

09-18-23 Thurston PTO Newsletter

1 message

Thurston PTO <thu_pto@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Reply-To: Newsletter.ThurstonPTO@gmail.com
To: jeremydb@umich.edu

Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Thurston Elementary PTO

Heron Happenings

September 18,
2023



Upcoming Events

September 19: Curriculum Night, 6:00 - 7:15p.m. at Thurston

September 27: Early Release Day - Preschool Dismissal begins at 12:35; Y5-5th Grade Dismissal begins at 12:52 PM

September 29: Coffee & Conversation on New Thurston School Building, 8:30 - 9:15a.m. in the Thurston MPR

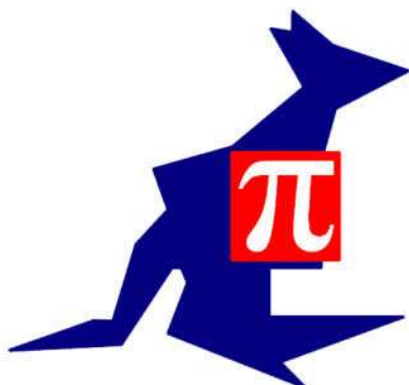
September 29: Fall Carnival, 5:00 - 7:00p.m. at Thurston

October 4: Walk and Bike to School Day

October 8: Soccer Day at Thurston, 2:00 - 5:00p.m. (details below)

October 11: Thurston Community Players Information Session, 6:00p.m. at Thurston (details below)

Sign up now for the Thurston Math Club!



The Thurston Math Club is for interested students in grades 1-5. We enjoy logic puzzles, open-ended STEM questions, and experience collaborative math problem solving. The club meets weekly at Thurston. Students will have the opportunity to prepare for the annual Math Kangaroo competition in March if they wish to participate. Visit <https://mathkangaroo.org> for more information

about the problems we focus on and to register for the competition. Click here for more detail about the [Thurston Math Club](#) (or [日本語](#) [中国人](#) [한국인](#) [عربي](#) [Español](#) [Türkçe](#)). Contact thurstonmathclub@gmail.com with questions.

This year the Thurston Math Club will meet in two groups. One on Wednesdays and one on Thursdays. Both groups meet from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the MPR/Thurston cafeteria; our first meetings will be October 4th and 5th. We look forward to another year of problem solving together.

To join the Math Club for this year everyone, including returning members, must sign up through [Thurston Math Club Sign-up for 2023-24](#). Please submit one form per student.

Academic Games Team



Interested 3rd - 5th graders can now join this year's Academic Games Team. Logan and Thurston Elementary Schools come together every year to form a team and compete against other schools from across the state. Come and play a series of games designed to develop, challenge, and test knowledge in several different subject areas beyond what is taught in school. Students compete in games that cover Math, English, Social Studies and Logic. The primary purpose of Academic Games is to make learning fun for students.

Practice times for the 2023 - 2024 school year are still being determined, but they are typically Tuesdays and Thursdays. Academic Games team members are encouraged to attend a minimum of one practice a week, but are welcome to attend as often as they wish. Competitions occur about once a month on Saturdays. A full schedule of this year's tournament is on our [website](#).

For more details, see our [flyer](#) or contact Head Coach [Tierra Jackson](#) with any questions.

Soccer Day at Thurston!



Attention Thurston Families: Come and help use raise money for new nets and goals for the the Thurston soccer fields! **Thurston's First Annual Soccer Day is October 8th from 2pm-5pm.** There will be organized co-ed soccer games for Y5-5th grade. Suggested donation is \$5/player. Snacks available for \$1. [Sign up to coach a game or help organize a team here](#). The Orchard Hills Maplewood Homeowners Association (OHMHA) [Fall Festival](#) is on the same day from 1-3pm, so you can also stop by the Fall Festival for cider and donuts and pizza slices for sale from your Thurston PTO before heading over to play soccer with friends! Please note we will not have access to Thurston for restrooms. Check out our [flyer](#) for more details, and please contact thurstonsoccerday@gmail.com with any questions or to get involved!

Thurston Community Players



The Thurston Community Players are thrilled to announce **this year's original musical production "All That Glitters Is Not Gold" - March 16-17, 2024 at Huron High School**. Come learn more and see us perform a brief sing-a-long of last year's songs at the Orchard Hills Maplewood Homeowners Association (OHMHA) [Fall Festival](#). **You can also come and learn more at our Parent Information Session on Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 pm at Thurston.**

Auditions will be Wednesday and Thursday, November 8 - 9, 6:00 - 8:30p.m., and rehearsals will begin Monday, January 8. Join the fun and help make this year's production a success! All are welcome! We're looking for volunteers for the below roles, which are listed in order from smallest to largest time commitment.

- Staffing a table at Thurston's Fall Carnival on September 29 (half-hour shifts).
- Staffing a table at OHMHA's Fall Festival on October 8 (half-hour shifts).
- Helping write lyrics for this year's musical numbers (now-October, involves attending a lyric committee meeting and writing independently or in a small group).
- Helping choreograph this year's musical numbers (October-November, involves attending at least one meeting and working independently or in a small group).
- Helping with graphic design for the play (now-March, would involve creating a few flyers, the play poster, and cover art for the program).
- Serving as Back Stage Producer, responsible for organizing props, sets, and backstage volunteers (December-March, involves about 5 hours work/week).
- Serving as Internal Producer or Assistant Internal Producer, responsible for leading the play's production (now-March, involves helping assign roles, schedule practices, communicate with volunteers, and generally keep the production on track, involves 5-10 hours/week).

Please email ip.thurstonplayer@gmail.com to volunteer! You can also check out our [website](#) and follow us [Facebook](#)!

Fall Carnival Volunteering & Pizza Orders



The PTO will be hosting the [Fall Carnival](#) at Thurston on Friday September 29th from 5:00 - 7:00p.m.! There will be games, food and activities for the whole family.

Volunteering: We need parent and family volunteers to run this event. Thanks to those of you who have already signed up! If you haven't had a chance, check out this [sign-up form](#) and consider volunteering for a 30 minute slot during the carnival. Your

child(ren) can help you when you volunteer or maybe you have an older child or high schooler that would be willing to volunteer!

There will be pizza sold by the slice at concessions, but you can **order ahead if you would like a whole pizza for your family using [this form](#)**.

Help us plan the Enchanted Nature Walk!

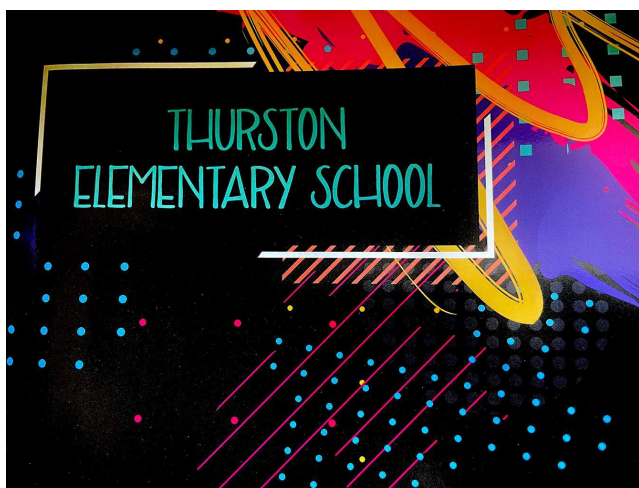


The PTO is excited to announce that we are organizing an **Enchanted Nature Walk for the evening of Friday October 20th!** Families can walk the path through the Thurston Nature Center and stop at decorated stations along the way to trick or treat. Costumes are not required but are encouraged!

Planning is underway, and **we are seeking individuals or groups who would like to set up a themed booth or table along the Thurston Nature Center path.** Get your creative juices flowing and help us come up with some really fun and slightly spooky ideas! Young children will be attending, so stations need to be family friendly and not too scary. Showcase your creativity! Sign up [here](#) to get involved.

Starting October 9th, we will have a bin in front of the school to collect nut-free candy donations for the Enchanted Nature Walk. The event is free to attend, but we are requesting a donation of a bag of candy if families are able.

Yearbook Fundraising



Did you know that our very own Thurston fifth graders create the yearbook that comes out at the end of the school year? They take photos and design pages to ensure EVERYONE is in the book. Planning and fundraising for our 2024 yearbook has already begun, and we want EVERY Heron to get a yearbook.

Preorder/donate: You can [preorder your own yearbook\(s\)](#) from Jostens now, and you can also [donate to cover the cost of a yearbook](#) for another family in need (simply put in "donation" for the first and last name and add to cart).

Yearbook Scholarship: To request a yearbook scholarship for your family, please fill out [this form](#) by December 1st.

Recognition Ads: Loved ones can design a special message in the yearbook for their Heron. Recognition ads are \$30. Complete the [Josten's recognition ad form](#) to secure your space now (deadline December 1st).

More details about the 2024 yearbook in [this flyer](#).



Ann Arbor Public Schools is excited to announce a new partnership with [My Future Fund](#), operated by the Washtenaw Intermediate School District in collaboration with the Washtenaw County Government. [My Future Fund](#) is an opportunity for all 2nd-6th grade students who attend a public school, including Thurston Elementary School, to receive a My Future Fund account with free money to jump start their savings for college and career training.

Here's what you need to know:

- All eligible students will start with a \$25 deposit to start their account, and some students may qualify for an extra \$475 based on their family income.
- Accounts will automatically be created for all eligible students this fall who are not on the district's directory information opt out list.
- To take full advantage of the program benefits, families should complete the [Release of Information form](#) by October 6, 2023.
- Families who have requested that the district not share their students' directory information must complete the Release of Information form in order for their students to receive an account by October 6, 2023.
- A parent/guardian can claim the extra \$475 for their child if their student is individually eligible for free or reduced price lunch or meet other criteria and gives permission in the Release of Information form for the My Future Fund staff to examine students' eligibility.
- Families who do not wish to participate must complete an [opt-out form](#) also due by October 6, 2023.
- For more information, families can go to www.myfuturefund.org.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to jump start your college savings!

Thurston Handbook

Learn more about Thurston's policies and procedures in our [School Handbook](#)!

Thurston Elementary

Handbook



Interim Principal: Samantha Cucu cucus@aaps.k12.mi.us	Address: 2300 Prairie St Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Assistant Principal: Jennifer Daddow daddowj@aaps.k12.mi.us	Email: thurston@aaps.k12.mi.us
Office Professional: Sherri Polovick polovick@aaps.k12.mi.us	Office Phone: 734-994-1970
Office Professional/Teacher Clerk: Kelly Delp delpk@aaps.k12.mi.us	

Raise money for Thurston every time you shop!

Start earning money for Thurston Elementary while doing your regular shopping! A few minutes of your time can earn hundreds of dollars at no cost to you. Now is a great time to **sign up for (or renew) your store fundraising accounts!**

Currently only a small fraction of Thurston families are participating. Please take a few minutes to set up or renew your accounts, and you will earn money for your school every time you shop! To make it easier, we've included step-by-step instructions below:

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 find "Cash for Education" under "Community" on the menu.
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



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](https://www.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!

Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop



- ✓ **SHOP**
- ✓ **DONATE**
- ✓ **SUPPORT**

2280 S. Industrial Hwy. ♦ a2ptothriftshop.org

Supporting Ann Arbor Public Schools and its Students Since 1993

***Celebrating 30 Years of Serving
Ann Arbor Public Schools and the Community!***

- 1993 -** The **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation.
- 1994 -** A group of parents hold the first sale in the cafeteria of Tappan Middle School and raise \$5000.
- 2006 -** Relocated to our current home at 2280 S. Industrial Hwy., occupying 22,000 sq. ft. of sales and processing space. (*AATA Bus Routes #6 and #24*)
- 2016 -** The **Showcase**, featuring unique treasures, opens at 2284A S. Industrial - next door to the original shop.
- 2023 -** The **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** looks forward to many more years serving AAPS and the community!

Thanks for all the support!



Visit our website or FaceBook page for Current Hours.

Have a question or suggestion? The PTO wants to hear from you!

Contacts:

[Maureen McCoy](#) (PTO President)

[Sathish Arcot & Ying-Chieh Wang](#) (PTO Treasurers)

[Holly Giesman Rosero](#) (PTO Newsletter)

You can also [visit our website](#) or [Facebook page](#)

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

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