

Thurston PTO Event Guide 2010-2011

The following are descriptions of some of our activities throughout the school year. For many of the activities a coordinator name and contact information has been provided as well so that you may contact them directly for more information about volunteering.

- ❑ **Room Parent.** Each classroom has one or more room parents. The Room Parents job is two fold - 1) soliciting volunteers for various PTO functions such as Fall Carnival, and 2) to help the classroom teacher by finding and organizing volunteers to assist on field trips and special projects. You will help define your role specific to your child's classroom with your teacher. The Room Parent will often need to communicate information to other parents in the class via phone and/or e-mail. Please contact Nikki Bonevich, PTO President for more details (e-mail: nikki@bonevich.com or phone: 327-9790)
- ❑ **Hands are Not For Hitting – Chair or classroom volunteer.** This is a conflict-resolution program aimed at second-grade students. It does not have to be chaired by a parent of a second grade student. The chair gathers several parent volunteers to meet with second-grade students for one hour per week in late September through November, and the classroom volunteers work with small groups of children on fun projects aimed at helping our students to better resolve their conflicts. The curriculum is already provided, and it's a lot of fun to be in the class with the students. Please contact Patricia Manley, Principal at manley@aaps.k12.mi.us for details.
- ❑ **PTO Fundraising Committee.** The fundraising committee decides what fundraising activities will be conducted for the school year and manages those activities. It's a great way to help accomplish the goals we have set for the year. Please contact Nikki Bonevich, PTO President for more details (e-mail: nikki@bonevich.com or phone: 327-9790)
- ❑ **Ice Cream Social and Used Book Sale & Pizza Night Volunteer.** This event is coordinated as two separate functions. 1) Ice Cream Social: Volunteers help serve ice cream, supervise games, and help with set-up and clean-up. 2) Used Book Sale and Pizza Night: Volunteers sell pizza and books the night of the event, coordinate used books before and during the event, set-up/clean-up the night of the event. Everything for both events is done in shifts so no one person is expected to work the entire evening. Please contact Dawn Sackman (Ice Cream Social) via e-mail drsackman@yahoo.com or call 482-5199 or Martha Farmer (termar@comcast.net) or Richard Rupp (rrupp147505mi@comcast.net) to help with the Used Book Sale.
- ❑ **Fall Social/New Book Sale.** On Friday, October 29, Thurston hosts a social kick-off event where Thurston families enjoy an indoor carnival with food, activities, and games. It also serves as a fundraiser for the PTO. New children's books are for sale from our independent, local, Nicola's books, which donates a percentage of sales to the PTO. Please contact Christine Brenner regarding Fall Social (e-mail kbren203@aol.com or phone 485-9519) or Margaret Baker for New Book Sale at 996-2337.
- ❑ **International Night.** On Thursday, April 28, 2008, Thurston will celebrate the diversity of its students and their family members. This is one of the most exciting and well-attended events Thurston hosts and it is completely free to attend. Volunteers do many things from making food that originates from their native country, setting up displays about their cultural heritage, to helping students perform dances, musical numbers, or other arts related to their native country. Everyone is welcome. It's a lot of fun! Please contact Margaret Baker at 996-2337

- Science Day Volunteer.** February 7, 2008, during the school day, Thurston will host a Science Day. If you have a science background, are interested in science, or know someone who has a science background, we need you. Thurston brings in people interested in science to give demonstrations and talks to our students about how fun and interesting science can be. Contact John Macorkindale at (e-mail jmacorkindale3@comcast.net or phone 214-9976.
- Science Fair.** February 10, in the evening, our 1st through 5th grade students plan and execute science experiments, and are very eager to demonstrate them to family and faculty at an evening gathering. We need help planning, setting up tables, cleaning up, and judging displays. Please contact Margaret Weiss (e-mail colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or phone 997-6541.
- Science Olympiad Volunteer.** 18 public and private schools compete in fun science events that are coached by parents. 2nd through 5th graders compete in the events that happen during a day in the spring. We need many parent volunteers to help coach and run the events. Please contact Rita Shelley-Smith at 274-0507.
- Bagel and Coffee Sale Volunteer.** Bagel Fridays are a great community event here at Thurston! Almost every Friday we sell bagels, coffee and juice before school begins. This is a lot of fun. For more information on how you can help please contact Kim Luevano at e-mail kcluevano@sbcglobal.net or phone 669-0858.
- Turkey Trot Volunteer.** On November 19 Thurston will host a 1-mile run called the Turkey Trot. During the school day, the students run a one-mile loop around the school and neighborhood. We need volunteers to help man the course and cheer our students on. Please contact Anne Darnell via e-mail annedarnell@comcast.net or Margaret Baker by phone 996-2337.
- Field Day Volunteer.** On May 27, our gym teacher, Mr. Test, will host a field day for the students during the school day. Students participate in all sorts of fun events like tug-of-war, sponge toss, Frisbee toss, sack races, etc. We need LOTS of parents to help run the events. It's always loads of fun! Please contact Anne Darnell via e-mail annedarnell@comcast.net or Margaret Baker by phone 996-2337.
- PTO Landscaping/Grounds Committee Chair.** This group of parents is actively planning improvements to the area around the building. They arrange clean-up and planting days for the school grounds, and will implement plans for new playground equipment and other grounds improvements. We are currently seeking 1 or more people to chair this committee. Please contact Nikki Bonevich, PTO President for more details (e-mail: nikki@bonevich.com or phone: 327-9790)
- PTO Nature Center Committee.** Thurston is fortunate to have a large pond, prairie, and wooded environment to study and enjoy. The Nature Center committee, a group of parent and community volunteers, is responsible for oversight and maintenance of the Nature Center. Please Contact Colin Brooks via e-mail colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or call 997-6541.
- Motor Moms and Dads:** Learn how kinetic experiences can improve your child's academic skills. Parent volunteers work with K-2nd grade students on specific kinetic exercises, designed to enhance reading comprehension and classroom attentiveness. Please contact Nikki Bonevich, PTO President for more details (e-mail: nikki@bonevich.com or phone: 327-9790)
- Talent Show.** On Thursday, January 31, Thurston will host a talent show. Auditions will take place from January 14-January 18. Our Kids love being on stage, and we have a great evening of songs, skits, and instrumental performances. We need help with rehearsals, scenery, and backstage help on the evening of the performance. Please contact Patricia Manley, Principal at manley@aaps.k12.mi.us for details.

- ❑ **Little Ceasar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser.** This was a new fundraiser we started last year but it was a big success. It is wonderful to keep these pizzas in your freezer for those days that are too crazy to make a big meal or even for when the kids just want a snack. To find out more about helping with this fundraiser please contact Dawn Sackman via e-mail drsackman@yahoo.com or call 482-5199.
- ❑ **Assist on Picture Day on September 23, or with the Yearbook (circle one or both).** Help students line up and return to classrooms in an orderly fashion during picture day. Or, if you love taking candid shots of our events we would love to have some of these photos for the yearbook. Please contact Caroline Engelbert at engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net or call 996-9183).
- ❑ **Market Day.** This is a new fundraising program where they sell high quality prepared foods you can keep in your freezer. Help is needed is collect orders, placing orders or helping with distribution day when the orders come in. If we had just 8 or 9 parent volunteers each person would only have to help out with one order each month. Please contact Caroline Engelbert at engelbert1996@sbcglobal.net or call 996-9183).
- ❑ **PTOC Representative.** This would be a monthly commitment to attend the PTOC meetings. These meetings are held either the 2nd or 3rd Monday of every month. We would then need this person report back at the next Thurston PTO Meeting or to brief the Thurston PTO President. If multiple volunteers wanted to take turns attending these meetings that would work as well.
- ❑ **Green Schools.** Michigan Green Schools is a statewide run project created to help schools achieve environmental goals which include protecting the air, land, water and animals of our state along with world outreach through good ecological practices and the teaching of educational stewardship of students pre-kindergarten through senior high school. Thurston earned Green Schools status during the 2009-10 school year and we would like to continue to improve our schools eco-friendly status. If you are interested in helping out please contact John Macorkindale at (e-mail jmacorkindale3@comcast.net or phone 214-9976).
- ❑ **Thurston Nature Center.** The Thurston Pond and Nature Center is a big part of our community and we take great pride in the beautiful vegetation that grows there and the wild life that lives within it. If you would like to learn more about how you can help in the maintenance of the Nature Center please contact Colin Brooks at colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or call 997-6541.

If you have ideas or concerns we would love to here them. Please come to our monthly PTO meetings from 7:00-9:00 (sometimes they do end earlier). Childcare is available during the meeting.

WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!