



If you'd like to receive this free monthly email newsletter, email audubonptp@yahoo.com

Audubon School Newsletter

September 1st Issue **Welcome Back To School!**

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events/News	Recent Events/News	Additional Announcements
First Day of School Family Movie Night on the Lawn at Audubon Local School Council Meeting Back to School Night Open House Scholastic Book Fair Family Literacy Night Hawk Walk Fundraiser Arts Funding Seminar Family Science Day in Audubon's Garden Education on Education Seminar	Increased State Funding for Audubon Audubon Earns \$2,000 at Retro on Roscoe Hoppy Occasion New School Vision/Mission Statement Kindergarten and TBPK Orientation Inclusion Workshop	Welcome New Teachers New Lunch Ticket Program New Homework Program Beautification Committee Needs Help New Band Program Audubon Around the World Mother Goose Story Time Submit Parent Profiles Girl Scouts Recycling Cartridges—New Offer

Note: all photos included are of Audubon students, staff, families, extended community and physical grounds.

Upcoming Events/News

Class Assignments and First Day of School—September 4th

Class lists will be posted in the hallway outside the office on the first day of school (September 4th), and staff members and other volunteers will be stationed on the playground with complete lists to help families and students find classrooms. Most students received class assignments on their report cards in June, and there have not been significant changes.

First Family Movie Night on the Lawn at Audubon—September 14th (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Roscoe Village Neighbors would like to welcome all Audubon and neighborhood families to the first-ever Family Movie Night in Audubon's garden on Friday, September 14th. Gates will open at 6:30, and the featured movie will be *Madagascar* on a giant (9' x 12') outdoor screen. The movie will start at 7pm, rain or shine, as Audubon has agreed to make the gymnasium available in the event that the weather does not cooperate. Audubon restrooms will be available for use during the movie. The event is free-of-charge. Popcorn, soft drinks and cotton candy will be available for \$1 each. Principal John Price will be in attendance and will speak briefly on Audubon's recent successes and upcoming goals. We only request that families with chairs keep to the back of the viewing area, leaving room for families with blankets in front. Join us! This is a wonderful community-building event. Thanks Roscoe Village Neighbors!

Local School Council Meeting—September 17th (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

6:30 Audubon Community Room. Find out what's happening at Audubon. Audubon's Local School Council still has an **opening for one community representative**. If interested in this position, contact Audubon Principal John Price at 773-535-5470 or LSC Chairperson Linda McBride at mcbriedelk@aol.com.



Back to School Night Open House—September 19th

All Audubon families are invited to a school open house the evening of Wednesday, September 19th, 5:30-7pm. This is a great opportunity to meet and speak with your children's teachers, see their classrooms, and connect with other families in your child's class. Lots of take home information, too, including materials about Audubon's new Band Program, grades 4-8 and Girl Scouts, grades K-6.

Scholastic Book Fair—September 17th-26th (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Please come join Audubon Families and browse the exciting collection of Scholastic Books for all ages, at this Fall's Scholastic Book Fair, Monday Sept 17th-Wednesday, September 26th. The Book Fair can be visited in the community room most school days until 1pm (stop by the office for directions or if it looks closed). It will also be open late on Wednesday night (Sept 19th) to coincide with the Back to School Open House, Thursday morning (Sept 20th) during Mother Goose Story Time, and Tuesday night (Sept 25th) to coincide with Family Literacy Night. Proceeds from this fair help provide books for classroom libraries—books that teachers have requested by title—which is important for increasing our children's daily reading time. **The theme this time is Book Fair Blizzard. We need approximately 5 parent or community volunteers to assist the Scholastic Book Representative with setup on Friday, September 14th from 9-noon.** If you're interested in assisting please reply to this email.



Family Literacy Night—September 25th

Join us for a night of fun celebrating reading and our favorite books. Details TBD. Also, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open last this night, so you can shop for all of your book gift-giving needs.

Hawk Walk—September 27th (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Last year, Audubon students raised approximately \$10,000 in their first ever walk-a-thon, a one-day fundraising walk around school grounds. Audubon once again would like to invite parents and friends to come cheer on our students at our 2nd annual event, renamed Hawk Walk, on Thursday, September 27th. Starting at 8:30am, students in every grade preK-8, one grade at a time, will walk for 30 minutes in laps around the school. The last grade will finish at 12:30pm. Each child will receive a pledge sheet a few weeks prior, which lists how much a sponsor might be willing to pledge per 1/10 mile lap on school grounds. Also, children can collect a flat donation if preferred, and can collect flat donations in advance. Checks and cash will be accepted and checks should be written to Friends of Audubon. Prizes will be awarded to students and classrooms based on amount collected. The funds raised will help offset anticipated decreases in Federal Funding and support lower class size and arts programming. We will need volunteers on the day of the walk to help count laps, match up younger student walkers with older student walkers, distribute water and cheer on students. If you'd like to help out in



planning the event or on the day of, email Friends of Audubon President Kathy Argentar boilerkha@yahoo.com.

Arts Funding Seminar—October 6th (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Are you interested in learning more about State and City Arts Funding Options for Audubon School? Attached is a flyer from State Representative John Fritchey's office announcing the 11th Annual Arts Funding Seminar on Saturday, October 6th, 9am at Hamlin Park Fieldhouse, 3035 N. Hoyne. This is a great opportunity to meet representatives from the State and the City, including the Illinois Arts Council and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, to learn about what kinds of funding might be available to Audubon and how to apply for grants. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call Aviva Gibbs (from Fritchey's office) at (773) 871.4000.

Family Science Day in Audubon's Garden—September 28th (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Join Audubon families and friends, as well as members of the Chicago Botanic Garden Staff, and learn the basics of gardening as you help prepare and plant Audubon's school garden. Learn the difference between annuals and perennials, how to prepare a planting bed, which plants grow well in the local climate, and how to use garden tools more effectively. The event will run from 10am to 12pm on Saturday, September 28th. The refreshments, plants, tools, and instructions will be provided by the Botanical Garden. Meet and socialize with other school and community members over snacks and sunflowers! All ages are welcome! Email Science Teacher Wendy Anderson if you have any questions at wwanderson@cps.k12.il.us.

Education on Education—November 1st (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

You're invited to the 6th Education on Education seminar, an event produced by the Roscoe Village Education Coalition designed to **give local families as many answers as possible about public school education in the City of Chicago** - all in one evening. While last year's event took place at Audubon School, this year's event will take place on Thursday, November 1, at 7pm at Jahn School (3149 N. Wolcott). The evening will begin with an opening presentation followed by three break-out sessions. Attendees can choose from four or five different concurrently running sessions. Topics have not been finalized but may include: "Magnet/Magnet Cluster/Gifted - What's the Difference?", "Hot Topics - Honest Q & A on Major Issues Featuring Audubon and Jahn Principals", "Preschool Programs", "School Funding", "Parent Testimonials - Candid Thoughts on CPS and Public Education". If you have any requests for topics, please email boilerkha@ameritech.net.

Recent Events/News

Audubon Spared the State Budget Axe

Despite a massive scouring of the State budget of most local projects, several schools in the 11th District were not on the Governor's list of budgetary vetoes last week. State Representative John Fritchey announced today that nearly a half million dollars for many of the public elementary and high schools in the district was left off the chopping block. The \$495,000 of capital funding has been specifically earmarked for schools to purchase new textbooks and computer equipment. Pending final approval, Audubon will receive \$30,000, up from \$10,000 last year. Last year, State Representative Fritchey was Audubon's guest for Principal for a Day. Governor Fritchey's office and Audubon are in regular communication about events or news that are of interest to both.

Audubon Earns \$2,000 at Retro on Roscoe

Congratulations Audubon Parents for earning \$2,000 for Audubon School by working a gate at the 2007 Retro on Roscoe Street Fest. And thank you to the Audubon community for supporting that gate. We were especially pleased to see the number of teachers who stopped by to say "Hi", bringing their friends and family through the Audubon gate. The funds raised will go to support lower class size and arts programming. Thankyou RVN for the fundraising opportunity.



Hoppy Occasion

Congratulations to (Science Teacher) Ms. Anderson's Fire-Bellied Toad who gave birth in late August. Come to the Science Lab (room 102) to check out the baby toad. (Photo at left is merely a likeness of Ms. Anderson's toad. It is not her actual toad.)

New School Vision and Mission Statements

After a year of lively, creative, thought-provoking discussions among administration, staff and parents at monthly LSC meetings, Audubon has just published a new Vision and Mission Statement. The new statement does an excellent job of reflecting Audubon's educational, social, community, and child development values that were brought forth by participants in these discussions. Please see the attached one-page document.

Kindergarten and Tuition-Based Pre-School Orientation

Thank you families of kindergartners and Tuition-Based Preschool Students for attending our orientation pizza party on August 28th, one week before the first day of school. It was a great opportunity to meet other parents and students, ask teachers any last minute questions, and familiarize parents and students with daily routines.



Kindergarten Teachers



Tuition-Based Preschool Families



Kindergarten Parents

Inclusion Workshop

This summer, several Audubon staff attended a workshop, sponsored by the Gust Foundation, aimed at building inclusive school programs and improving inclusion at Audubon. Inclusion practices aim to educate all students within the general education classroom with their age level peers. Staff in attendance included: John Price (Principal), Sheila Danaher (Autism Facilitator), Kimberly Rebecca (Student Development Teacher), Amanda Fansler (Inclusion Teacher), Stacy Kolb (7th Grade Teacher) and Laura Ferdinandt (4th Grade Teacher).

Additional Announcements

Welcome New Teachers

Please join the Audubon community in welcoming 13 new staff members, acquired primarily due to expanding programs at Audubon. We are also fortunate to have all of our tenured teachers and most newer teachers returning to Audubon this year, as well. Audubon was the focus of a great deal of interest from teachers at last Spring's CPS Recruiting Fair, with candidates waiting in line for 2 hours to speak with school representatives. Our school's table also received a visit from the CPS Human Resources representatives unaccustomed to that level of interest. Audubon's administration selected the best of the best from a likely unprecedented collection of resumes. And so a warm welcome goes out to:

Ms. Suen, Grade 3
Ms. Kamil, Grade 3
Ms. Ferdinandt, Grade 4
Ms. Chan, Grade 6-8 Math
Ms. Jennings, TBPK Aide

Amy Schmidt, 5th grade
Amanda Fansler, special education
Rosa Lobato-Rodriguez, Spanish
Beven O'Brien – TA
Helene Linton – TA

Tonya Harbottle - TA
Vanessa Rivas - TA
Connie Middleman -TA
Scott Bowers—2nd grade while Ms. Sajovec is out.



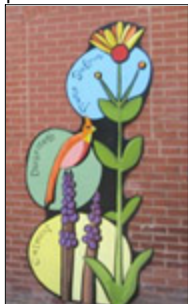
New Lunch Ticket Program

Say goodbye to fumbling with change in the morning when providing your child or your child's teacher lunch money. Teachers and aides will no longer have to spend valuable time counting change and making change. That's because Principal Price is introducing a new lunch ticket system. Parents can purchase books of full-price lunch tickets in advance, which the children can then bring to school one ticket at a time on any day the student wishes to purchase a lunch. These tickets will be for sale during the first week of school and on set dates throughout the year. If the program is successful, it will be expanded to include milk and reduced price lunches, as well. A book of 50 lunch tickets costs \$95 and a book of 25 cost \$48. A nominal surcharge is included to cover the cost of printing. Please visit the school office to purchase.



New Homework Program

Principal Price and Audubon teachers will be instituting a new method of assigning homework that will set very high expectations for student work and provide families with numerous opportunities to extend students' learning beyond the classroom.



Beautification Committee Needs Help

Have you noticed some changes at the school lately? Last year was a tremendous year for the face of Audubon. Administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community volunteers worked together and made big strides toward improving the appearance and atmosphere of our school. Among others, the projects included repainting the interior of the school, two major murals (and a third nearing completion), new walls in the community room, repainting the field house, and painting maps and games on the playground blacktop. While we are proud of last year's accomplishments, there is much more that needs to be done. We have several exciting projects envisioned right now and we need your help to make them a reality. We would like to continue to improve the garden, look into a new fence, finish the interior of the field house, create a mural on the fire escape, organize classroom painting, and continue seeking artistic and enriching installations for the halls throughout the school. Please e-mail stephanietaber@sbcglobal.net if you can help coordinate projects or to simply volunteer your time for Audubon's Beautification Committee.

New Band Program

New this year at Audubon, a Band Program will be offered for students, grades 4-8. Practices will be Wednesday mornings from 7:15-8 and on Fridays during school. Scholarships are need-based. See Principal Price to apply. No previous experience with musical instruments necessary. More information will be available at the Back-to-School Open House on September 19th. At a date TBD, a group called Music Education Services will come give a small concert to demonstrate and explain the instruments. On a date thereafter, each child has an opportunity to try two instruments in order to determine his or her interests, natural ability and to match his or her physical characteristics to an appropriate instrument. Finally, a time will be arranged for parents to come to the school to sign up their children and ask questions. Students will receive small group and whole group instruction.



Audubon Around

Don't forget to **submit your summer photos** of Audubon students wearing Audubon gear traveling around the country or the world. This is for our new "Audubon Around" bulletin board. You can email your digital photos to Michele.owens@gmail.com or bring prints into the office and put them in the APTP mail slot. This will be an ongoing project. Photos may be added at any time. The "Audubon Around" bulletin board will be located outside the school office. Thank you to Audubon Parents Michele Owens, Sherri Tonozzi and Laura Engel who have offered to design and assemble the bulletin board early this month.



Mother Goose Story Time

For the last 5 years, Mother Goose Story Time has been meeting every other week on Thursday mornings in Audubon's community room. It is a wonderful gathering for neighborhood children, ages 3 and under, accompanied by parents and caregivers. After story time, children participate in a craft project and have a snack. This year, **we are looking for one or two additional parents to lead Mother Goose**. This role involves reading to children and purchasing crafts. If you are interested, please email Kathy Argentar at boilerkha@ameritech.net. This year's schedule is being finalized, so see next issue for upcoming dates. Mother Goose Story Time is funded by Audubon School.

Parent Profiles

In early September, a form called a "Parent Profile" will be sent home with your child. The information on these forms are of great importance to our school's parent groups for community-building and fundraising efforts. Please return to the school office (APTP mail slot). Or, if you prefer, the Parent Profile is attached to this email. You can just type in your answers and reply to this email with the completed document attached. Thank you for your assistance in this effort.

Girl Scouts

Look for Girl Scouts flyers coming home with your daughters in September, and information will be available at the Back-to-School Open House on September 19th. This year Audubon will have a Daisies Troop (Kindergarten) led by Audubon Moms Jane Wharton and Jen Pramenko, a Brownies Troop (Grades 1-3) led by Audubon Moms Shara Morgan and Liz LaPlaca, and a Juniors Troop (Grades 4-5-6) led by Audubon Mom Randi Valenta. **Space is limited. Juniors Troop needs one additional mom** to co-lead with Randi. Please email Randi at ran2600@yahoo.com, if you're interested. We may also need to start additional Daisies and Brownies Troops to accommodate the increasing number of girls, but we would need additional leaders. If you're interested in leading, email shara1morgan@yahoo.com. Meetings for all Girl Scouts will hopefully start in October.



Ink Cartridges

As some of you may know Audubon has a cartridge recycling fundraising program that earns the school \$2 for every cartridge turned in. Our fundraising partner for this, who pays Audubon \$2 per cartridge, is **Cartridge World at 3342 Western between Dominicks and Toys R Us** (SO convenient). Cartridge World's recycled and refilled ink cartridge prices are between 20% and 50% off of office supply store prices, including Target. On top of that Cartridge World is running a **promotion through the end of September** that allows school families an additional 20% off printer cartridges. There is a small surcharge if you're purchasing cartridges as opposed to exchanging (bringing one in to have refilled), but it is still extremely cost effective. This offer applies to teachers, as well. Just mention Audubon. If you have any questions while there, ask for Josh, the store manager. While you're there, you can pat yourself on the back for choosing the "green" alternative. Also, their products are 100% guaranteed. **And throughout the year at any time, if you have used ink and toner cartridges, please bring them to the school office or to the science lab, room 102. Again, Audubon receives \$2 for every cartridge it collects.**



Audubon School

3500 N. Hoyne
Chicago, IL 60618
773-534-5470

Audubon Parent Teacher Partnership

audubonptp@yahoo.com

The Audubon Parent Teacher Partnership Email Newsletter is sent, on an opt-in basis, to approximately 400 Audubon Families and community members, including current Audubon families, neighborhood families, LSC board members, local business supporters and staff. If you know of any parents or community members who are not receiving these emails but you think would like to, please reply to this email. Parents without access to email can pick up this newsletter in the school office and in the "Take One" box outside the school's Hoyne Avenue entrance. Please reply to this email if: 1) you are a parent or teacher with an item you'd like to be included in this e-newsletter, 2) you have any questions about the content within, or 3) you'd like to be removed from this email list.