depression Center at the University of Michigan, will discuss the presentation and treatment of anxiety disorders in youth. This will be followed by questions from the audience and discussion with expert panelists.

This forum is presented as part of an ongoing educational partnership between the University of Michigan Depression Center and the Ann Arbor Public Schools. For more information about this event, please contact Trish Meyer at the U-M Depression Center: meyerpa@umich.edu

Changes for Kroger Grocery Card Program

By Caroline Engelbert

As of May 1st, Kroger is changing their Community Rewards Program. Thurston will be earning money based on points received on purchases made with your registered Kroger Plus Card instead of the Grocery Cards you currently use. You may use the remaining money on the cards you currently have to purchase groceries, but re-charging them will no longer earn money for Thurston. I am in the process of registering Thurston for the new program and directions for registering your Kroger Plus Card will be available soon. More information about the changes in the program can be obtained at www.krogercommunityrewards.com and eventually on the Thurston website.

Busch's and Hiller's Grocery Card programs are unchanged. Please continue to use your Busch's and Hiller's cards as you have been. Our school benefits a great deal from these programs and we appreciate your support.

Placement interviews for Summer Choral Academy 2009

Does your child match pitch and enjoy singing choral music? The Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, established in 1987, is offering its 2nd annual choir camp in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Rec & Ed. During this two-week intensive course, students work daily to develop musical adeptness in part-singing, sight-reading, and performance artistry. They also work on team building demonstrated by the interdependence of choir members. Skills learned and honed during the two week camp are showcased in a public performance July 17 at 7p.m. Ages: 9-14.

Early bird discounts end on May 8. With this in mind, another round of placement interviews are being offered by appointment on the evening of May 6. Contact the Ann Arbor Youth Chorale today to schedule your child's appointment.

Email: a2youthchorale@yahoo.com or phone: (734) 996-4404 to schedule your child's appointment.

The details regarding this camp can be found on our information page:
<http://www.annarboryouthchorale.org/involve.php?itemid=26> or Ann Arbor Rec & Ed's web page
http://reced.aaps.k12.mi.us/reced.home/reced.camps/summer_choral_academy

Touch-a-Truck Event Speeds into Town!

Have you ever wanted to sit behind the steering wheel of a fire engine? Slide into the driver's seat of a real race car? Climb aboard a cement mixer?

All these opportunities and more await children and their families at the free Touch-A-Truck event sponsored by Washtenaw Success by 6 and the Washtenaw Great Start Parent Coalition. This free family event will be on Saturday, May 16th from 9:00am to Noon in the Briarwood Mall parking lot.

Touch-a-Truck is designed to provide a fun learning opportunity for the whole family. In addition to the trucks, emergency response vehicles, race cars and more, local non-profits and businesses will be there to share information about preschool opportunities, childcare, health services and a wide variety of other family services.

For more information call Melissa Pinsky at 734-994-8100 x 2177 or visit www.washtenawsuccessby6.org