

THE HERON HERALD



A PUBLICATION OF THURSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

SEPT. 19, 2008

Important Dates:

Fri., Sept. 19

Sally Foster sale starts

Fri., Sept. 26

Return Bulb Sale Orders to the Office

Drive in Movies at Thurston 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Fri., Oct. 3

Sally Foster sale ends, hand in all order forms

Fri., Oct. 24

Fall Social and New Book Sale

Wed., Nov. 5

Pick up Sally Foster in activity room

Quote of the Week

"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." Abigail Adams, (1744 - 1818). US First Lady 1797-1801. www.quotationspage.com

Today in History 1861:

On September 19, 1893 New Zealand Governor Lord Glasgow signed the Electoral Bill giving women the right to vote. New Zealand became the first country in the world to grant national voting rights to women. www.historychannel.com

Principal's Corner

It was so exciting to have the EMU football players at Thurston for last Friday's Bagel Day. A huge thanks to Jeff Genyk and Mara Kent for the idea, promotion and success of it.

Drills - Now that we have completed two and a half weeks of school, and students are adjusting to their daily routines, it is time to begin the series of drills that is required by all schools in the district. We must complete fire drills (6), severe weather drills (2) and crisis drills (2). Directions for these drills will be given to the students before the first one of each type. After that, the drill can be called at any time.

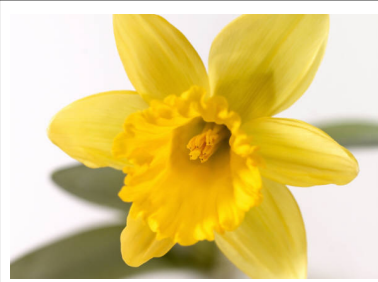
New Program - I am excited to announce that Thurston will be starting a "Safe Routes to School" program. We will kick it off by celebrating Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 8. Safe Routes to School is a national program to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to walk or bike to school. Parents may become involved by sharing your thoughts on the parent survey, join our committee, or volunteer for Walk to School Day. **Take a look at the Safe Routes to School article in this newsletter for more information and how you can help!**

Curriculum Night - The staff and I thank you for coming and hope you had all your questions answered and concerns laid to rest. If you were not able to attend, please contact your child's teacher to set up your conference date.

Yearly Report - As I mentioned at Curriculum Night, I am sending home the Thurston Yearly Report along with this newsletter.

Parking Lot - We are still monitoring the drop off and pick up routine that was started this fall. We have eight buses to unload in addition to students being dropped off by their parents. Please drop off your child near the sidewalk and ask them to walk up to the door. When they are dropped off in the middle of the parking lot, they have to wait or walk around the buses. Also, remember that you should not leave your car or park in the first row which is Staff Only.

Patricia A. Manley, Principal



Fundraising at Thurston

“Tip toe through the tulips” this spring by buying and planting bulbs this fall! The Thurston Fall Bulb Sale runs until September 26th. Ask your friends, neighbors, relatives to support this fundraiser to update and improve Thurston’s landscaping. All checks payable to Thurston PTO (memo line: bulb sale). Thank you for your support! For questions? Please contact: Annedarnell@comcast.net

Sally Foster Sale!

Catalogs will be going home with the students on Friday, September 19. Thurston PTO earns 50% of whatever we sell. Please turn your order forms in to the office by October 3 at the latest. Remember to recycle or return your catalogs to the office when you are finished! Thank you for supporting Thurston PTO and Thurston students!

By Caroline Engelbert



Snap Shots from the EMU Pep Rally/Thurston Perks Bagel Friday

Richard Rupp took lots of pictures at the bagel day last Friday with the EMU football team. There are many of kids posing with “Swoop” the mascot. The pictures are now on a password-protected group room on snapfish.com.

To view them, go to the following web address:

<http://emurocks.snapfish.com/snapfish>

You will need to either have a snapfish account, or create a new one (it’s free). You will also need the room code, which is: goemu

You can print pictures from the site.

By Richard Rupp



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NEXT ARTICLE DEADLINE: TUESDAY, SEPT. 23**

Safe Routes to School Program is Kicking Off at Thurston!

The Thurston school community is partnering with the Washtenaw County Public Health Department to start a "Safe Routes to School" (SRTS) program. SRTS is a national initiative to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to walk and bike to school. Other schools within Ann Arbor Public Schools that are participating include Eberwhite and Carpenter Elementary. This fall, we'll be getting our project rolling so here's what to expect and how to become involved:

We'll be collecting surveys from you and your child. To get to know the current behaviors and opinions of the school community, we'll be asking students and parents to complete short surveys (no names will be collected on any survey). Starting Monday, September 22, all teachers will ask their class for one week, "How did you get to school today?" Students in grades 3-5 will also fill out a survey in class. (Please contact Mrs. Manley if you prefer your child not participate.) Finally, all parents (regardless of how your child travels to/from school) will be asked to complete a brief survey. Parent surveys will be sent home with your child and are due in class by Friday, September 26.

We're celebrating International Walk to School Day. Mark your calendars! Wednesday, October 8, is Walk to School Day. The Safe Routes committee is planning a fun and, above all, safe event where all kids can participate. We are looking for parents to help plan the event as well as volunteer to help on the day itself.

Lend a hand (or a foot)! There are many ways to help Thurston's program thrive:

- * Join our committee. We meet monthly at the school for one hour. Members include Mrs. Manley, parents, the health department, and City of Ann Arbor staff. Our next meeting for Walk to School Day planning is Monday, September 22, 4-5 p.m.
- * Volunteer for Walk to School Day. Contact Lily Guzmán (info. below) to help with this fun event.
- * Take the parent survey. Take some time to give us your valuable feedback.
- * Join our email list. Keep in touch by signing up at <http://groups.google.com/group/thurston-safe-routes>

For more information:

Contact: Lily Guzmán, MPH, MSW
Health Educator II
Washtenaw County Public Health
Phone: 734-544-2983
Email: guzmanL@ewashtenaw.org
Recommended websites:
<http://healthyschools.ewashtenaw.org>
www.saferoutesmichigan.org
www.saferoutesinfo.org

Why get involved in Safe Routes to School?

1. **It's healthy!** Walking and biking to school gets kids moving.
2. **It's good for the environment!** Leaving the car at home reduces the air pollution around your neighborhood and school.
3. **It's fun!** While using their feet to get to school, kids can stop and smell the flowers, breathe fresh air, and spend time with friends or parents.

This partnership has been made possible through a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health.

