



Jeremy Bricker &lt;jeremydb@umich.edu&gt;

---

**9-20-21 Thurston PTO Newsletter**

---

Thurston PTO <thu\_pto@aaps.k12.mi.us>  
Reply-To: newsletter.thurstonpto@gmail.com  
To: jeremydb@umich.edu

Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 8:00 AM



# Thurston Elementary PTO

## Heron Happenings September 20, 2021

---

Dear Heron Families, this week's newsletter has important information about :

- A request for your help to outfit Thurston courtyard with some picnic tables to facilitate outdoor lunches and learning
- Board Candidates' statements for the upcoming PTO Election

Stay in touch with PTO [Email us](#) or [Visit our Site](#) or [Facebook Page](#)

Newsletter submissions are due by Saturday, 5pm to: [newsletter.thurstonpto@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.thurstonpto@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events and Reminders

**October 3 @12pm-2pm:** Picnic Table Building ([Signup Genius](#))

**October 4:** Virtual PTO Board Election

**October 19 @6-7pm:** Virtual PTO Meeting ([Zoom Link](#))

**Are you interested in helping Thurston create new and exciting learning experiences? Can you picture students reading, writing, experimenting and eating outdoors?**

**Thurston Families, we need your help!**

**Our newly renovated courtyard (across from the Preschool playground) is ready to welcome the laughter, learning, and creativity of our amazing Herons!**



In order to make this possible, we want to fill this and other areas with a **total of 40 picnic tables** to support student learning and provide opportunities for outdoor lunch.

**Thanks to some eager donors, we have 5 tables to start us off, as shown in the picture above or stop by tomorrow to check them out!**

But, as you can see, we have ways to go! With your support, let's fill our courtyard! There are two ways to support:

**OPTION 1:** Donate any amount towards the purchase of these wood picnic tables (\$126.14 for each table, includes tax)

Any amount helps and PTO will apply the funds to purchase and acquire the tables.

[Click Here for the Thurston PTO PayPal Link](#) (Note "Picnic Tables" in the memo line. Any extra fund received will be added to the PTO General Funds.)

**OPTION 2:** Join us on Sunday October 3 from 12pm to 2pm to build picnic tables and help beautify of the courtyard

[Sign-Up Here to Help Build Picnic Tables](#)

Please contact the [PTO President](#) with questions.

Thank you for your support!

## PTO Election - Candidate Statements

**Upcoming PTO Board Election: Monday, October 4th 8:00 am via GoogleForm linked in PTO Newslette**

**Mark your calendars for PTO Meetings: Tuesdays 6:00-7:00 pm** October 19 - November 16 - December 14 - January 18 - February 15 - March 15 - April 19 - May 17 - June 14

**Grace Chae - President.** My name is Grace Chae and I am the Interim PTO President. I have been part of the Thurston Community since fall 2017 after moving to Ann Arbor from Chicago. I have a 2nd grader, a 3rd grader, and a 5th grader. I served as PTO Secretary last year and am excited to run for President for the 2021-2023 term. I am also an Internal Producer with the Thurston Community Players, which puts on a homegrown, yearly play production featuring students and families of Thurston, Clague, Huron, and beyond. We have an amazing community and I am excited about the prospect of working with the entire membership to find ways to bring our community back together after so much time apart.

**Corentin Cras-Méneur - Vice President.** I've been a part of the Thurston community for about 10 years now. I started being involved with the PTO when my youngest daughter was in Kindergarten. I was treasurer for a number of years, then a "Member at Large" (as I became treasurer for the Clague PTSO for another two years). I am also on the board of the Thurston Community Players (the Ann Arbor community theater group supporting our school and community since 1974). I currently have a second and a fifth grader at Thurston, and I would be more than happy to keep on trying to help the PTO to the best of my abilities and share my experience with the other members of the community.

**Corinna Burghardt - Co-Treasurer.** Hi! My name is Corinna Burghardt and my son is currently a 1st grader in Ms Hudson's class. I was a room parent last year and would love to participate in the PTO this year to continue supporting our amazing Thurston

community. I am especially interested in the open co-treasurer position as it aligns so well with my professional skills: I am a research administrator with LSA Finance at UM and work with budgets, reconciliations, and projections every day. On a personal note, my family combines three nationalities and we love the international, open, and welcoming Thurston neighborhood.

**Dave Stouffer - Secretary.** My name is David Stouffer and I moved to Ann Arbor in 2018 with my wife and two children. Both of my kids are at Thurston and we are excited to be a part of such a great school. The short time I have been in Ann Arbor I have noticed a tight social network related to Thurston school and its wonderful group of families. I am happy to be in a position to contribute to the Thurston PTO and look forward to assisting this great community.

**Holly Geisman Rosero - PTOC Representative.** My name is Holly Geisman Rosero, and I'm excited to get involved with the Thurston PTO for the first time this year. I am a mom of two—my Thurston 1st grader, Lucas, and my future Thurston Heron, Maya (3 years old). My husband Luis and I moved our family to Ann Arbor from California two years ago, but I'm originally from the Midwest and happy to call Michigan home now. I'm a full-time mom at the moment, but I have a background in media and documentary. I'm running for the PTOC Representative position, and I'm very interested in connecting with others in PTOs across the Ann Arbor area. I look forward to learning and bringing back new ideas for our Thurston school community.

**Maureen McCoy - Health, Wellness and Safety Chair.** My name is Maureen and I am the mom to three awesome kids, including a first grader and kindergartner at Thurston. Before becoming a full-time parent last year during the pandemic, I worked as a registered nurse. I hope my background in healthcare and love of working with children make me a good fit for this position in the PTO. I look forward to meeting all of the Thurston families and helping to make Thurston a healthy and safe place for our kids.

**Sarah Surerus - Communications Co-Chair.** My name is Sarah Surerus. My daughters and I moved into the Thurston neighborhood in September 2020 after eight years living on the far west side of Ann Arbor. My partner and I share a home with our blended family and 9 yo boxer, Duncan. I have two daughters in kindergarten and third grade, and this is our first year at Thurston! We are very excited to be here, meet our community, and get involved. In my freetime, I volunteer with my daughters' Girl Scout troop and have previously served as a room parent, and also I work as a speech-language pathologist at an adult brain injury facility in the area. I am running for one of the Communications Co-Chair positions because I believe in strong communication between a child's home and school. I understand the need to stay in-the-loop with my children's school in order to help my children develop academically and socio-emotionally, and I will make sure PTO communication is prompt and easily accessible for parents. I look forward to meeting everyone at Thurston.

**Jeremy Bricker - Communications Co-Chair.** Hi I'm Jeremy, and am running for communications co-chair to take care of the PTO's website. My daughter is in kindergarten at Thurston. We just moved here from Holland, and are enjoying all A2 has to offer kids.

**Sheiba Kaufman - Fundraising Co-Chair.** Hello families! My name is Sheiba Kian Kaufman, and I'm so happy to be part of this great community. My family and I recently moved from Southern California and we couldn't be happier with our awesome Thurston community. Our son Thomas is in first grade and our daughter Martha is two years old. I've been a college educator and writer for nearly fifteen years! Along the way, I've had wonderful experiences volunteering with nonprofit children's museums and working in the community to raise funds and awareness for important educational needs and causes. I would be honored to bring my experience and skills with coordination and communication to this service role as fundraising co-chair for Thurston! I promise to make our fundraising events joyful, smooth, and successful to benefit each and everyone on campus.

**Michelle Malewitz - Member-at-Large.** My name is Michelle Malewitz and I'm the parent of a disabled 2nd grader. This is our first year at Thurston. We recently moved from Los Angeles to Ann Arbor. My husband is a native Michigander and UofM Alumni as well. I'm a full time project manager and in my free time I'm all about disability advocacy. I'd love to get involved with the PTO and take on the role of member at large. My big goal for the year is starting a Special Education PTO Subcommittee and celebrating Disability Awareness in October. Looking forward to getting to know more Thurston parents.

**Cathy Gorga - Member-at-Large.** My name is Cathy Gorga, and my daughter Rowan is in second grade. I'd love to serve on the PTO as a Member-at-Large so I can learn more about how my skills and background (in social work and education) can best enable me to serve the Thurston community. We're so glad to be back in person this fall! We really missed connecting with our friends and are excited to see what the school year brings.

## AAPAC Info



The Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee For Special Education (AAPAC) is a group of parents whose focus is on supporting children in AAPs who have IEPs or 504 plans

*...a helping hand for parents of students with IEP or 504 Plans*

<https://a2pac.wordpress.com>

### AAPAC District-Wide Meetings

First Monday of the month (October through June)

via Zoom

(zoom links and reminders will be sent through district email)

6:15-6:50pm with SISS team and 504 Liaison  
7-9pm general meeting

**Need support? Don't know who to contact? General Questions? Your Building Liaison can help!**

Building Liaison: Michelle Malewitz / maxfield.michelle@gmail.com

I am here to help! My name is Michelle Malewitz and I am the mom to a 2nd grader with an IEP. I can be reached at [maxfield.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:maxfield.michelle@gmail.com) Please let me know if you want a parent perspective on your child(ren) possibly needing or being evaluated for special education services, the district's IEP and/or 504 plan processes, or the delivery of services that your child(ren) already receive(s). AAPAC and I can be another resource for you or refer you to other sources for help. All communication will remain confidential. I am open to suggestions for how parents in our own building can support each other at the local level, too. The AAPAC [website](#) lists this year's parent meeting dates and archives, how to contact our executive board, how to join our closed Facebook Group and more.

Click Here for More [Information on AAPAC](#)

## Store Fundraising

### Support Thurston PTO while shopping

If you would like to make a donation directly to Thurston PTO, please visit our [homepage](#)



**Amazon.com** Start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**Kroger** Go to [www.kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) and click on the Community tab, then Community Rewards

**Busch's** Log in to your MyWay account through [buschs.com/MyWay](https://buschs.com/MyWay) and click the Cash for Education icon.

**Shutterfly** Use the Thurston storefront at <http://thurstonpto.shutterflystorefront.com/> and we'll receive credit for every purchase.





**2280 S. Industrial Hwy. ♦ [a2ptothriftshop.org](http://a2ptothriftshop.org)**

*Supporting Ann Arbor Public Schools and its Students Since 1993*

### **Our Mission Statement**

We are a local, nonprofit thrift shop promoting equity in our community by supporting Ann Arbor Public Schools' parent teacher organizations and student activities.

### **Our Vision**

A diverse and thriving community in which every Ann Arbor Public Schools student has equitable access to enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

*Thank you for helping us achieve our mission!*

**Celebrating 5 YEARS of the  
Showcase, where you'll find  
unique & collectible treasures!**



*Call 734-996-9155 or visit our website  
or FaceBook page for Current Hours*

**The PTO wants to hear from you!**

[Email us](#) or [Visit our Site](#)

[Facebook Page](#)

**Email submissions to:** [newsletter.thurstonpto@gmail.com](mailto: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.