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04-01-24 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 1, 2024 at 12:10 PM

**Thurston
Elementary
Parent
Teacher
Organization**

**Heron
Happenings**

April 1, 2024



Upcoming Events

April 8: State assessments period begins (see [Thurston Calendar](#) for details)

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!

Class Placement Survey due by 5pm!



Today is the last day to submit the [Class Placement Survey](#). This survey allows parents and caregivers to provide some feedback on their child(ren), which the Thurston staff may then use as they plan for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have not already done so, please complete one survey for each Pre-K through 4th grade child in your home. Please note that completion of this survey is for feedback purposes only and does NOT guarantee the placement of your child with a specific friend or classroom teacher. Furthermore, you will see in the survey that indicating a teacher for your child can lead to the dismissal of your survey. Staffing roles are never a given and could change at any time due to building needs. The first priority is to develop classes that best serve ALL of the children.

Survey link will close at today (April 1) at 5:00 p.m. Failure to complete before deadline will result in your voice not being heard.

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

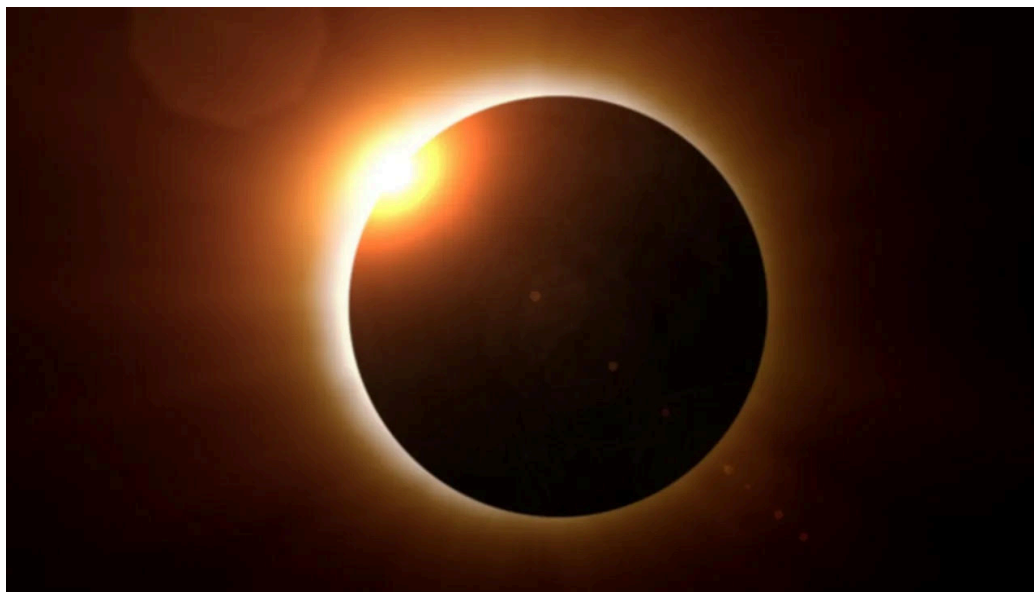
more! We need you - the parents and caregivers - to share your time and expertise! Learn more about open positions on the board and express your interest on this [PTO Board Officer Interest Form](#).

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

Eclipse 2024 Safety



On Monday, April 8, Ann Arbor and much of North America will be treated to a special show in our skies. Unless its very cloudy, we will be able to view an almost total solar eclipse where the moon will line up in a way that it blocks almost all of the sun. An eclipse this dramatic doesn't come along often and we want to make sure students can view it safely.

Everyone needs to know that you should never look at the sun directly without solar viewing glasses, even when it is partially eclipsed. This is a particularly important reminder this year because the primary viewing time for the eclipse will occur near the time students are released from school for the day (starting at 1:57pm through 4:26pm). **We recommend having a conversation with your student(s) - especially those who walk and ride the bus - to remind them about these items:**

- **They should not looking directly at the sun during the eclipse.**
- **Expect that the skies will darken during this time, earlier than you might expect this time of year. The maximum eclipse will occur at 3:16pm.**

In addition to in-school learning opportunities about eclipses, thanks to a very generous donation from Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union, we will be making solar viewing glasses available to all staff, students and bus drivers to ensure a safe and educational eclipse viewing experience. Students will take their eclipse glasses home for the walk or bus ride.

Want to know more about the coming eclipse? Go to [NASA.gov/eclipses](https://www.nasa.gov/eclipses).

Spring Lunch Recess Volunteer Sign Up



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!

Order your Thurston Yearbook now!



The 2024 yearbook is on sale now for \$15. [Order your yearbook\(s\)](#) from Jostens now. This year we want EVERY Heron to get a yearbook. If you are in need, please fill out this [form](#). Use the following link to [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).

Did you know that our fifth grade students create the yearbook? They take photos and design pages to ensure EVERYONE is in the book.

Questions? Contact the Thurston yearbook adviser [Mrs. Badalamente](#).

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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