

THE HERON HERALD



A Publication of Thurston Elementary School PTO

<http://thurstonpto.awardspace.com>

June 10, 2011

Important Dates

Thursday, June 16th

5th Grade Farewell Ceremony
6:30pm In The MPR

Friday, June 17th

Last Day Of School
(Half Day 8:48am – 11:51am)
Report Letters Will Be Sent
Home With Students

HAVE A HAPPY
AND SAFE
SUMMER!

*See You On
September 6th*



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A WORD FROM THE PTO PRESIDENT

Dear Thurston Families and Staff,

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as PTO President these past two years. This year it is with great sadness that I say goodbye to three wonderful people that have made a huge impact on our school over the years – Mrs. Manley, Mr. Madden and Mr. Test.

I have been fortunate enough to work alongside our Principal, Mrs. Manley, during my term as President and I cannot thank her enough for all her help and guidance these past two years. Pat has always been positive and supportive to our community and most of all to our children. Pat, your smiling face and graceful presence will be sorely missed. Thank you.

I want to thank Mr. Madden for continuing to foster my children's love of books. They always seem to come away from their weekly library time with just the perfect book and I know they are enjoying their computer time. I know the children will miss your story telling a great deal, as will I. I cannot thank you enough for the guidance you have given my children when looking for just the right book.

Mr. Test, we are all so very excited and proud that you will be the new head coach for the Pioneer football team. Pioneer is very fortunate to have your experience and creativity. I will be forever grateful for your Four-Square rules and how they have saved us from many a sibling squabble over things like 'dropsies'. Field Days will not be the same without your smiling face. You will be missed.

We also say farewell to a wonderful group of 5th graders. You have all grown into such amazing young men and women. While we have some wonderful friends moving on to other phases in their lives, we will have new people to welcome such as our new principal, Natasha York, as well as new families, some starting their first child in public school. What an exciting time the Fall will be. I am quite certain that our new teachers, principal and families will be amazed at our warm and welcoming community here at Thurston.

Everyday, teachers and caregivers make wonderful things happen here at Thurston – publishing our weekly newsletter, performing fundraising (pizza sales, bulb sales, etc), teaching Math Fast Facts, organizing the 5th Grade Spelling Bee, and running International Night, Ice Cream Social, New and Used Book Sales, Fall carnival, spirit gear sales, gardening, picture day and year book creation, in-class volunteering, concerts and musicals, girl scouts, cub scouts, attending meetings, coaching kids through academics and sports programs, displaying art work, coordinating reading buddies, and the list goes on and on. I cannot begin to thank you all and truly express what a special community we have. My family and I are so lucky to be a part of this community and I want to thank you all for making our school such a very special place for our children.

Thank you again for all you do,
Nikki Bonevich
PTO President, 2010-11

**Please welcome your 2011-2012 Thurston Parent Teacher Organization Officers and Committee Chairs.
Thank you all for giving your time and effort to our school for next year. I know we are in good hands.**

PTO Board

President	Sherrie Akuezue
Vice President	Wanda Brann
Treasurer	Dan Salomone
PTOC Representative	Rick Taylor
Members At Large	Kelly West Delp, Dawn Sackman, & Sarah Bristol
Teacher Representative	Deb Hetrick
Secretary	NEEDED
Fundraising Chair	NEEDED

Committee Chairs

Little Caesar's Pizza Kits	Dawn Sackman
Fall Bulb Sale	Margaret Weiss
Spirit Gear	Tracy Briggs
Webmaster	Lisa Haddrill
Thurston Nature Center Rep.	Colin Brooks
Safe Routes to School	Aimee Lahann
Green Schools	John Macorkindale
New Book Sale	Margaret Baker
Picture Day/Year Book	Evon Schmitzerle
Turkey Trot	Margaret Baker & Anne Darnell
Used Book Sale	Richard Rupp & Margaret Weiss
Chess Tournament	Gene Darnell
Science Fair	Margaret Weiss & Mary Manthy
Science Day	John Macorkindale
International Night	Margaret Baker
Field Day	Margaret Baker & Anne Darnell
Ice Cream Social	Dawn Sackman
Volunteer Coordinator	NEEDED
Market Day	NEEDED
Coffee & Bagels	NEEDED
Newsletter Editor	NEEDED
Landscaping	NEEDED
Fall Social	NEEDED
Science Olympiad	Margaret Weiss, Co-Chair Still Needed

Please visit the Thurston Parent Teacher Organization website over the summer to find out how our year-end financials turned out and to find out when the first meeting is for the new school year.

2010-2011 Accomplishments

Our big purchases for the school year have been:

- \$5,000 to go toward a new paved area for the 2nd & 3rd playground. Work will begin this summer!
- \$1000 for a new large size heat-laminating machine.
- Our usual grants to the staff.
- Field trip expenses
- Retirement celebrations

Long term plan:

We have decided to save our money to install commercial fans in the MPR to make that area more comfortable during the warmer months of the year.

FIELD DAY JOY!

Well, the wonderful Thurston parents proved that if you reschedule it, they will still come! Many thanks to our terrific Mr. Test, his sub Tara Radtke, and the following spectacular parent volunteers: Sherri Akuezue; Jeff Barber; Beth Barrett-Huff; Christine Boltz; Christine Brenber; Tracy Briggs; Elizabeth DenHouter; Yasuyo Furukawa; Kavita Goel; Lisa Haddrill; Marcy Hires; Jody Huhn; Lisa Inoue; Allan Joslin; Kristin Kozma; Mikayo Kanzaki; Amanda Kimberly; Andrea Lindstrom; Divya Maheshwari; Nina Misek; John Macorkindale; Shalini Mithal; Dan Noble; Akiko Ono; Debbie Paliani; Kathy Roeser; Dawn Sackman; Dan Salamone; Claire Schulte; Evon Schmitzerle; Rex Stanczak; Twylla Tassava; Bob Vanderhoff; Mike Zielinski; Thanks also to Meena Srinivasan and Robert Melendez, who were all set to volunteer when the weather intervened and couldn't come on the rescheduled day.

Also, these returning sixth graders: Megan Sackman; Claire DenHouter; Nia Watkins; Veronika Misek; and even one high school grad: Gabby Blakemore.

Wow! THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR MAKING A TERRIFIC FIELD DAY HAPPEN!

- Anne Darnell, Caroline Engelbert, and Margaret Baker, 2011 Field Day Chairs



Used Book Sale Thank You 2011

Ok, Ok, I feel a little inspired as we just successfully completed the 2011 Used Book Sale. Thank you so much for everyone's help! So here I go, using the final tune of the Thurston Players lyrics:

That's all, that's our sale for this year
And we're glad that you all could be here
And we hope that we brought you some books
That's why we did it.

Volunteers, donors, Thurston and Co.
And the ads and the posters out back,
Lists and schedules, reminders and calls,
They all made it work out.
Set up, tables, trays and the books to sort out
Each time you come in there are more to be found
Never quite sure if it'll be sound.

And then open doors cause the kids want some books
So you show, you explain and you sell
Do the same for the big sale at night
And you try to help all find their pick.
We'll do it again; next year once again we'll have the Used Book Sale.

A big thank you goes out to the more than 50 volunteers who made the sale such a great success by making advertisement signs, setting up the sale, sorting books, working during the sales and helping pack the books afterwards: Madhur Agarwal, Uzma Ahmad, Hemali Amunugama, Elaina Baker, Margaret Baker, Kristin Ball, Jennifer Barber, Amy Phillips Beem, Christine Boltz, Yvette Dimchoff, Martha Farmer, Yasuyoi Furukawa, Mike Gzybowski, Mita Gibson, Kavita Goel, Lisa Haddrillrow, Angie Har, Marcy Hires, Mary Howard, Jody Huhn, Keiko Inoki, Lisa Inoue, Eun Jung Jang, Mikyoung Jang, Shekhar Kakade, Kavitha Kumaran, Aimee Lahann, Andrea Lindstrom, Kim Luevano, Madhavi Manne, Robin Moran, Doreen Murphy, Hwa-Kyung Nam, Aki Ogawa, Debbie Paliani, Amanda Ryan, Richard Rupp, Christine Ruth, Ava Ruth, Sheri Samaha, Evon Schmitzerle, Tamar Springer, Lisa Stevens, Miriam Stevens, Yvonne Stevens, Pauline Tarr, Shahana Thakurta, Jimmy Tsai, Angie Watson, Margaret Weiss, Yuko Yano, Shaowu Zha. We also had help from the following volunteers from WCC Fauzia Qureshi, Ekaterina Ivanivova, Phillisha Smith, Hania Mansuur, Stephen Bohlen, Annaliese Hahnel. Special thanks go to Martha Farmer for gathering many of the volunteers, Renae Borowski, Susan Chapman, Debbie Riley, Evon Schmitzerle, Mr. Madden, Aisha Abdul-Aziz, Mrs. Manley and all of you, who donated more than 4,000 books and shopped the sale. The Used Book Sale is one of the biggest fundraisers for the PTO! Thanks for your support!

The following organizations received the left over books and VHSs from us:

- (1) School Supplies Project of Children in the Philippines,
- (2) Family Learning Institute,
- (3) Ann Arbor District Library,
- (4) PTO Thrift Shop,
- (5) Salvation Army Thrift Store

By Yvonne Stevens, Richard Rupp and Margaret Weiss

The Science Olympiad Committee would like to say, "thank you so much!" to our local Plymouth Mall vendors who supported WESO by donating items and gift cards to the raffle basket. This basket will be displayed at our Science Olympiad silent auction on June 11th.

OM Market and The Wine Seller	60.00 (wine, groceries)
Carpenter Brother's Hardware & Rental	25.00 (gift card)
ITA Yoga Studio	30.00 (certificate, 2 lessons)
Headlines Hair Design Studio	35.00 (gift certificate)
Domino's Pizza	25.00 (gift certificate)

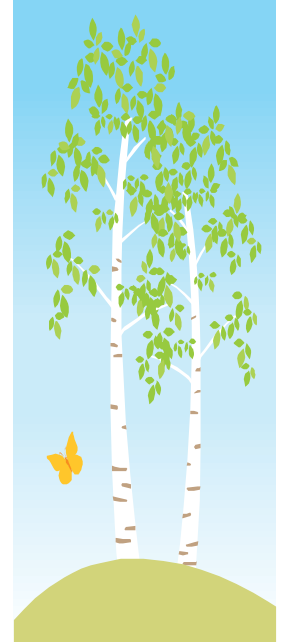
They are the staples of our community who insure that our children keep enjoying all of the extra-curricular activities Ann Arbor parents are so proud of. Please thank these folks in person next time you shop there!

Green School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 14 at 6:30 pm at Sweetwaters
Last meeting of the year—your first Chai Tea or equivalent is on me!

**We're on-track for completing our "Emerald School" commitments for this school year
and we need your ideas for next year!**

Please consider helping with something before the summer or planning to be ready to 'hit the ground running' next year. We're 'doing/done': new 4th grade Recycling Club (we *desperately need* two lead volunteers so Ms. Goodly can work on other things—contact John or Margaret for details), new 5th grade "Composting Crew", installing a new butterfly garden, installing four bat houses (houses by Pre-K and K classes), the new [Thurston Green School](#) website is up and 'growing', 'Greening' our School events (the Green Ice Cream Social was a great start!!), our first 'Green School Assembly' was successful thanks to teachers, students, and parents who contributed, the new recycling and composting clubs efforts towards a waste free lunch program and classroom composting, 2nd and 3rd letter writing to support Thurston Pond, and an "Energy Flair" home energy education and conservation program.

Important planning needed: funding (think \$3-7k) may be available for some larger projects—we need well thought out ideas ready for next fall (think: planted roof over MPR for cooling and water retention, think: native landscape for improving playground drainage; think solar panels in conjunction with a state funded program...) Also we need ideas for reaching the top Green School level of "Evergreen". For more information go to the website or email: jmacorkindale@comcast.net or call John Macorkindale at 223-8324 or Ms. Margaret Goodly (1st grade) our teacher/staff coordinator, *extraordinaire*.



We would like to thank all those who helped make the
Ice Cream Social a great success! We are so lucky to have such a
beautiful night and a great family community.

Thank you to IORIO's GELATERIA for serving the delicious Gelato.
Please visit them this summer at their new location in downtown Ann Arbor
opening in July at 522 E. William St.

Thank you to Big Top Party Rentals for the great bouncers.

The Green School committee did a great job recycling and composting for the event.
The school was spotless when we were done!

Thank you to Sherri Akuezue, Wanda Brann and Setina Briggs-Kelly for taking care of all the pizza sales

Also,

A special thank you to the rest of the volunteers. We could not have done this without your help!!
Christine Boltz, Dami Jung, Jenny Wang, Deb Moening, Kelly Delp, Sarah Bristol, Nina Misek, Pam O'Neil,
Ravi Amunugama, Donella Hale, Stacey Davis, Liz Sirman, Mara Kent, Elizabeth DenHouter, Twylla
Tassava, Robin Moran, Nikki Bonevich, and Fauzia Mansoor for recruiting students for WCC to help.

Finally to all the high school and middle school students who came back to Thurston, to help with this
event! They really prove what a great community we have.

Kate and Claire DenHouter, Austin and Madison Bunker, and Megan Sackman

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