

APT Notes & News



AMBERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Issue No. 081114

November 14, 2008

A Note from Jennifer

By Jennifer Gatz, 2008/09 APT President

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With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, I am reminded of the many things for which I am thankful. Family and friends top my list.

I'm also grateful for a caring community of parents and teachers here at Amberly. We are fortunate to have so many parents who are willing to share their time by helping in the classroom, planning a party or chairing an APT committee. Our Amberly teachers and staff are some of the best, always willing to go that extra mile for the benefit of our students.

Thank you to Rudy and Jill Ruterbusch for organizing Fifth Grade Clean Up this year. Our fifth graders worked hard on October 29 as a thank you to APT for helping to pay for Sherman Lake Camp in January.

I also want to thank Tricia Lutz and Gretchen Kauth for organizing the Holiday Sharing collection of food and money to benefit Portage families in need. We appreciate this opportunity to teach our children about the joy of giving and to give something back to our community.

Joy to you as you celebrate this holiday season!

Jennifer Gatz
APT President 2008-09
372-7083 or tjgatz@sbcglobal.net

Dates to Remember:

- **Nov. 18**
APT Meeting 9am
- **Dec. 5**
Movie Night
- **Jan. 20**
APT Meeting 9am
- **Jan. 22**
Donuts for Dads
- **Jan. 23**
Staff Luncheon
- **Feb. 6**
Daddy-Daughter Dance

Fundraiser Nets 85% of Goal New Options for Next Year Being Considered

By APT Executive Committee

Our Fall Fundraiser has come to a close and profits from Sally Foster sales came in at \$15,967. Adding in donations of \$1,719, we have a total income of \$17,686 to fund our APT budget. This does fall about \$3,000 short of our APT budget of \$20,700. However, we recognize that these are difficult economic times, and we are thankful for the funds we have received.

We are sensing a declining interest in catalog fundraisers and are considering other options for the future. Other Portage elementary schools have had success with a walk-a-thon fundraiser and APT would like to explore this further. In addition to raising funds, a walk-a-thon type event promotes healthy living and allows 100% of the children to actively participate.

We are in the beginning planning stages and we welcome your input! If you are interested in joining the planning committee, contact Miranda Garside at mirandagarside@charter.net or Jennifer Gatz at tjgatz@sbcglobal.net or 372-7083.

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It's a tough economy out there—no better time to focus on the FREE money for our school offered by programs like Scrip and Box Tops! Scrip fills the bill with practical holiday gift ideas, everything from gas to groceries.

AT THE
MCDONALD'S
FORMER SCHOOL IN
WI, THEY EARNED
\$3,700—NO,
THAT'S NOT A
TYPO—THAT'S
THOUSANDS IN
BOX TOPS MONEY!

HERE'S A COUPLE
MORE LOCAL
EXAMPLES:
WEST LAKE
ELEMENTARY, BATTLE
CREEK: **\$7,000**
STARR ELEMENTARY,
PLAINWELL: **\$3,300**
LAKE CENTER,
PORTAGE: **\$2,600**



Features:

SCRIP—Now Easier than Ever!

Many of you have been enjoying the convenience of being able to pick up scrip cards right at the Amberly office, but what if it's the weekend? Now there is an additional way to pick up your scrip—you can purchase Amberly scrip online directly from ScripCents!

An information sheet went home in the Friday Folders on Nov. 7th, but just in case you missed it, here are the basics: Log onto www.scripcents.com, click on "Enroll Now", click on "Individual shopping for my non-profit", fill out your personal info, then enter Amberly Elementary's code: **HE6KE7H**. Your gifts cards will be shipped directly to your address.

Now all you online shoppers can shop for scrip and help the school from home...in your jammies...at midnight! Of course you're still welcome to come in and visit Linda or Michele to pick it up in person during the day (in which case you might want to change out of the jammies...but I'm sure they wouldn't mind either way!)

New Goals for Box Tops

by Terri McDonald, the "Box Top Lady" (Box Top Committee Chair)

Editor's Note: You may have noticed a little extra buzz in the air about the Box Tops for Education program lately. That's because Amberly has a new APT Chair for Box Tops. Terri McDonald is a new Amberly parent this year. Her family moved here from Wisconsin, where their school was very successful at earning Box Top funds. She has volunteered to work with the fifth grade teachers here at Amberly to enhance our participation in the program. Hopefully we can increase the money we earn from Box Tops by leaps and bounds! Thanks for stepping up at Amberly, Terri!

Just in case you are wondering how much money we have earned with Box Tops, here is a summary. The collection year for earnings from Box Tops runs from March - February. During the 2007/2008 school year we earned \$972.00. So far this year, we have earned \$978.50. Our earning goal as determined by Box Tops is \$1200. I know we can earn more.

Don't forget to register at the boxtops4education.com website. It is a great way to find out about participating box top products, print coupons, keep posted of current promotions, and you can even track our school's earnings. For example, the November promotion is a chance to win 10,000 box tops for Amberly by clicking on the Betty Crocker Fruit Shapes icon and entering the contest. You can enter daily but only if you are registered on the Box Tops website.

As you have noticed, we are trying something new this year. You should have received a collection sheet for the month of November. You can either glue or tape the box tops to this sheet. Please do not put more than the spaces allow because they are counted in multiples of 50. If you need or want more collection sheets, make copies of the one you have, download more from the website, or contact Terri McDonald at tlzm@charter.net and I can help you out. If each student fills out one sheet per month, assuming 500 students in our school, we would earn \$500/month.

Let me know if you have any questions. We appreciate all of the clipping you do because every little bit helps!!!!

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Spotlight on.... Parent Liaisons

by Debbie Coll, Parent Liaisons Chair

Have you ever wondered what a parent liaison is? These are a group of dedicated parents who coordinate volunteers for each classroom. Each teacher may use the parent liaison in different ways, but typically they will be the one who contacts you if there is a need for volunteers in your child's class, be it for parties, classroom help, or special projects. The liaison will also welcome new families throughout the year. To find the parent liaison for your class, just look in the front of the directory. Thank you to these important volunteers!

Coming Events:

Wall*E Coming to Movie Night

by Kim Gates, Movie Night Chair

Movie Night is coming! On Friday, December 5th the newly-released movie Wall*E (rated G) will be shown in the Amberly Gym. Permission slips/info sheets for this event went home in the Nov. 7th Friday Folders.

Students may bring a blanket or sleeping bag for comfort. **NO PILLOWS PLEASE.** Parents are welcome to stay!

Doors open for student check in at 6pm. (side parking lot doors only, and no earlier than 6pm). The movie will start at 6:30pm. Parents are to come into the gym to pick students up at 8:30pm. We are asking for a \$5 donation per student. Popcorn and a drink will be provided for each student, and candy will be available to purchase at \$0.25 to \$0.50 each.

We are still in need of volunteers to check students in/out, pop popcorn, hand out popcorn/drinks, sell candy, and keep an eye on exit doors. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kim Gates at 323-8997.

Donuts for Dads

by Jane Doherty, Co-Chair with Priscilla Pedraza, Donuts for Dads

APT has lots of new events, but some of the old favorites live on too! A long-standing Amberly tradition, Donuts for Dads will be held this year on Thursday, January 22, 2009, from 8:00am - 8:35am.

Fathers or other special adults are invited to take a few minutes from their busy schedules to enjoy a morning treat of donuts, coffee and milk with the kids at school. This annual event will take place in the Amberly cafeteria. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Doherty (329-2819) or Priscilla Pedraza (329-0325).

Staff to be Treated to Luncheon in January

by Julie Lawford, Staff Luncheon Chair

The Staff Luncheon is scheduled for Friday January 23rd, 2009. I am happy to announce that I have a new co-chair, LynnAnn Birkmeier! Several people signed up at the beginning of the year to help. We will be contacting you at the first part of January for your assistance with food or other necessary items to make this years Staff Luncheon a success. To have your name added to the volunteer list or for more information please contact Julie Lawford, 501-9298 or julie_lawford@yahoo.com.



*Amberly's Movie Night will feature Wall*E—just might be the cutest little robot since R2D2!*

HARD TO BELIEVE THE HOLIDAYS ARE ALMOST UPON US! AN EASY SHOPPING LIST:

1. GROCERY STORE SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY MEALS
2. CLOTHING STORE SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY FASHIONS
3. GAS SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY TRIPS
4. ANY SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS



Speaking of oldies but goodies—Amberly's staff certainly appreciates the Annual Staff Luncheon!

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5th Graders Clean Up Their Act...

by Jill Ruterbusch, co-Chair with Rudy Ruterbusch, Fifth Grade Cleanup

The fifth grade clean-up took place on October 29th. The fifth grade cleanup committee joined forces with the Beautification Committee chaired by Patty Schuring to not just clean up, but add a little something special to the school grounds for spring! There was a lot accomplished by many children, including raking of the butterfly garden, weeding the basketball court, moving a picnic table and benches, raking the woodchips on the playground, cleaning up both courtyards, and preparing beds and planting tulip bulbs and lilacs on the south side of the school. Thanks to all the combined volunteers (listed below) from both committees!



The fifth graders provided their labor to clean up the grounds in appreciation for APT'S help to pay for fifth grade camp.

NOTES & NEWS WILL BE BACK IN JANUARY.
NEXT NOTES & NEWS:
**FRIDAY,
JANUARY 16TH**
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
**FRIDAY,
JANUARY 9TH**
FOR INFO OR TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE CONTACT
ELLEN ROBARE
AT
erobare@sbcglobal.net



APT Notes & News is the Newsletter of the Amberly Parents and Teachers (APT) organization.


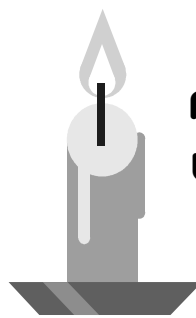
Thanks to Volunteers....

APT would like to thank the following folks who helped out with these recent events. As always, the strength of our school community depends on the dedication of our volunteers!

5th Grade Cleanup:

- Becky Bach
- Joanne Cummings
- Scott and Jane Doherty
- Jennifer Gatz
- Diane Hamlin
- Mike Laabs
- Linda Lee
- Tricia Lutz
- Heather Palmer
- Patty Schuring
- Kristy Zeluff
- Amanda Ziemkowski.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM APT!

May your holiday season be all that you hope for and more.

The support of our Advertisers helps to defray the cost of printing this month's Notes and News.

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Where is your next adventure?