11-28-22 Thurston PTO Newsletter

1 message

Thurston PTO <thu_pto@aaps.k12.mi.us> Mon, Nov 28, 2022 at 2:00 PM
Reply-To: Newsletter.ThurstonPTO@gmail.com
To: jeremydb@umich.edu

Thurston Elementary PTO

Heron Happenings

November 28, 2022

Upcoming Events

November 30: Early Release Day, dismissal at 1:18p.m.

December 13: PTO Meeting, 6:00 - 7:00p.m. (Add to Google Calendar) (iCal file)

December 23-January 6: No School (Winter Break)

Toiletry Drive Week 2: Personal Hygiene Products

We are now beginning Week 2 of the Toiletry Drive to help Thurston families that have requested assistance this holiday season. This week, we are collecting new and unopened personal hygiene items like **shampoo and conditioner, hand soap, body wash, deodorant, hand sanitizer, mouth wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable face masks, etc..** Place items you wish to donate in the large plastic tote bin marked "Thurston Toiletry Drive Donations" in front of the school's main doors **by 3pm Friday December 2**. You may also send items in with your child(ren), and they can place the donations in similarly marked bins inside the school building. Donations will be distributed by the Thurston Social Work Team during the month of December. Thank You!

Winter Recess Monitors

Thank you to those parents who have signed up to be winter recess monitors! Your support helps us keep recess orderly and fun. **We still have a few openings to fill! Any and all help is welcome—even if you have just one day this winter that you can come!**

We would like to have two or more volunteers at each recess. Can you help fill any of the openings? **Check out the signup sheet here.** If you have trouble with the sheet, please email the day or specific dates you can volunteer to pto.thurstonelementary@gmail.com and we will get you signed up!

Thurston's recess goes from 11:45-12:55. Volunteers should check in at the main office. Please arrive 10 minutes early on your first day to leave time to check in and see where our Lunch Supervisor, Anne T., most needs your help.

Thank you for your time and service to the school!

Thurston Holiday Giving Wish Lists

The Holiday Season is here, and we all have so many wonderful things to feel proud and thankful for. We are so fortunate here at our school to have such a fabulous and supportive community. We are truly like a family. Unfortunately, we do have many in our school that are struggling financially, and that presents the rest of us with an opportunity to help. Every year we host a seasonal wish drive hoping to help support Herons' holiday wishes and fulfill a few of their family needs. While we want to take some of the burden off of the struggling family, we also recognize that this might be a difficult time for everyone. This year, we have tweaked the drive a little to reflect the financial integrity of all participants. Our drive will reach out to families and offer support to children at Thurston and younger siblings. It's our hope that if we support our Herons directly, families can focus on everyone else. We are sending this out now hoping that those who wish to participate will have time to shop, particularly taking advantage of Thanksgiving weekend sales.

Please check out our Amazon family wishlist items HERE. To respect the privacy of our families, this will all be done anonymously. Each family has been assigned a letter of the alphabet to respect their privacy and to keep our process anonymous . You won't know which children/families you are shopping for only that you are helping to ensure a very happy holiday for a Thurston family. We recognize that Amazon can be tricky to navigate sometimes, so if you are interested in purchasing a gift card to one of our local stores (Meijer, Walmart, Target, Kroger, etc), it is also appreciated. Any gift cards purchased should simply be placed in student backpacks and sent to the front office. We will be sure all of our families are impacted by your thoughtfulness no matter what the contribution.

Our Holiday Drive will conclude on December 12th for amazon purchases and December 19th for all other items. Thank you so much for your continued kindness and very generous support.

Help restore a Thurston community theater tradition!

THE THURSTON PLAYERS

Do you know you live in a special community with a beloved theater tradition? The **Thurston Community Players** write and perform an original musical theater play that occurs every spring and raises funds for our area schools. Our 2020 play was forced to close a week before opening night and it broke our hearts. It's now going on three years without a play, and time is rapidly running out to preserve institutional knowledge and take steps back towards restoring our beloved institution. Are you interested in continuing our tradition into the future? Anyone can help! We have opportunities for many different talents: writers, organizers, prop makers, stage builders, choreographers, musicians, lighting, costumes, etc.

- Visit our website at www.thurstonplayers.org/about to learn more
- Email us at ip.thurstonplayers@gmail.com to join our email list as we build back
- Check out and share our flyer

We may return in different ways, but we will return in some way! **Be a part of this community tradition that dates back to 1975!**

Thurston Student Directory

Need to contact a Thurston parent or student? The 2022-2023 Thurston student directory is now available here. The directory is organized by grade (see tabs) and then alphabetically by class. If you registered prior to the start of school and indicated in InfoSnap that you wanted to be included in the directory, your contact information should be included. If you find a change needs to be made or do not see your information but wish for it to be included, please complete this form.

Sign up for store fundraising now!

Here's a super simple way to support our Thurston community every time you shop!

Store fundraising is so easy, and it can really make a difference for our school. But, we currently **only have a small number of Thurston families participating**. Please take a few minutes to get set up, and you will earn money for your school every time you shop! To make it easier, we've included step-by-step instructions below:

Amazon

1. Go to amazon.com and create an account. If you already have one, go to step 2
2. From your web browser: Go to smile.amazon.com and sign in with your Amazon account information.
3. From your Amazon Shopping app on your phone: Tap “AmazonSmile” within the Settings or Programs & Features menu.

4. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from your future eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Select Thurston Parent Teacher Organization.
5. Every purchase you make after that will send a percentage to Thurston. This is a great way for out-of-town relatives and friends to contribute as well.

Note: Amazon should remember your selected charity whenever you shop at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile activated in the Amazon Shopping app, but be sure to check that you are using smile.amazon.com from your web browser OR that you have AmazonSmile turned on in the mobile app before checking out.

Kroger

1. Get a Kroger Plus Card at the customer service desk or use the one you already have.
2. To start earning Kroger's Community Rewards program, you need to create an account at kroger.com. Go to Create an Account and type in your name and Kroger Plus card number. If you already have a digital account, please ensure you have a Plus Card linked to your account.
3. Click on My Account and scroll to the bottom where it says Community Rewards
4. Click Enroll and fill out the required information
5. You will now be able to search for and select the organization you want to link your card with. Search for Thurston PTO (organization number VY999) and click Enroll.
6. Scan your Kroger Plus card whenever you check out. Kroger often offers special discounts to cardholders in addition to the community rewards program.

Note: Kroger requires everyone to re-enroll after April 30th!

Busch's

1. To enroll in Cash for Education, you must have a MyWay account. If you are already a Busch's member, log in to your MyWay account through buschs.com/MyWay and click the Cash for Education icon.
2. Choose Thurston PTO from the list of organizations (for all quarters) and every purchase you make will earn rewards.
3. Select up to four organizations that you would like to support for each quarter using the drop down menu. Purchases will be allocated equally between your chosen organizations.
4. Participants will be required to re-enroll on an annual basis. You will receive an email reminder before the next year's enrollment begins.
5. Just be sure to use your MyWay card or phone number at checkout.
6. You must have a valid email address and opt in to receive emails to participate in this program. You can check this information under My Account > Account Holder when logged into MyWay.
7. Busch's will sometimes update accounts after one year, so check the Community tab periodically to make sure Thurston is still receiving your rewards.

You can learn more about the Cash for Education program and sign up here at www.buschs.com/community

Shutterfly

If you order your photos, calendars, cards, or gifts from Shutterfly or their partners, they will give 13% commission to Thurston. This is another easy way friends and family can show support.
Just enter the site from the Thurston storefront at thurstonpto.shutterflystorefront.com and we'll receive credit for every purchase.

Ann Arbor PTO THRIFT SHOP

☑ SHOP

☑ DONATE

☑ SUPPORT

2280 S. Industrial Hwy. ♦ a2ptothriftshop.org

Supporting Ann Arbor Public Schools and its Students Since 1993

Here's what our community has to say about us . . .

*"As a fundraising chair at my children's school, I always enjoyed finding ways to package up donated goods for our Silent Auction. I always found what I needed at the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** and donated back what we didn't sell!"* ~Michelle M.

*"One of my favorite fundraising activities was when we got tokens for schools collecting them to win. Love to support the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** and AAPS!"* ~Samina D.

*"As a working parent, my kids wouldn't have been able to participate in after-school activities or tutoring without the donations from the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** that helped provide the late buses!"* ~Brad B.

*"I love knowing my children's stuff can be loved by another when I donate to the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop**. I feel like a contributing part of the community and it keeps things out of landfills!"* ~Eddie K.

Visit our website or FaceBook page for Current Hours

The PTO wants to hear from you! Email us , Visit our Site or Facebook Page

Newsletter submissions due by Saturday, 5pm to: newsletter.thurstonpto@gmail.com

Ann Arbor Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Ann Arbor Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm:
Unsubscribe

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.