

04-08-24 Thurston PTO Newsletter

1 message

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

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 3:10 PM

Thurston Elementary Parent Teacher Organization

Heron Happenings

April 8, 2024



Upcoming Events

April 10: Early Release Day - preschool dismissal at 12:35p.m., Y5-5th grade dismissal at 12:52p.m.

April 16: Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meeting, 6:00 - 7:00p.m. ([Add to Google Calendar](#)) ([iCal file](#))

April 19: Spirit Day - Anything But a Backpack Day!

April 26: Read-a-Thon, 3:10 - 3:30p.m. at Thurston (details below)

April 28: Earth Day Outdoor Work Day at Thurston (details below)

Do you want After Care at Thurston?



The Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation (Rec & Ed) is conducting an [After Care Interest Survey](#) to determine the level of interest in an After Care program at Thurston. Rec & Ed has been working hard to hire staff and re-open more Before/After care sites, and they aim to add at least one new site in Fall 2024. To run this program, at least 30 students per day must be registered. **If you are interested in After Care, please fill out this form by April 25, 2024.** Rec & Ed will email you an update the week of May 13th.

Raise money for Thurston while you read!



Join us on April 26 from 3:10-3:30 for a community-wide Read-a-Thon Fundraiser at Thurston. The Thurston PTO wants to support our young readers, and we need to raise money to pay for Teacher Appreciation Week (Coffee Truck and Catered Lunch), Field Trip Buses, 5th Grade End of Year Activities, Field Day, and the remaining Teacher Grants. Please bring your own book and blanket or chair to sit on. Each grade and class will have an assigned area outside to gather and read. There is no required donation, and everyone is welcome to join. **We are requesting a \$10-\$20 donation per family, with a goal of raising \$4,000.** Any donation, of any amount, is greatly appreciated and helps make a difference for the AMAZING Teachers and Students at Thurston! We have opted to simplify and not use a fundraising platform to save time and remove platform fees.

Here are the ways you can make your donation:

- cash or check (made out to Thurston PTO) in a marked envelope to the school office with your child
- **PayPal** (no PayPal account is required, you can use a credit/debit card)
- Zelle (using the email address thurstonptotreasurer@gmail.com as the recipient)

Earth Day Volunteering

Volunteer with the Thurston Girl Scouts families to help us keep our school's outdoor areas looking great! Sign up for our **Volunteer Work Day!**



Earth Day Outdoor Work Day at Thurston

Organized by the Girl Scout Families at
Thurston

WHAT WE WILL DO:

Stain the Picnic Tables
around Thurston

Pick up trash and debris
on Thurston's grounds

Pull weeds in the Rain
Gardens

Re-paint the
buddy benches

April 28th

Sign up for a volunteer shift from 10-12 or
12-2





Spring is here, and Thurston families are getting excited for our annual International Night - Thurston's premier cultural event of the year - the evening of May 3rd! It takes a lot of people to set up and run this event, and we are seeking volunteers. [Sign up to volunteer](#), and help us make this International Night 2024 another great success!

AAPS Budget Crisis

As many of you know, the Ann Arbor Public Schools recently announced the discovery of a funding shortfall of \$25 million. Many of us in the Thurston community are concerned for our teachers, staff and students. Parents and caregivers can get involved as the school district makes plans to address this crisis. Here are some ways you can stay informed and make your voice heard:

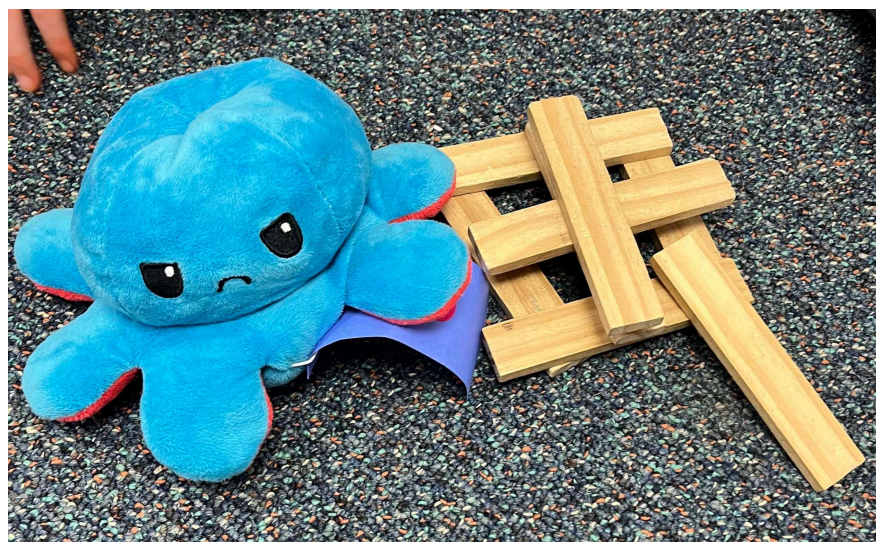
Attend the next School Board meeting:

- **Time:** Thursday, April 11th at 7 PM
- **Location:** AAPS Earhart Building, [3700 Earhart Road, Ann Arbor](#). View through [Zoom](#) or [CTN](#).
- Use this [Public Commentary Form](#) to sign up to speak at the meeting or send in your commentary.
- [More information](#)

Write to our school board members:

- Susan Baskett - baskett@a2schools.org
- Krystle DuPree - dupreek@a2schools.org
- Torchio Feaster - feastert@a2schools.org
- Jeff Gaynor - gaynor@a2schools.org
- Rima Mohammad - mohammadr@a2schools.org
- Ernesto Querijero - querijeroe@a2schools.org
- Susan Ward Schmidt - schmidts@a2schools.org
- Jazz Parks (Superintendent) - parks@aaps.k12.mi.us

Stuffie Sleepover Photos



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Stuffie Sleepover fundraiser to raise money for Thurston's Peer to Peer program. Now

Seeking New Parent Teacher Organization Board Members



Many of our Thurston Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Board members are coming to the end of their 2-year terms, and it is time to nominate a new group of leaders! This is a great opportunity to get involved at Thurston and get to know the amazing community of parents, teachers, and administrators at the school. The PTO is made up of parent volunteers, who work together with Thurston teachers and administration staff to organize fun and educational events, raise much-needed funds for school programs and clubs, support teachers with grants for special projects and supplies, and much more! We need you - the parents and caregivers - to share your time and expertise! Learn more about open positions on the board and express your interest on this [PTO Board Officer Interest Form](#).

Board Openings:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Co-Treasurer
- Communications Chair
- PTO Council Representative
- Health, Wellness & Safety Chair
- Member at Large
- Fundraising Chair

Want to find out more about what's involved? Please join us at the next PTO meeting - Tuesday April 16th at 6pm in the Thurston Library! You will have a chance to connect with the parents currently serving on the board and ask questions! You can also contact the PTO President at pto.thurstonelementary@gmail.com

Spring Lunch Recess Volunteer Sign Up

RECESS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers for the spring, starting today! You can volunteer to come in any individual school day or a recurring day. This is a great opportunity to get outside and get involved at school! We are looking for noon-hour (lunch recess) volunteers who can help staff monitor children on the playground at recess. Recess at Thurston goes from approximately 11:12-12:48, you may come for part of it or all of it.

You can sign up on the [Spring Volunteer Sign up Sheet](#). Use the top of the sheet to sign up for a recurring shift or scroll down to sign up for just one or two days. Please include your shift choice next to your name on the form.

Recess starts at 11:12 and goes until 12:48. There are 3 shift options.

Shift 0: the whole recess period

Shift 1: 11:00-12:30

Shift 2: 11:20-1:00

If you have trouble with the form, please email pto.thurstonelementary@gmail.com. We greatly appreciate your support!

When you arrive for your scheduled volunteer shift, please check in at the school office with your ID. Thank you so much for helping out at the school and have a great day!

Thurston Student Directory



Need to contact a Thurston parent or student? Check out the updated [2023-2024 Thurston student directory](#). 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](#).

Please sign up with our local grocery stores to [raise money for Thurston while you shop!](#)

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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