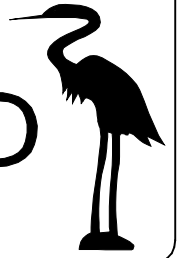


THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

September 5, 2008

Important Dates:

Tues., Sept. 9

Room Parent Orientation
4:00pm
PTO Meeting 7:00pm,
Thurston Media Center

Tues., Sept. 16

Curriculum Night

“Thurston Rocks!” t-shirts are on SALE!

There are 24 “Thurston Rocks!” t-shirts left!
There are 3 short-sleeved shirts (white with blue lettering) in youth medium, 12 long-sleeved (blue with white lettering) in youth medium, 5 short-sleeved youth large and 4 long-sleeve youth medium. There are NO adult t-shirts left! Get them cheap while supplies last! Short-sleeve are \$5 and long-sleeve are \$10.

Contact Caroline Engelbert
engelbert1996@sbcglobe.l.net or 996-9183. We won't be ordering any more shirts this year, but watch for order forms for the Thurston Hoodie, coming soon!

By Caroline Engelbert

President's Blog

Welcome back to school everyone: children, teachers, staff and parents alike! Every year summer seems to go by faster than the last as we try to fit in trips intermingled with baseball, swimming, diving, camps and backyard barbeques. No matter what your family summer-time traditions are:

You know summer is almost over when:

- ✓ Your child asks, “When will it be winter?”
- ✓ Your suggestion to go to the pool is met with “do we have to?”
- ✓ Your once green lawn is a toasty brownish yellow.
- ✓ You have exhausted all your zucchini recipes.
- ✓ Labor Day weekend comes and you don't have the energy to take one more road trip.

You know fall is here when:

- ✓ You see the first hint of orange and red on the tips of your maple tree.
- ✓ You almost sprain your ankle on a pile of acorns in Sugar Bush woods.
- ✓ You receive a Halloween Costume catalog in the mail.
- ✓ You start your backyard s'mores night at 6:00pm instead of 8:30pm because, “soon it will be dark.”
- ✓ Your phone rings off the hook with people wanting to know “what classes are your children in?”
- ✓ You walk your kids to school on Sept. 2 and bump into all your neighbors walking their kids to school (and you see the school bus pass you by).

Fall at Thurston is a busy time of year. I know that we are all adjusting to new schedules and responsibilities that come with the start of the school year. I would ask, however, that you ***find a small amount of time in your schedule to volunteer*** with one of the many activities that occur in this first semester. Volunteers will be needed in the following areas:

- Fall Bulb Sale (Anne Darnell)
- Safe Routes to School Committee
- Parking Lot Committee
- Fall Social (Oct. 24 – Christina Brenner-chair)
- Picture Day (Sept. 19)
- Election Day Bake Sale & Thurston Perks (Nov. 4)
- Turkey Trot (Nov. 21 - Sandy Daida)

We'd love to have you help in any of these areas. Please contact me or the chair person. Grab a friend and have some fun; meet new people and make Thurston a great place for our kids, teachers, staff and families!

Have a great school year!

Anne Darnell (PTO President)

Thurston PTO President

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Next Article Deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 8

Thurston/EMU Football Saturday, Sept. 13 12:00pm

Join the Thurston community at an **EMU Football** game **Saturday September 13 at 12pm**. Tickets are **\$5 a person**. Checks can be made out to the Thurston PTO and dropped off in the office **NO LATER THAN MONDAY SEPT. 8**. Tickets will be given via your child or you can pick them up in the office after we receive your order. Tailgate activities include designated Thurston area, “**bouncy things for the kids,**” and good company! Bring your own food and beverages or buy a treat at the concession stand. See you there! **GO EAGLES!**



Room Parent Volunteer Orientation will be held after school from **4:00-4:30pm on Tuesday, September 9**. If you are a room parent and are able, please plan on attending. Meet other room parents, learn about typical job responsibilities, and discover the vital role you play with the Fall Social! See you there!

We Need You to Implement These Important Programs



1. **Safe Routes to School**

- ✓ Are you a parent of a child that walks to school?
- ✓ Are you a parent of a child that rides their bike or scooters?
- ✓ Are you a parent of a child that walks to the bus stop?
- ✓ Are you a parent of a child that crosses a busy parking lot or street to get to or from his/her carpool?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions then you might like to serve on a committee that promotes **Safe Routes to School**. Thurston is the recipient of a grant from the state of Michigan through the Washtenaw Health Department to implement a program called Safe Routes to School. This committee will **meet periodically** to discuss and **implement:**

- * Safe walking/biking routes
- * Structural improvements to promote transfer of students safely to and from buses
- * Educational pieces to distribute throughout the Thurston community

We have the money to spend – help us make a difference and volunteer your talents. Contact Anne Darnell 913-0657 Annedarnell@comcast.net to sign up.

2. **Parking Lot Restructuring Committee**

Last year there was parental concern regarding unsafe conditions in the Thurston parking lot. Visibility is low, congestion is high and children are required to pass in front of moving, idling and parked vehicles in order to enter the school building.

The AAPS district has allocated money to resurface the parking lot; however, resurfacing the parking will not improve the traffic flow or safety conditions.



We have an opportunity to make a difference and **increase the safety and efficiency** of our parking lot **but we need a committee dedicated** to studying the issue and making recommendations for changes. A few parents have met a few times and some studies have been conducted, however we need a few more parents willing to put time and knowledge toward this issue.

The parking lot will be scheduled for resurfacing next summer **with or without our additional input**. This is a great opportunity to voice your opinion, share your ideas and make long term improvements. Contact Anne Darnell if you are passionate about this cause. Thank you!

Thurston PTO Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7:00pm

The upcoming PTO Meeting Agenda is posted on the PTO Website and on the PTO bulletin board kitty-corner from the main office. We’d love to see you there! Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00pm in the Media Center. **FREE CHILDCARE** is available!

By Anne Darnell