

# APT Notes & News



AMBERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Issue No. 091016

October 16, 2009

## Hello from Heather!

*By Heather Beering, 2009/10 APT President*

### Inside this issue:

Math League Info	2
Family Skate Night	2
Community Sharing	3
Student Directories	3
Movie Night	3
After School Enrichment	4
Achievement Expo	4

We had a great turnout for our first APT meeting in September, with lots of input from parents. THANK YOU for actively participating, our school is a better place for your efforts. If you don't get a chance to attend, our draft meeting minutes are posted on the Amberly website about a week after each meeting. From the Amberly home page (<http://www.portageps.org/schools/elementary/amb/>), click on the Organizations tab and then APT. You can also find contact information, the calendar and previous newsletters.

Also, on the Amberly home page, you can sign up for the Amberly e-mail list. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and submit your email. This allows you to get reminders and information from school via e-mail. A very handy and environmentally friendly way to stay in touch.

Our next APT meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Amberly Media Center. Our agenda will include a talk from Mrs. Daoust about her trip to China this past summer. She traveled with a group of educators. I know many parents are looking forward to hearing about this incredible experience and how it might influence education here.

Heather Beering  
APT President 2009-10  
372-1839 or [jbeering@aol.com](mailto:jbeering@aol.com)

### Dates to Remember:

- **Oct. 20**  
APT Meeting 7PM
- **Oct. 22**  
Rain Date for  
Mother/Son Event
- **Oct. 27**  
Stranger Danger  
Assembly
- **Oct. 29-Nov. 6**  
Math Leagues Start
- **Nov. 9-13**  
Community Sharing
- **Nov. 12**  
Family Skate Night
- **Nov. 20**  
Movie Night

## Amberly Takes Charge of Equipping our Students

With all the talk about our children having to find alternative modes of transportation to school, namely walking; we at Amberly felt it was important to equip our students. On **Wednesday, October 27th**, Rick Allen will be here to present "**Stranger Danger**" to all of our students. Rick hails from Ohio and has been presenting his "Stranger Danger" talk to children all over the Midwest. He incorporates magic along with important info that children find entertaining, yet meaningful. Because this is such an important talk, we wanted to invite parents to join their child during the 2 presentations that day. The first presentation will be at 1pm for grades Y5 – 2nd and 2pm for grades 3rd – 5th.

Tom Haroldson from the Portage Gazette plans to come and cover the assembly.

Please call Colleen Semler (544-0363) or Rita McKenzie (353-9493), Enrichment Chairpersons, if you have any questions about this presentation.

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### Amberly Math League Set to Begin Soon

The Amberly Math League provides an extra opportunity for students in the 3rd through 5th grades to have fun with math. It also provides a challenge for students to compete in math contests along with students from across the United States and Canada.

Any interested student in grades 3-5 is eligible to participate. Students will meet with Math League parent volunteers once per week during their recess period before lunch. They will work on problems and play math games all with the purpose of preparing them for three contests given throughout the course of the school year.

Registration forms for Math League were sent out this week by the 3rd-5th grade classroom teachers. The 3rd Grade Math League is set to begin Thursday, October 29th. The 4th and 5th Grade Math League Teams will begin the last week of October or first week of November.

For more information about Math League, log onto [www.onlinemathleague.com](http://www.onlinemathleague.com) or call one of the following Math League Chairs: **3rd Grade** - Lily Wang 329-0091 • **4th Grade** - Rita McKenzie 353-9493 • **5th Grade** - Ellen Robare 327-4593

### 1st Annual Family Skate Night

This is going to be the first of many Family Skate Nights!

Date: Thursday November 12, 2009

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Place: Great Skate on Portage Road  
10496 Portage Road

Cost: \$4.50 for Quad Skates, \$3.00 more for in-line skates (Parents, if you are not skating, you do not have to pay).

All are welcome to come! Even the teachers! You get to skate for two hours with good music and fun! There is a concession stand available. Come have fun with your friends, family and teachers!

More information to come. Please save the date! ~ Noralyn Pridgeon

### Volunteers Needed!

**Spirit Wear** -- We are looking for someone to help with the Amberly spirit wear orders. There are several order times a year and another set of hands would be really helpful. Contact Sherri Wagner at 321-0969 or [sherrijowagner@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrijowagner@hotmail.com)

**Computer Lab** -- We have openings every day from 2:30 - 3:30 for First grade classes. You don't have to have a child in the class to volunteer if this time works for you! This job generally entails getting the children into the correct program and helping guide them through the lesson. It is much easier for the teachers to have another adult in the computer lab with a classroom full of children so that the students can be helped more quickly. Please consider helping, even every other week or until the Winter holiday break. Monday/Gordon, Tues/Block, Wed/Foster, Thurs/Hecker and Friday/Fitzmaurice. Contact Sarah Bricknell at 324-5882 or [thebricknells@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thebricknells@sbcglobal.net).

Next Notes & News:

**Friday, November 20**

Deadline:

**Monday, November 16**

Contact Kristy Zeluff at  
[kkminer@chartermi.net](mailto:kkminer@chartermi.net)  
Or 323-2219

## APT Notes & News

### Community Sharing

This year the Holiday Sharing Committee has a new name: Community Sharing! The name is new but the goal remains the same! During the week of NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> thru NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> we are asking students and staff to bring in canned goods or money donations to school to help less fortunate families in Portage. The donations will be taken to the Portage Community Center where they will be distributed to families in need. Look for fliers in your Friday Folders in the coming weeks which will give you more information on the types of food that are needed.

**If you would like to volunteer your time to help count, sort, and deliver the food to the Portage Community Center on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> please contact Becky Bach at #323-3871 or at [thebachfamily@charter.net](mailto:thebachfamily@charter.net) . Thanks for your help!**



### Student Directories Coming Soon!

Once again APT will be offering Student Directories for sale for \$3 each. The directory is a great way to keep those Amberly numbers handy, not to mention setting up a play date with that new classmate your kid keeps talking about! Look for order forms coming home soon. Contact Lisa Mace at [lisa-mace@att.net](mailto:lisa-mace@att.net) for more information.

### Amberly Movie Night

AMBERLY MOVIE NIGHT....our first movie night for this school year (there will be two) is on **Friday, November 20th**. We will be showing the newly released Disney Pixar movie UP! Parents need not stay with child(ren), but are certainly welcome! I will also need volunteers. Volunteers will be popping popcorn starting at 2-3 pm, checking students in/out, handing out popcorn/water, selling snacks, and sitting by all exit doors to make sure no one exits before end of event, and keep them from going out side doors at the end. (Parents MUST come to the gym to pick up students)

How this works:

There will be flyers/permission slips coming home in the Friday folders starting this Friday. Please fill out the slip and return it to school office (in envelope marked "MOVIE NIGHT") by November 17th. There is a donation of \$5 per student-or \$10 per family requested for this event. Checks made payable to APT. The \$5 donations go to pay for the movie license, plus each student gets a bag of popcorn and a bottle of water. Other snacks will be available for \$0.25-\$1.00 and will be peanut free. Snacks can be purchased before the movie and during intermission only.

Doors will open at 6 pm-NO SOONER. You will only be able to enter the south parking lot doors. Parents MUST come in to check kids in and get them settled. The movie will be shown in the gym and seating is on the floor. Kids can bring blankets to sit on-NO PILLOWS please. Parents must also COME IN to check out their child(ren) and go to the gym to pick them up. The movie will start at 6:30 pm and the event ends no later than 8:30 pm. Intermission will be at 7:30 pm for restroom break and to get more snacks if there are any left. If your child(ren) will be picked up by someone other than who brought them, please let us know.



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### After School Enrichment Program

APT is excited to announce that this program will be offered again starting in mid-January! The purpose of the program is to bring fun after-school activities to Amberly for a reasonable cost.

Do you have a passion for sports, crafts, photography, ethnic cooking, foreign language, etc.?? How about a hobby that you would like to share??

We are looking for instructors to teach a variety of classes such as digital photography, dance, cheerleading, carpentry, sports, scrapbooking, arts & crafts, poetry, stock market or anything that you may think would be a fun enrichment experience for students in grades Young 5's through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Contact Lara Hobson for more information, 329-4078 or [larahobson@chartermi.net](mailto:larahobson@chartermi.net).

### The Achievement Expo is moving!

In the past, the Achievement Expo has been in the late spring culminating on the night of the Ice Cream Social. You may have noticed that this year, we are going to hold this event in March, following the After School Enrichment program.



**What is the Achievement Expo?** It is a non-competitive place for kids to display something that they have done. It can be a science experiment, a collection, an artistic creation, something you've done that you'd like to show kids and parents at school. All grades can participate. Last year there were experiments with electricity and potatoes, plants drinking water, volcanoes, rock/fossil collections, wild animal cards and many others.

**Why the timing change?** The late spring can be particularly busy with end-of-year projects, spring sports and just spring fever! Many Amberly students participate in the After School Enrichment classes that are held in January - March. Perhaps some of the kids creating items during After School Enrichment will want to display their efforts! Others, may have the time during the cold months to do projects or experiments at home.

**We need your help!** The Achievement Expo is in need of a committee chair or co-chairs. This is a fun event, showing the many talents of our Amberly students and has a finite time period. If you would like to learn more about the committee or volunteer to help, please let me know. Heather Beering, 372-1839 or [JBeering@aol.com](mailto:JBeering@aol.com)