

APT Notes & News



AMBERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Issue No. 090116

January/February 2009

A Note from Jennifer

By Jennifer Gatz, 2008/09 APT President

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Dates to Remember:

- **Jan. 20**
APT Meeting 9am
- **Jan. 22**
Donuts for Dads
- **Jan. 23**
Staff Luncheon
- **Feb. 6**
Daddy-Daughter Dance
- **Feb. 17**
APT Meeting 7pm
- **Mar. 6**
Movie Night II

It's hard to believe that we are nearly half-way through this school year! Did you know that your APT officers are already looking ahead and planning for the next school year?

The two openings on the Executive Board will be President Elect and Treasurer. We will also have many Committee Chair positions open since a number of our dedicated parent volunteers will be "graduating" to West Middle School with their youngest children at the end of this year. Please consider making a commitment this New Year to get more involved with APT. There truly is something for everyone to do!

Several of our committee chairs found some extra time during the busy holiday season to organize APT events. Thanks to co-chairs Kim Gates and Michelle O'Hern for a successful December Movie Night. Wall-E was a big hit and the kids had a great time. Thank you to Holiday Art chair Sarah Beuker for your time spent organizing, negotiating and assembling. The cards designed by our children are such a special gift. Thanks to After School Enrichment chair Lara Hobson for providing a wonderful and affordable selection of classes for our Amberly students.

The APT calendar is a flurry of activity in the coming weeks with Donuts for Dads (January 22), Staff Luncheon (January 23), and Daddy Daughter Dance (February 6). If you can volunteer to help with any of these events, please let us know. APT also helps with the fees for Fifth Grade Camp (January 26-29) by paying \$50 for each Amberly student who attends. Thank YOU for supporting the APT fundraiser, which makes all of this possible!

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

Important APT Dates

Next APT Meeting:

The next APT meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 20th at 9:00 AM in the cafeteria. As always, younger siblings are welcome. Hope to see you there!

APT 2009/10 Budget Meeting Coming:

The APT Budget meeting will be scheduled in March. If you have input or questions for the budget or the budget process, please contact Heather Beering, APT President-Elect 2008-09, at 372-1839 or JBeering@aol.com.

APT Notes & News

Coming Events:

Staff Luncheon

by Julie Lawford, Staff Luncheon Co-Chair

Plans for the upcoming Staff Luncheon on Friday January 23rd are underway. The invitations went out January 5th and we've already gotten a good response from the staff. If you have not volunteered but would like to, it is not too late! Please, contact Julie Lawford at 501-9298 or julie_lawford@yahoo.com or LynnAnn Birkmeier at 323-8688 or d_birkmeier@yahoo.com.

Project Charlie

by Robin Neeb, Project Charlie Chair

Project Charlie is an uplifting self-esteem and self-awareness program taught to 1st graders by parent volunteers. Parents spend about a half an hour a week in the classroom for 6 weeks. This year Project Charlie starts the week of February 9th and continues through the week of March 16th. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about the program, please contact Robin Neeb, Project Charlie Coordinator, at 375-0418 or e-mail at r.neeb@sbcglobal.net.

Jr. Great Books

by Heather Palmer, Jr. Great Books Chair

!!!!!!! ATTENTION 3rd GRADE READERS !!!!!!!!

Do you enjoy a good adventure? Then come and join us for Jr. Great Books this year! We'll be going on a four week adventure into the Wild Wild West with Mr. Tucket. Never heard of him? Well, you might be interested to know he was captured by Indians as a boy! If you'd like to find out more, watch your Friday folder for sign up sheets and more detailed information coming soon!

Donuts for Dads

Dads, step dads, granddads, uncles and any other special person in a student's life are invited to attend Donuts for Dads on **Thursday, January 22nd from 8:00 to 8:35 a.m.** in the Amberly Elementary School Cafeteria. Please come and enjoy a donut and milk with your special student. For more info contact Jane Doherty (329-2819) or Priscilla Pedraza (329-0325).

Daddy-Daughter Dance

The Annual Daddy-Daughter Dance is on **Friday, February 6th**. Dads and other special guys, get ready to share an unforgettable evening with your Amberly girls. Look for more details coming home in Friday Folders. For more info contact Julie Harlan at 329-4223 or Kathy Mizikar at 321-7773.



REMINDER—POP CAN COLLECTION BOXES ARE NOW LOCATED AT SCHOOL! ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS. CONTACT JILL OR RUDY RUTERBUSCH AT 323-9161 FOR DETAILS.



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Ongoing and Recent Events:

After School Enrichment

by Lara Hobson, After School Enrichment Chair

After School Enrichment Classes started this week and the participation was excellent! We had just over 150 registered students in the twelve classes offered. We tried to offer a variety of classes for all ages at Amberly. Several of the classes were filled up in just two days including the American Girls Drama Club and the Young Chef Academy. It was very hard turning students away, and both instructors, Tina Jordan and Chef Kharen, were wonderful in assisting us to add more students and classes.

It seems as though the 3rd graders were the most eager to take classes with 39 participating students, many of which came from Mrs. Dawson's class. Thanks for your support! Just a reminder, if school is cancelled because of weather, after school enrichment classes are cancelled as well.

If you would like to teach a class next year or have any feedback about the program, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope your child learns something new and enjoys the opportunity given to us by quality instructors who have practically donated their time to enrich the students.

Please look for ASE Class Feedback Forms toward the end of your child's session. These can be turned into the school office by March 13th. If you need more information contact Lara Hobson at 329-4078 or larahobson@chartermi.net.

Holiday Sharing

by Tricia Lutz, Holiday Sharing Chair

Holiday Sharing was a big success! This year we collected almost 1800 food items and almost \$100.00. Thanks to all who participated to make this happen. All the food and money was donated to the Portage Community Center and distributed within Portage where needed. We thank you for your ongoing support for this community project. It gives the students a chance to experience giving back to the larger community in a much-needed area, this year in particular. We also thank the WMU Men's tennis team for their help with lifting and loading!

Box Tops

by Terri McDonald, Box Tops Chair

Thanks for all the extra effort in clipping those box tops! According to the fifth graders we have definitely seen an increase in the amount collected. Please continue to use the Snow Days collection sheets. If you need more, you can contact Terri McDonald (tlzm@charter.net), go to the the school office, or download them on the btfe.com website. I will have a Valentine theme Box Top collection sheet in February distributed with the Friday folders.

BONUS BOX TOPS - On the following page of the newsletter is a sheet about a special offer at Meijer. If you purchase any 10 of the items listed from the sheet on the same shopping day, Meijer will give you a certificate for 70 Box Tops. If you do the math, that will be \$7.00 for our school! The promo runs until January 21, 2009. The sheet is also a handy reference for all the items that have box tops on them. Thanks for supporting this program.



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE INSTRUCTORS FOR PROVIDING THIS YEAR'S SLATE OF AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT COURSES:

NANCY LYKE - CPR SOLUTIONS, TENNIS, & PET FIRST AID

MIKE KADROVACH OF WALKERS TAE KWON DO - TAE KWON DO

SHANNON WEIMER - PRINCESS BALLET & HIP HOP

TINA JORDAN - AMERICAN GIRLS DRAMA CLUB

KHAREN WARFIELD SHELTON OF YOUNG CHEF'S ACADEMY - YOUNG CHEF ACADEMY I & II

NICK KAKABEEKE OF BJ SPORTS - LACROSSE CLINIC

LARA HOBSON - CATCHING THE WIND ENGINEERING CLASS

PALEE HANEY OF ART BAYOU - ART BAYOU ADVENTURES

LEAH JUHL, PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPANISH INSTRUCTOR - EL RANCHO ESPANOL

Box Tops Page
goes Here

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Spotlight on.... CIC

by Debbie Rude, Amberly CIC Representative

The Curriculum Instruction Council (CIC) is a long-standing group of parents, teachers and administrators who meet monthly throughout the year to review, analyze and update any and all curriculum-related issues for our students. The group was originally founded by John McGonigle and Mary Jane Frederick, Directors of Elementary and High School Education, under Jim Ridders' leadership. Anyone may submit a curriculum-related proposal to the Director of Curriculum at any time. In general, most core areas are subjected to a review every seven years, unless state guidelines mandate changes to be made sooner (e. g., science, math and high school graduation requirements).

In early 2002, parent membership was expanded to include representation from all buildings. Parents constitute the largest single voting block (13) with all schools represented by one shared vote. They also constitute the highest level of turnover. School representatives are selected by the individual schools' parent-teacher organizations and the school Principal. At least two years' worth of consecutive representation is helpful to fully orient a parent to the curriculum review process.

The following article gives a taste of some of the issues that CIC has addressed recently. If you have a keen interest in what our kids are learning, and this sounds like something you may be interested in at some point, contact either of Amberly's current parent reps (Debbie Rude 321-8980 or Rita McKenzie 353-9493) for more information.

CIC Update

by Debbie Rude, Amberly CIC Representative

At the regular December CIC meeting, representatives from the elementary math review committee submitted the proposal to adopt the Scott Foresman math program for all K-5 students. There are eighteen classrooms across the district this year participating in a pilot of this proposed new math program. The district shared a summary of the parent and student survey feedback on the new program. Nearly 450 students were included in the survey, along with their parents. There was a 57% turn out on the parent survey. In summary, parents were in favor of the change, requested more information/help with the online support tools, and shared their ongoing concerns regarding differentiated learning styles and pace. Having reviewed all these surveys, it was nice to see that Amberly parents represented the vast majority of constructive comments and suggestions. Thank you for taking the time to complete these surveys!

The vote to adopt the new math program will be at the January 28th CIC meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please contact either Rita or Debbie prior to the Jan. 28th meeting. We will keep you posted on next steps!

Young Authors Day

by Tina Jordan, Enrichment Co-Chair with Laurie Zafer

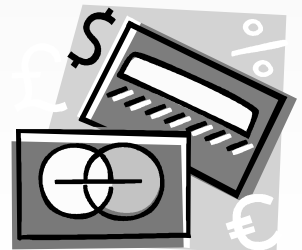
We will be having a Young Authors Day Assembly on Friday, January 16th. The program is designed to support and enhance the creative writing curriculum. The day begins with an all-school assembly by a classically trained Mime artist introducing students to the "art of silence." During the program, the performer discusses the differences between writing for the stage and writing for the page. He stresses the importance of structure and he tells the students how he got his inspiration for his stories.

Afterwards, the students return to their classrooms to write stories for the performer. During the writing process the performer stops in classrooms to answer questions and help with the writing. The day culminates with an afternoon assembly in which the students are recognized for their fine work as selected stories are acted out by the performer. Young Authors Day is a fascinating educational experience designed to stimulate the imagination in all of us!!



NEWS FLASH!

IN RESPONSE TO POPULAR DEMAND FOR A NON-CATALOG-BASED FUNDRAISER, AMBERLY'S FIRST-EVER "TIGER TREK" WALKATHON IS IN THE WORKS. WATCH THE FRIDAY FOLDERS FOR DETAILS! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, CONTACT THE AMBERLY OFFICE AT 323-5900.



Speaking of fundraisers, don't forget to purchase your SCRIP online or in the office.



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

APT Notes & News

APT Positions Available for Next Year

WOW!!

Have you seen all the great stuff that is going on at Amberly? We have a fantastic group of parents and teachers at our school!

Would you like to become more involved?

Preparations for the 2009 - 2010 school year for APT are starting. We will have 2 officer positions open for spring elections - President-Elect and Treasurer.

The President-Elect is a 3-year term, the first year as President-Elect (aka Vice President), the 2nd year as APT President, and the 3rd year as Past President.

The Treasurer position is a 2-year term.

Please let me know if you are interested in learning more about the responsibilities of either of these offices or any of the other committees and activities of APT.

Contact Heather Beering, APT President-Elect 2008-09, at 372-1839 or JBeering@aol.com.

NEXT NOTES &
NEWS:

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 13TH**

SUBMISSION
DEADLINE:

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 6TH**

FOR INFO
OR TO SUBMIT

AN ARTICLE
CONTACT
ELLEN ROBARE

AT
[erobare@
sbcglobal.net](mailto:erobare@sbcglobal.net)

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