

APT Notes & News



AMBERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Issue No. 090925

September 25, 2009

Hello from Heather!

By Heather Beering, 2009/10 APT President

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Wow!! We are back to school and in full swing! Hopefully, you and your child(ren) are enjoying the new school year and new teachers, reconnecting with old friends while meeting new ones. APT (Amberly Parents & Teachers) has already had several events this September. We gave school tours to new families the week before school started. The Back to School BBQ Kickoff was held the first week of school and we also participated in the school Open House. Thanks to the volunteers who helped make these things happen and made them so much fun!

As you consider all of the benefits that our kids have at Amberly, please consider participating in our school community. This newsletter has a volunteer signup sheet. There are so many ways to contribute, whether you are working full time, part time, or just busy all the time! Your participation makes lots of wonderful programs come to life and enhances our children's school experience.

You may notice a change from the past fall communications.... NO pages worth of information about a fall fundraiser!! YEA!! Last spring, we changed to a walk-a-thon format for fundraising. The first annual Tiger Trek was a great success and will fund our APT budget for 2009-10. Therefore, no catalog sales this fall. Keep walking with your kids, it's a healthy habit, and this next April our 2nd annual Tiger Trek will be just as successful!

Welcome to all our new Amberly families! We have lots of new to school, in Kindergarten and Young 5s and also kids from other schools / districts. We hope that you all find Amberly an inviting place for both parents and children.

This is OUR school! Let's have a great year!

Heather Beering
APT President 2009-10
372-1839 or jbeering@aol.com

What is APT?

APT is the Amberly Parents and Teachers organization, or it is our school's PTO/PTA/PTSO. We are an independent organization, have no dues and no forms to fill out. Because we are independent, we have an independent name -- APT! If you are a parent, guardian, or caring adult in the life of an Amberly student, you are a member of APT!

(Continued, page 2)

Dates to Remember:

- **Oct. 15**
Mother/Son Event
at Formula K
- **Oct. 20**
APT Meeting 7PM
- **Oct. 22**
Rain Date for
Mother/Son Event

APT Notes & News

(continued from page 1)

APT is responsible for organizing many activities and coordinating volunteer efforts throughout the year. We host such fun things as the BBQ Kickoff, and Movie Nights, volunteer in school in the Media Center, and Computer Lab, sponsor and arrange the assemblies that come to Amberly and give back through Community Sharing. There are too many projects to list here, please check out the volunteer sign up sheet in this newsletter. There is sure to be something that you would enjoy! If you have another idea -- write it on the sheet -- we love to try new things.

APT meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, alternating between morning and evening. The calendar of dates is in this issue. Please plan to join us, meet new people and give your input. Younger siblings are always welcome.

What is Notes & News?

The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed of all APT-sponsored activities. In each issue of Notes & News you will find out about upcoming and recent APT events, opportunities that are being offered, and needs for volunteers like YOU to get involved! While we can't accept articles from individuals, we will once again this year be offering paid advertisements, which can be a great way to get out the news about your business or event (See below for details on ads.)

The APT Calendar and the Committee Chair contact list are back-to-back in this issue (pages 5 and 6), so you can tear out that one sheet and keep it for reference all year long.

ADS AVAILABLE IN NOTES & NEWS

Place your ad where a very targeted audience—Amberly parents—will be sure to see it! Ads will be available in business card, half-page, or full-page sizes. All proceeds will go towards offsetting the cost of printing the Notes & News. Pricing is as follows:

Bus. Card: \$10.00 per issue
 Quarter Page: \$20.00 per issue
 Half Page: \$40.00 per issue
 Full Page: \$75.00 per issue

Contact Kristy Zeluff at kkminer@chartermi.net for details



Put all those years of Mom's Chauffeur Service to good use, and school your sons on the go-kart course!

AMBERLY 2009-10
 MOTHER/SON EVENT
 TUESDAY, OCT. 15TH
 5:30 TO 7:30 PM
 FORMULA K
 FAMILY FUN PARK
 IN MATTAWAN
 COST: \$9 PER PERSON
 (\$18 PER COUPLE)

Mother/Son Event at Formula K!

ATTENTION ALL AMBERLY BOYS...it's almost time to start your engines and race against your moms and classmates, in the annual Mother/Son Event at Formula K Family Fun Park, on Thursday, October 15th from 5:30-7:30pm! Come and enjoy 18 holes of miniature golf, arcade games, and go kart rides during this awesome event. Complete details and registration forms were sent home in Friday Folders on September 18th and are also available in the office. Be sure to sign up by returning your registration form/admission fee by October 8th!

APT Notes & News

Thanks to Volunteers...

Thanks to the following folks who welcomed new families by giving school tours, worked on the plans for our wonderful BBQ Kickoff Event, and helped make Amberly's Open House a success.

School Tours:

Debbie Coll
Jennifer Gatz
Mike Laabs
Heather Beering
Jeslyn Gordon
Lara Hobson
Michele Sweat

Open House:

Julia Ridenour
Sherri Wagner
Norilyn Pridgeon
Jeslyn Gordon
Heather Beering
Alex Coll
Kristy Zeluff
Erin Simon
Chris Jamison and...
Lots of cookie donators!!

Raffle Basket Thanks

We would like to thank the following businesses and families for their very generous donations to the BBQ Raffle Baskets this year!

Bronson Athletic Club
SWAT Fitness
Southwest Michigan First
Family Video
Jimmy John's
Bounceland
Putter's
Culver's
Book Bug
Treat Street
Chef Channon Mondoux of
Renaissance Cuisine
Abella Salon
Chocolatea
Art Bayou
Ritter's Frozen Custard
Celebration Cinemas
Red Robin
Red's Grill
All Stirred Up! Coffee
Great Harvest Bread Company
Pampered Chef - Jeslyn Gordon
Creative Cakes - Cari Gross
Bennett Family
Wocjik Family
Denny Family
Crocker Family
Cahill Family
Gavlas Family
Simon Family
Falk Family
Moore Family
Gatz Family
Wagner Family

BBQ Kickoff Thanks:

Sherri and Rodney Wagner
Mary Daoust
Robin Neeb
Lara Hobson
Michelle McManus
Erin Simon
Kristin Faulk
Nick Zafer
Dave Lapetina
Kevin Phillion
Pam Schuhknecht
Amanda Ziemkowski
Roselyn Mark
Carolyn Fitzmaurice
Beth Dawson
Portage NHS volunteers
Mr. Bill and the evening custodians

And to all those wonderful individuals who jumped in to help where help was needed, or did a stint in the dunk tank, THANK YOU!



**It's
A
String
Thing!**

4th and 5th graders—Now is a perfect time to start learning an instrument like violin or viola. Amberly parent and lifelong string teacher, Karin Code has current openings in her home studio on Lost Pine Way. Lessons are taught after school on most weekday afternoons. Get a jump start on instrumental music for middle school!

Code Studio Strings 323-3003
<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~code/strings>

Paid Advertisement

APT Notes & News



*Volunteers are the fuel that
APT runs on—and we all
know how valuable fuel is
these days!*



Where Do I Sign Up?

Ready to jump in and volunteer? The last page of this newsletter is a signup sheet, and just looking it over should give you an idea of the many and varied possibilities. There is truly something for everyone. Our sign-up sheet has been updated to give you a better idea of the dates and time commitment for each item. Just tear the sheet off, check the items you're interested in, and send it back to school with your child. Someone will contact you soon! Easy!

Not sure of your schedule yet? Don't worry, there will be plenty of additional opportunities throughout the school year, and the Notes & News is an easy way to keep up with updated and short-term needs.

Box Tops Program

Box Tops for Education (btfe.com) is a great way to earn extra money for our school. How much money can we earn? For every Box Top collected we earn \$0.10 which may not sound like a lot of money but if everyone collects it can add up to a lot of money. Our goal for this collection year is \$3,000. **We are already on our way to accomplish this goal because since the end of the school year in June, I have sent in \$1,000 worth of BT's to be redeemed.** You can track our schools progress on the website. Don't forget to register because throughout the year Box Tops offers many promotions to earn extra money.

There are two major ways to collect the Box Tops. Once a month you will receive a collection sheet through the Friday folder just cut off the Box Tops and either glue or tape the Box Top to the sheet. If this does not work for your family, just put the Box Tops in a envelope or ziplock bag. Please note that Box Tops and Campbell Soup labels are two (2) separate programs. It is helpful that you do not mix these two together. More information about our program will be provided in an upcoming Friday Folder.

As always if you have any questions about Box Tops let me know.

Terri McDonald
Box Top Lady

Pop Can Collections Fund

Amberly APT is once again collecting returnable pop cans to raise funds for playground equipment and other school improvements. Want to help?

Instead of taking that bag full of cans and bottles to the store and slogging through the "can room," simply bring the entire bag into school and drop them into one of the collection boxes by any entrance door marked "Cans and Bottles."

This will simplify your shopping trip AND you'll be helping with a good cause. For more information about this program, contact Rudy Ruterbusch at the4rudys@att.net.

APT 2009-2010 APT Calendar

September

- 2 School Tours
- 9 Committee Chair Kickoff
- 10 BBQ Kick-Off 5:00-7:00pm
- 17 Open House 6:30-8:00pm
- 21 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 22 APT Meeting 8:45am
Amberly Cafeteria
- 23 Picture Day—Smile!
- 25 Notes & News

October

- 12 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 15 Mother-Son Event 5:30-7:30pm
- 16 Notes & News
- 20 APT Meeting 7:00pm
Amberly Media Center
- 22 Rain Date for Mother-Son Event

November

- 9-13 Community Sharing
- 12 Family Fun—Skate Night
- 16 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 17 APT Meeting 9:00am
Amberly Cafeteria
- 20 Notes & News
- 20 Movie Night 6:00—8:30pm
- TBD Holiday Art

December

- TBD Committee Chair Holiday
Luncheon 11:30am at Heather's
- 21 Winter Break Begins

January

- 4 School Resumes
- 11 After School Enrichment Begins
- 18 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 19 APT Meeting 7:00pm
Amberly Media Center
- 22 Notes & News
- 21 Donuts for Dads

February

- 1-4 Fifth Grade Camp
- 15 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 16 APT Meeting 9:00am
Amberly Cafeteria
- 19 Daddy Daughter Dance
- 19 Notes & News

March

- 5 Movie Night
- 15 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 19 Notes & News
- 23 APT Meeting 7:00 pm
- 26 Spring Break Begins
- TBD Budget Meeting
- TBD Family Fun Event
- TBD Achievement Expo

April

- 2 Spring Break Ends
- 12 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 16 Notes & News
- 20 APT Meeting 9:00am
Amberly Cafeteria
- 23 Tiger Trek
- 30 Tiger Trek Rain Date

May

- 3-7 National Teacher Appreciation
Week
- 17 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 18 APT Meeting 9:00am
Amberly Cafeteria
- 21 Notes & News
- TBD Committee Chair Year-End
Luncheon 11:30am, at Heather's

June

- 1 Notes & News Article Deadline
- 4 Final Notes & News for year

KEEP THIS PAGE!

This is a handy reference sheet for upcoming events and who to contact if you need more info about a particular activity or want to help out with one of the committees.

APT Contact List 2009-2010

APT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009-2010

President	Heather Beering	372-1839
President-Elect	Jeslyn Gordon	321-2064
Past President	Jennifer Gatz	372-7083
Secretary	Diane Hamlin	327-1920
Treasurer	Julie Lawford	501-9298
Fundraising Chair	Miranda Garside	998-9985

APT COMMITTEES 2009-2010

Achievement Expo	OPEN	
After School Enrichment	Lara Hobson	329-4078
BBQ Kickoff	Sherri & Rodney Wagner	321-0969
Beautification	OPEN	
Box Tops	Terri McDonald	365-0374
Community Sharing	Becky Bach	323-3871
Computer Lab	Sarah Bricknell	324-5882
Curriculum	Rita McKenzie / Heidi Turchan	353-9493 / 329-0047
Daddy Daughter Dance	Kathy Mizikar / Tina Jordan	321-7773 / 323-3757
Directory	Lisa Mace	323-7617
Donuts for Dads	Priscilla Pedraza / Michelle McManus	329-0325 / 324-4003
Enrichment	Colleen Semler / Rita McKenzie	544-0363 / 353-9493
Family Event	Noralyn Pridgeon	329-1884
Fifth Grade Clean-Up	Rudy & Jill Ruterbusch	323-9161
Fundraising Assistant	Nancy Lyke / Erin Simon	271-0557 / 353-9530
Holiday Art	Michele Sweat	216-3326
Hospitality/Welcome	Julia Ridenour	375-4127
Junior Achievement	Nancy Lyke	271-0557
Junior Great Books 3rd/4th	Anne Louise Coryell / Heather Palmer	365-0242 / 353-8690
Math League 3rd / 4th / 5th	Lily Wang / OPEN / Ellen Robare	329-0091 / 327-4593
Media Center	Kristin Coulter	323-2299
Mother-Son Event	Linda Lee	324-1605
Movie Night	Kim Gates / Michelle O'Hern	323-8997 / 323-0828
Newsletter	Kristy Zeluff	323-2219
Parent Liaisons	Debbie Coll	372-0422
Project Charlie	Michelle Sweat	216-3326
Spiritwear	Sherri Wagner	321-0969
Staff Appreciation	Betsy Scheffel / Kim Warren	544-0244 / 372-1041
Teacher Representative	Carolynn Myers / Maggie Higgins	353-0975 / 327-4802
Yearbook	Amy Stephani	327-9832

APT Volunteer Signup

Please return in your child's folder to the Amberly Office by **October 9**. Thank you!

Name _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s)

Child's Teacher/Grade _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

____ **Achievement Expo – March** Help students with project ideas. Set up and clean up for this event.

____ **After School Enrichment – Jan-Feb-March** Help to plan fun extra curricular classes for Amberly students. Parents are encouraged to share their special skills and teach a class!

____ **Bake/Provide Food or Paper Products – Ongoing** Items are needed for events throughout the year.

____ **BBQ Kick-Off Committee – Spring 2010** Help plan this early September event by coordinating volunteers, planning activities or soliciting donations (food, supplies, etc.)

____ **Beautification – Fall/Spring** Help with planting and weeding on school grounds.

____ **Community Sharing – Nov 9-13** Collect, sort and deliver donated food items to PCOC. Men are especially needed to help load boxes on delivery day.

____ **Computer Lab – Ongoing** Assist students in using computers during weekly scheduled computer time. Volunteers will be given training.

____ **Daddy-Daughter Dance – Feb 2010** Help organize, decorate, take photographs, serve refreshments or clean up.

____ **Donuts for Dads – Jan 21, 2010-** Help set up and clean up on the morning that we invite dads to school to enjoy a donut, coffee and milk.

____ **Enrichment – Ongoing** Assist in planning school assemblies and help coordinate parent volunteers.

____ **Family Fun Event – Nov / Spring** Help with this NEW Amberly event for the whole family, a roller skating outing!

____ **Fifth Grade Work Day – late fall** Parents of 5th graders are needed to assist in the playground clean-up service project.

____ **Friday Folders – Weekly** Help collate, stuff, distribute Friday Folders on Friday mornings.

____ **Holiday Art – Nov 2009** Assist students in the classroom in making a holiday gift for their parents.

____ **Junior Achievement – Feb-Apr, Gr 2-5** Present business concepts once per week in the classroom. Training is provided.

____ **Junior Great Books – Feb-March, 3rd Grade and 4th Grade** Read and discuss a book once a week for 6 weeks during recess (1/2 hour). Help with tie-in events.

____ **Library – Weekly or Bi-weekly** Help in the Media Center for 2-hour shifts.

____ **Math League – Oct-March, Grades 3-5** Help with this math enrichment club once a week during recess (1/2 hour). Work with small groups on variety of math activities.

____ **Mother-Son Event – Oct. 15, 2010** Help to organize a special night out for moms and sons.

____ **Movie Night – Nov 20, 2009 & March 5, 2010** Help organize, set up or chaperone this evening event.

____ **Office Work – As Needed** Help in our school office with paperwork and phones.

____ **Parent Liaison – Ongoing** One parent from each classroom is needed to make phone calls, share APT news and welcome new families.

____ **Playground – Spring** Help at annual playground clean-up day.

____ **Pop-can return – ongoing** Help return the donated pop cans. Funds go to school improvement.

____ **Project Charlie – Feb-March, 1st Grade** Parents needed to implement a self-esteem/substance abuse program. Lead 30-45 minute discussion in the classroom weekly for 6 weeks. Training materials are provided.

____ **Spirit Wear – ongoing** Help with taking orders, tallying orders, etc. to spread the Amberly spirit!

____ **Staff Appreciation – ongoing** Provide food or paper products, help to set up or clean up. New ideas for showing our appreciation!

____ **Tiger Trek – April 23, 2010** Participate in the planning committee or volunteers are needed at the event, tallying pledges and funds.

____ **Yearbook – Ongoing** Use your skills to help create a wonderful memory of Amberly. You can take photos, help to upload photos, organize and create layouts, proof the pages, take orders, encourage sales and help distribute the finished product.