

THE HERON HERALD



A PUBLICATION OF THURSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

OCT. 31, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon., Nov. 3

Picture Day Retakes

Tues., Nov. 4

No School for Students
Election Day

Wed., Nov. 5

Pick up Sally Foster in Activity Rm.
YES Club during Lunch Period

Tues., Nov 11

PTO Meeting 7:00pm

Fri., Nov. 21

Turkey Trot
Movie Night in the MPR

Fri., Dec. 19

Winter Vacation begins at 3:42pm

Mon., Jan. 5

School Resumes

Quote of the Day

"No legacy is so rich as honesty."
William Shakespeare,
"All's Well that Ends Well", Act 3
scene 5, English playwright & poet
(1564 - 1616)

www.quotationspage.com

Today in History in 1864

U.S. Congress admits Nevada as
36th state in the Union.

www.historychannel.com

Saving Money Makes "Cents"

YES Club Grand Opening
Wednesday, November 5. YES
Club is open during all lunch
periods. See Mr. Johnson for
details.

URGENT CALL FOR TREE PLANTING VOLUNTEERS!

We need volunteers for planting trees ASAP – we currently have 11 adults who have volunteered to help plant trees at Thurston on Saturday, Nov 1 from 10:00am-2:00pm.



We need at least 7 more adult (or older teenagers) who will commit to helping for a few hours this Saturday to take advantage of Global Releaf's offer to pay half the cost of our trees. We will have refreshments (more food donations welcome). The weather forecast for Saturday is clear, low 50's and partly sunny – a perfect fall day for tree planting!!!

Please consider lending a hand – many hands make light work! RESPOND VIA EMAIL to katierichter@sbcglobal.net or call 332-0520.

NEW BOOK SALE THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who helped with the New Book Sale sponsored by Nicola's Books on Friday night. We were delighted to see so many of you there and truly appreciate those who gave so much of their time to make this event happen. We sold \$2,700 for Nichola's which means we earned \$405 for our Thurston PTO.

Special thanks to these parent volunteers: Nhamo Mumbiro, Tamar Springer; Claire Schulte; Bruce and Karen Morey; Kathy Botkins; Andrea Lindstrom; Stacy Davis; Haewon Cho; Susan Montgomery; Margaret Weiss; Nikki Bonevich.

Many thanks as well to the Thurston students who helped with set-up and clean-up: Ryan Gudal; Elaina, Adela, and Faith Baker; Terah Blakemore; and Libbie Bonevich.

Katie Richter and Margaret Baker, Event Co-coordinators

School Picture Retakes

Picture retake day is Monday, November 3. Students that are having their pictures retaken should bring in their entire original picture packet and turn it into the office or the photographer. Extra order forms are available in the office for anyone ordering pictures for the first time.



Let's talk turkey - Turkey Trot that is!

By Sandy Daida

Safety and encouragement – that's what we need for this year's Annual Turkey Trot, which will be held on the afternoon of Friday, November 21. In the name of fun, safety, and exercise, our 1st through 5th graders will run, jog, walk, or skip a one-mile course through our neighborhood. Our biggest need is 30 parents (Cheerleaders, yeah!) to line and secure the route. We need 6 parents (Tortoises, ha!) to walk with the kids to keep them safe. Finally, we need 4 parents (Stuffers, yum!) to serve refreshments. So lend a hand! Without you, there's no way to keep the event safe for our kids. Without enough volunteers, we'll have to cancel. (Which won't happen, right?) Sign up to be a parent volunteer! Please contact Sandy Daida 761-8941 or e-mail sandy.daida@sbcglobal.net. This event is not safe for younger siblings or pets.

Coupled with Turkey Trot, our Student Council will once again be working with the Food Gatherers. The biggest need this year is for box potatoes and stuffing, canned fruit, gravy, and soup, as well as pasta. Donations can be placed in the barrels located throughout the building beginning Monday, November 3. Monetary donations toward turkeys can be made out to "Food Gatherers." For every \$13.44, we will hang a turkey cutout in the gym. Let's see if we can top our 2004 record of 84 turkeys!



The Sally Foster Orders are Here

You can pick-up your Sally Foster order Wed., Nov. 5 after school until 4:15pm or before school on Thurs., Nov. 6 starting at 8:30am. Questions? Contact Caroline Engelbert at engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net.

How Walkable is Our Community? Take a walk with a child and help us find out!

The Thurston Safe Routes to School Committee is hosting a **School and Neighborhood Walking Survey on Friday, Nov. 7 from 3:15 pm – 5:30 pm.**

Our goal is to identify how to make routes safer for students to walk and bike to school. Parents, school staff, students, and community members will walk selected routes, make notes, and take pictures of problems they find.

Can you join us?

We need a diverse group of parents and students to walk these routes and provide important feedback. Based on your observations, we will make recommendations for improvements to streets or suggest best routes.

Please RSVP to Thurston parent Bret Springgay at bspringgay@comcast.net or 734-274-1846.



Get your 30 in!!!

By Toria Martin, Wellness Committee Member

It's important to get our children involved in some form of cardiac activity everyday. The rate of childhood obesity is rising in America. Let's all try and put in 30 minutes of fun family activities everyday. Get the whole family involved. Fall is here and what a great way to get some active family time in. Get the kids involved in raking the yard. Make big piles and jump up and down in the leaves. The kids will be getting their 30 minutes in and you will be making great family memories at the same time. Take time to enjoy the cool crisp autumn air in Michigan walk around Gallup Park...30 minutes will fly by. Enjoy the fall and get your 30 minutes in. Winter will be here before your know it.



A Message From The Thurston Nature Center Committee



Thurston Nature Center Committee's (TNCC) proposal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create an oak savanna was approved last week in Lansing. This grant will fund the beginnings of a one-acre-sized oak savanna on the flood-prone area of turf grass in the northeastern most corner of the Thurston playground, just south of where Yorktown dead-ends. The TNCC will purchase and plant healthy, high quality saplings of four species of oaks--Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Swamp White Oak, and White Oak, 16 trees in all. The grant amount is the maximum that a nonprofit [(501(c)(3))] can request (the TNCC is a standing committee of Thurston PTO): \$2000 to purchase the trees, and this will be matched by another \$2000 in costs borne by the TNCC, including its monetary equivalent in time volunteered by TNCC members, Thurston parents and others from our community.

Between 4000 and 6000 years ago, long before Europeans settled here, oak savannas (also called oak openings) were quite common around what is now Ann Arbor. When the earliest land surveyors first explored our area in the early 1800s, they noted seeing many of these oak savannas. Like prairies, oak savannas are a fire-dependent habitat type in an area with limited rainfall, but the rolling grassland of the savanna is scattered with isolated trees. The trees are primarily large, old oaks, and there is between 10 and 60% canopy, with or without a shrubby layer below. The predominantly grass-covered ground layer is composed of species associated with both prairie and forest communities. Sadly, oak savannas were virtually eliminated in Michigan a long time ago. To learn more about the significance of these interesting ecological communities and the plants and animals that lived in them, click on the heading "Oak Openings" at the following Michigan Natural Features Inventory website:

<http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/pub/abstracts.cfm#Communities>

Meanwhile, we welcome your comments and support of the TNCC's initiative to create for the first time an oak savannah community element at the Thurston Elementary School, Michigan DNR-Designated Conservation Education Reserve. Please contact Neal Foster, TNCC Chair, at nealfost@umich.edu if you would like to help in any way with this project, which will begin in spring 2009.



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NEXT ARTICLE DEADLINE: TUESDAY NIGHT, NOV. 4

E-mail articles to Nikki Bonevich at nikki@bonevich.com