

THE HERON HERALD



A PUBLICATION OF THURSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

SEPT. 12, 2008

Important Dates

Sept. 16, Tues.

Curriculum Night 6:00-8:00pm

Sept. 19, Fri.

Picture Day

Sept. 26, Fri.

Return Bulb Sale Orders to the Office
Drive in Movies at Thurston
6:00 - 8:30 pm

Oct. 24, Fri.

Fall Social and New Book Sale

Quote of the Week

“Natural abilities are like natural plants; they need pruning by study.”

Sir Francis Bacon

English author, courtier, & philosopher (1561 - 1626)
www.quotationspage.com

Today in History 1861:

Sept. 12 was the 1st day of the 9 day long siege of Lexington, Missouri. The Confederate army secured the town on Sept. 20.
www.historychannel.com

Principal's Corner

What a wonderful sight it was to see so many of you and your children at our Back-to-School Kickoff, sponsored by our School Improvement Team (SIT). It was a perfect evening and lots of fun.

A Special Thanks to all the parents who were able to come to the First Day of School Program. Students were excited to meet their teachers and having a parent there decreased their anxiety and helped them to get off to a good start.

Our Curriculum Night will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008:

6:00-6:30 ESL Parent Session Rm 9

6:30-7:00 PM Grades 3-5 Class Sessions with teachers

7:00-7:30 – Principal's General Session in MPR

7:30 – 8:00 – Grades PreK-2 Class Sessions with teachers

No childcare will be provided

If you miss Curriculum Night, be sure to contact your child's teacher(s) to schedule your conference visit.

My goal this year continues to be a focus on academic success by putting Children First and promoting Success for All.

Patricia A. Manley, Principal

Heron in the Spotlight

This section of the newsletter is to spotlight some of our Herons for something special they have done. This can be student(s), teacher(s), staff, or even parent(s). If someone has done something you think deserves to be in the spotlight please let us know.

Honorable Herons

We would like to spotlight Ben, Will and Brooke Brenner. All three of these children have or are attending Thurston and they are all growing up to be very caring young individuals. They recently lost their cousin, Luke, in a car accident. The Brennens were given several offers from other families to take care of the children so they did not have to be in the midst of all the chaos and sadness. All three Brenner children told their parents they wanted to stay because they knew it gave their other cousins comfort when they were around.

Ben, Will and Brooke – you are truly thoughtful, exceptional children and we would like you to know how much we appreciate having you in our lives. We are deeply sorry for your loss.

By Nikki Bonevich

Thurston PTO President

Anne Darnell, 913-0657
annedarnell@comcast.net

Thurston PTO Newsletter Editor

Nikki Bonevich, 327-9790
nikki@bonevich.com

Thurston PTO Website Content Editor

Anne Karabakal, 669-2084
annekarabakal@comcast.net

THURSTON PTO WEBSITE: THURSTONPTO.AWARDSPACE.COM
NEXT ARTICLE DEADLINE: TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

Fruit and Veggie Bar and Farm Fresh Fridays Return

Tell your child that the lunchroom fruit & veggie bar is back again this year. It's free for all students. They can help themselves *after* those students getting a hot lunch have passed through the line.

In addition, the "farm fresh Fridays" program continues this year. Produce grown in SE Michigan is served on Fridays. Here's a schedule:

Watermelons on 9/5
Blueberries or Peaches on 9/12
Corn on the Cob on 9/19
Cucumbers on 9/26
Grape Tomatoes on 10/3
Beans on 10/10
Carrots on 10/17
Cabbage on 10/24
Acorn Squash on 10/31

By Sondra Bobroff

Girl Scout Information and Registration Events

Come to any one that fits your calendar!

Monday, September 15 at Logan Elementary School
The Multi Purpose Room
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, September 16 at King Elementary School
The Multi Purpose Room
6:30 pm– 8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 17 at Northside Elementary
The Multi Purpose Room
6:30 pm– 8:00 pm

Thursday, September 18 at Thurston Elementary
School
The Library
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Fundraising at Thurston

There will be several fundraisers at Thurston this year, so we wanted to tell you up front that fundraising at Thurston is a NO PRESSURE event!!! We like to offer a few different fundraisers because different things appeal to different people - not all of you want wrapping paper, but you might like bulbs instead, or things made out of your child's art work. If fundraising materials that come home are not of interest to you, please feel free to toss them in your recycle bin! That being said, we hope that you are all pleased with the selection we have chosen for this year to help us meet our goals. We are starting the year with Sally Foster gift wrap, we will be offering a Thurston hooded sweatshirt, and there will be an art fundraiser and probably a Market Day fundraiser. We welcome any suggestions, comments or cash!

Feel free to contact Caroline Engelbert by e-mail engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net or call 996-9183 and Tracy Briggs by e-mail tracybriggs@comcast.net or call 929-5018.

By Caroline Engelbert

Thanks for Cleaning up the Baseball Diamond

A big thank you to the Thurston Sharks baseball team who spent one Saturday morning of their summer vacation weeding and raking the Thurston baseball diamond. Because of their efforts, the baseball team and other Thurston ball teams were able to use the field for practice. Many thanks to the parents of these ball players who leant a hand, or a garden glove, along with a few rakes and shovels.

By Anne Darnell

Thurston Nature Center Committee

The Thurston Nature Center Committee (TNCC) is meeting Monday, September 15th, from 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Thurston library. All parents & staff are welcome – we are looking for people to become involved in helping to restore and maintain the Thurston Nature Center. More information about the nature center is available at www.thurstonnaturecenter.org or from Colin Brooks at colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or 997-6541.

By Colin Brooks

YES.... Be a Part of It!

The Young Eager Savers (YES) Club will be coordinated once again at Thurston Elementary in cooperation with MidWest Financial Credit Union. The YES Club is an ideal opportunity for your children to increase their financial knowledge through hands-on experience.



Briefly, here is how it works. Students will work alongside MidWest Financial staff to run an actual Credit Union branch inside their school. All students may access the in-school branch. Fifth grade students may apply for actual positions at the branch. Then, every other Wednesday, the Credit Union will be open during student lunch periods. This is when their fellow students will be working alongside Credit Union staff, learning important financial lessons and values along with those students using the in-school branch. To participate, students, if they have not already done so and wish to do so, along with their parent or guardian's permission, will need to open a MidWest Financial YES account. The Credit Union will make the child's first \$5 deposit, required for membership. Student applications for membership will be available in the Thurston Elementary office.

MidWest Financial Credit Union is a member-owned, not for profit, financial cooperative. They have served the Ann Arbor community for more than 70 years. MidWest Financial has over 16,000 members and nearly \$200 million in assets. We are proud to again be cooperating with Thurston Elementary for the YES Club.

By Michael Johnson

Thurston Perks Bagel Fridays

Thurston Perks Bagel Fridays are a regular fundraising event at Thurston. Every Friday morning (unless otherwise posted in advance) from 8:15am until the 8:45am bell we will sell bagels, cream cheese, coffee and juice boxes. Our coffee is Fair Trade coffee and we also sell bags of whole bean or ground coffee for you to take home if you like. Our bagels are from Bagel Fragel and they are made fresh that morning. Prices are as follows:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Bagel and 1 cream cheese | \$1.00 |
| Each extra cream cheese | \$0.25 |
| Juice Box | \$0.50 |
| Coffee | \$1.25 |
| Coffee refill in a Thurston Travel Mug | \$1.00 |
| Thurston Travel Mugs | \$10.00 |
| 1 lb. bag ground or whole bean coffee | \$10.00 |
| Coffee Card (8 coffees get the 9 th free) | \$10.00 |
| Bagel Card (a baker's dozen-13) | \$12.00 |

If you are interested in volunteering to help with Thurston Perks please contact Nikki Bonevich by e-mail nikki@bonevich.com or call 327-9790.

Let's have coffee, we'll talk.

By Nikki Bonevich

Cub Scout Pack 160 first meeting

Cub Scout Pack 160 is having its first meeting of the school year, on Thursday, September 18, from 6:45pm – 8:00pm in the Thurston Gym.

**All boys in 1st Grade through 5th Grade
(and their parents!) are welcome to attend!**



Come find out what Cub Scouts are all about. At our first meeting, boys can go on a nature hike earning a Marbles belt loop award. For more information, please contact Cubmaster Colin Brooks at colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or 997-6541, or Pack Chairperson Terry Farmer at terrmr@comcast.net

By Colin Brooks

Thank you to Todd's Services, Inc.

Thurston PTO wants to thank Todd's Services, Inc., a landscaping company in Hamburg for their generous gift of \$250! Through their Give Back to the Community Program, a customer selected Thurston to receive this generous donation. Please check them out at www.ToddsServices.com. Thank you also to Norman and Kimmy Yocum for selecting us!

By Caroline Engelbert

PTO Wellness Committee

If you would like to join the PTO Wellness Committee, contact Sondra Bobroff at 734-761-9124 or email at s_bobroff@hotmail.com. We are putting together ideas for what we'll do this year.

By Sondra Bobroff

Art Room News

Welcome back! It was wonderful to meet many of you during the events of the first day of school. In art your child will learn about artists, art terms, art around the world, and experience how to use many different art materials. Most classes will bring their creations home in December and again at the end of the school year, but you can see them on display throughout the hallways all year long.

Carol Matthews will be student teaching in the Thurston Art Room this fall. She is finishing her Teacher Certification in K-12 Art Education through Eastern Michigan University.

Parent Volunteers

Many of you have already let me know that you are interested in volunteering in the art room. Thank you! Parent volunteers help make the art program run smoothly! I will post volunteer sign up sheets outside of the preschool, kindergarten and first grade classrooms. If your child is in 2nd-5th grade and you'd still like to help, please e-mail me at [wysea@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:wyse@aaps.k12.mi.us)!

Needed Supplies

If you have any of the following things that you'd like to donate to the art room, please send them in:

- Brown paper grocery bags with handles
- Empty frosting containers with lids
- Old calendars with art prints
- Lace, rickrack, or trim
- Old button-up shirts
- sports magazines
- Facial tissue
- Liquid soap



For more information about the art program please visit www.aaps.k12.mi.us/thurston.art

By Mrs. Wyse, Art Teacher
Miss Matthews, Student Teacher

Fall Bulb Fundraiser

The grounds at Thurston Elementary School need a little TLC and the PTO landscape committee has just the plan for some "sprucing" up but...

We need your help to raise the funds necessary to plant shade-providing trees and low-maintenance, colorful perennial flowers and shrubs. Attached is an order form for fall bulbs from the Dutch Mill Bulbs Company. All items are \$6.00, fully guaranteed and 50% of all our profits come directly back to us! All proceeds from this fundraiser go toward landscaping and grounds. Ask family members, neighbors, and co-workers to buy their fall bulbs from you. They are sure to smile in the spring when their new flowers bloom.

**Make all checks payable to:
Thurston PTO (memo line: Fall Bulb Sale)**

Help us by placing your order sheet and money in an envelope labeled: FALL BULB SALE

ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICE OR CLASSROOM BY FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26TH

By Anne Darnell



Newsletter VIA E-Mail

If you would like to receive the PTO Newsletter via e-mail please send your e-mail address to Nikki Bonevich at nikki@bonevich.com.