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# Audubon School E-Newsletter

## October 2009 Issue

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**Note:** all photos included are of Audubon students, staff, families, extended community and physical grounds. We welcome photo and content submissions from Audubon families and extended community by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in following issue.

## Upcoming Events/News

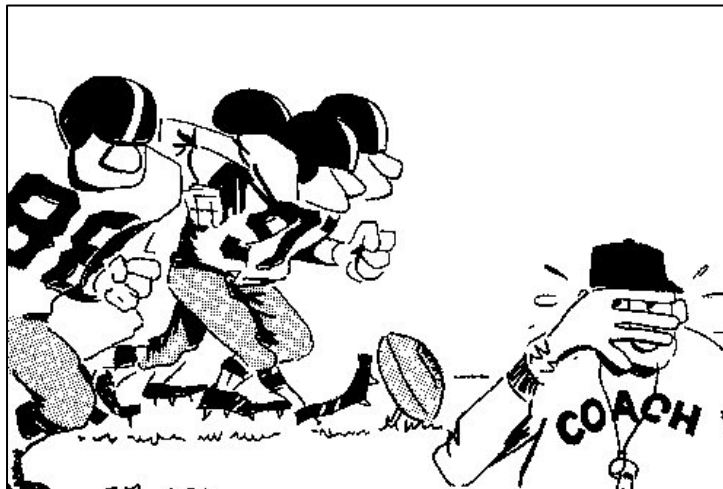
### 2010 Spring Gala Informational and Kick-Off Volunteer Meeting—September 30<sup>th</sup>

Audubon's annual Spring Gala is the biggest, most anticipated fundraising event of the year (and a great party as well)! The Gala Committee is looking for enthusiastic people to participate in a lot of little ways to help make the 2010 event the most successful ever, and we're hosting an informational session Wednesday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. If you are interested in attending, learning more about this fun event and/or lending your talents and time, please contact Sarah Levens [r.levens@att.net](mailto:r.levens@att.net) for further details. There are two Gala sub-committees, both of which present wonderful opportunities to use your talents and skills and to get to know the Audubon community better: **1) Site Committee:** Responsibilities can include:

graphic design including creating promotional materials, signage and invitations, site design including centerpieces and other decorations, set up and tear down, floral design, music, arranging for auctioneer and entertainment, food and beverage, check-in/check-out, etc., and **2) Auction Committee:** Responsibilities can include: solicitation of auction items, donations/fundraising, correspondence, financial management, online auction management, etc.

### Grant Committee Kick Off—October 1<sup>st</sup>

The Audubon Grant Writing Team is having it's 2009-2010 kick off meeting on Thursday, October 1st at 6:30pm at the Village Tap. We'd like to invite all interested parents to join us. **No prior grant writing experience is necessary.** The time commitment is one meeting every other month plus grant writing time on their own and editing the teams grants via e-mail. 1st round of drinks is on FOA! Email [alison.kramme@sbcglogal.net](mailto:alison.kramme@sbcglogal.net) with any questions.



### Mother Goose Reading Hour Resumes—October 2<sup>nd</sup> (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Mother Goose Story Time at Audubon School resumes Friday, October 2nd and will run this year every other week on Fridays 9-10am in Audubon's community room. Neighborhood **toddlers, ages 3 and under**, and their parents and caregivers are invited to attend for story, craft and snack. Please enter through the Hamilton doors. If you would like a copy of the schedule (as there are a lot of Friday school days off when Mother Goose won't be held), please email Audubon Mom Edit Nagy at [edit\\_nagy\\_bass@hotmail.com](mailto:edit_nagy_bass@hotmail.com), who we are once again fortunate to have coordinating Mother Goose this year. Mother Goose Reading Hour is a valuable service for neighborhood families with toddlers, and often serves as families' first introduction to Audubon.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawk Walk—October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Pledge Sheet Deadline—October 1<sup>st</sup>)

Friends of Audubon invites you to participate in our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawk Walk. Students get great exercise and raise money for technology as they try to complete as many laps as they can around the school's 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile course, motivated by pledges they collected. Friends of Audubon is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was created by parents who are dedicated to improving the financial health—and ultimately educational opportunities—for our children at Audubon School. Here's how it works: 1) Students ask family, friends and neighbors to sponsor them per lap or by a flat donation. 2) **Students must return a pledge sheet by Thursday, Oct 1, 2009**, in order to be eligible for prizes (pledge sheets will be distributed soon). 3) After the walk, tally sheets will be returned to the student with the tabulated lap count for collection of pledge money from sponsors. 4) Checks (made payable to Friends of Audubon) and cash accepted. 5) **All pledge money is due October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. Questions? Email Nick Liberati at [zerolimits@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zerolimits@sbcglobal.net).



## Scholastic Book Fair—October 5-9<sup>th</sup> (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Check out Audubon's Scholastic Book Fair in the Community Room, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. GREAT books for readers of all ages. Great bargains, too. Books make great gifts! Also, don't forget to check out the teacher wish lists at the Book Fair and donate a teacher wish list book to the classroom. A successful book fair earns books and other reading materials for Audubon classrooms and students. The Book Fair will be open 7:45-2:15 daily and from 5-7:30pm on Family Literacy Night.



## Family Literacy Night—October 6<sup>th</sup>

Parents are invited to attend an evening of mini-workshops led by Audubon teachers to learn tools used in classrooms (that can also be used at home) for encouraging students in reading, writing and spelling. 5-7pm. Details on specific workshops will be available soon, but last year's workshops included "Writers' Workshop", "Wordwork", "Figurative Language", "Independent Reading" and more. This is a great way to learn more about the latest techniques in teaching literacy and learn to reinforce them at home. After your workshops, head on down to the evening hours of the Scholastic Book Fair where sales help Audubon earn books for classrooms. Thank you to Audubon Literacy Committee Members 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Laura Ferdinandt, Kindergarten Teacher Natalie Gondela, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Teacher Tonya Harbottle, TBPK Teacher Bridget Nicholson and Principal John Price.

## Shop for Schools on Roscoe Street—October 8<sup>th</sup> (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

10:00 am - 8:00 pm. The school of your choice\* will receive 20% of your purchase at any of the participating businesses. Just tell the retailer to which school you'd like the money to go. US Cellular is donating an autographed Chicago Bears helmet to the school that receives the most \$\$\$\*. \*Participating Schools (including Audubon) only.



## CPS High School Fair—October 10<sup>th</sup>

Does the High School Process Seem Daunting? Mark your calendars for The Official Chicago Public Schools 12th Annual High School Fair at McCormick Place Lakeside Center - Hall D (2301 S. Lake Shore Drive) on October 10th from 9:30-12:30. Flyers go home w/ 8th graders today. Email questions to [karebecca@cps.edu](mailto:karebecca@cps.edu). Or call the office at 534-5470 and ask for student development teacher, Ms. Rebecca.

## No School—Oct 12<sup>th</sup>

Columbus Day. For day camp options, check out Audubon 100 Member Unicoi Art Studio ([info@unicoistudio.com](mailto:info@unicoistudio.com) and see attached flyer).

## Local School Council Meeting—October 19<sup>th</sup> (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

6:30pm. Audubon Community Room. The Audubon community of faculty, staff, parents and friends always has exciting initiatives going on behind the scenes. Come find out what's happening at Audubon. Attendance at and participation in these meetings is one very important way that Audubon parents can join the Audubon administration as partners in helping to shape the educational values, atmosphere and goals for our school.



## High School Open House Schedule

Jones College Prep. Oct. 17, 12-3pm

Gordon Tech, Oct. 18, 12-4pm and Nov. 4, 6-8

Westinghouse Oct. 24, 12-3

Northside College Prep Oct. 25, 11-2pm

Lincoln Park High School Oct. 25, 1-4

Whitney Young, Oct. 25, 1-4pm

Von Steuben Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Tours at 8:00 (Scholars program), 8:45, 10:00 and 11:15 (lottery) and Nov. 7 Tours at 8:00 (Scholars

program), 9, 10, and 11 (lottery);  
Lane Tech. High School Nov. 8 12-3pm;

## No School—Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>

This is a staff development day. If you're looking for a day camp option, look to Audubon 100 Members Unicoi Art Studio ([info@unicoistudio.com](mailto:info@unicoistudio.com) and see attached flyer) and Wishcraft ([wishcraft@me.com](mailto:wishcraft@me.com) and [http://web.me.com/wishcraft/Site/camps\\_%26\\_events.html](http://web.me.com/wishcraft/Site/camps_%26_events.html)).

## RVN Halloween Party—October 25<sup>th</sup> (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

RVN's Annual Halloween Parade and Party at Audubon School will be on Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>. The parade and trick-or-treating at businesses along Roscoe will start at 2pm, like last year, with the party at Audubon immediately after trick-or-treating (about 2:30pm) for 2 hours. **We are looking for volunteers to** help with the following: 1) Goody bag assembly; 2) Decorating on Friday after school and set up Sunday at noon; 3) Check-in at party (collect money and sign up new members); 4) Make posters for school with locations and descriptions of activities; 5) Send an email to teachers to see who might like to lead an activity and purchase and deliver supplies for them; 6) Additional needs will arise as we get closer to the date! If you're interested in helping, please email [sarah.Warren@hunterdoughospitality.com](mailto:sarah.Warren@hunterdoughospitality.com).

## No School—Nov 6<sup>th</sup>

This is a professional development day. If you're looking for a day camp option, look to Audubon 100 Members Unicoi Art Studio ([info@unicoistudio.com](mailto:info@unicoistudio.com) and see attached flyer) and Wishcraft ([wishcraft@me.com](mailto:wishcraft@me.com) and [http://web.me.com/wishcraft/Site/camps\\_%26\\_events.html](http://web.me.com/wishcraft/Site/camps_%26_events.html)).

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## Recent Events



### First Day of School

Almost 450 students returned to (or entered for the first time) the halls of Audubon Tuesday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> to a staff determined to build on the successes of several previous years and continue Audubon's trajectory to the top of CPS schools, and to ensure that students continue to grow and learn about themselves, and their world. New initiatives at Audubon include

- For the first time, we will offer high school Algebra to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students ready for the challenge.
- For students in grades 2-4, we have implemented a new computer-based mathematics program to further and deepen their conceptual understanding of mathematics.
- We will be working to enrich our mathematics curriculum to provide more challenge for students who are working above grade level, starting in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- Teachers have created new units of study for social studies in grades PreK-32 that will expand children's understanding of their world.

- In our second year with our new science curriculum teachers will focus on improving assessments and creating field trip opportunities for each grade level to provide students with an in-depth and hands-on understanding of the science concepts
- We have set a goal that 95% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be reading on grade level. To reach this goal, we have created an intense system of support for children who are not on track to reach this goal and we have improved our literacy assessments
- We have also set goals that move the school beyond a focus on "Meeting" state standards to a focus on "Exceeding" standards. We have set goals that within three years, 60% of our students will be "Exceeding" state standards in Mathematics, and that 40% of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be ready to "Exceed" standards in Reading when they take the ISAT test.

### Principal's Dinner

Thank you to the Schwartzes for hosting the annual Principal's Dinner, a fundraising event available at the Spring Gala Silent Auction. The mix of current Audubon parents and new to the school made for a breadth of conversation. It's a great (and fun!) way for new parents to get to know the principal and other families better, or for returning parents to reconnect at the start of the school year. Thanks Mr. Price for joining the parent body on this fun occasion.



### RVN Family Movie Night at Audubon (COMMUNITY WELCOME)

Thank you to all of the Audubon and neighborhood families who came together for the third annual "RVN Family Movie Night" on the Audubon school lawn. Thank you to RVN for providing this community-building experience and fun evening free of charge to all and to RVN Boardmember Brian O'Connell for coordinating the whole event for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.



### Principal Price Signs New Four-Year Contract

Congratulations to Principal John Price! Last night the LSC offered him a new four-year contract as his old one expires at the end of this school year. The LSC would like to express their appreciation of Principal Price's vision, hard work, and dedication to Audubon over the past three-plus years. Principal Price and team have consistently exceeded the school's annual goals and has established Audubon as a neighborhood school of choice. At the LSC meeting last night, Principal Price's evaluation was read to the community. It outlined many of his accomplishments

over the life of his contract, including but not limited to his focus on student academic growth, professional development, parent involvement, new curricula, school climate and community partnerships. His focus in these areas have also resulted in an impressive increase in our ISAT scores with an overall school score of 85.2% (an improvement of 940 basis points over the life of Principal Price's contract). Thank you to Mr. Price and team for a great three-plus years, we look forward to working with you throughout your new term. We appreciate your dedication to our school which has resulted in happy well-educated students!

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## Additional Announcements

### Gala Volunteers Needed!

This is such a fulfilling fundraiser to be involved in because the resulting event is always fabulous, the anticipation of it is palpable, it's a great way to meet people, everyone is really appreciative, and the benefit to the school is easily quantifiable. **1) Site Committee:** Responsibilities can include: graphic design including creating promotional materials, signage and invitations, site design including centerpieces and other decorations, set up and tear down, floral design, music, arranging for auctioneer and entertainment, food and beverage, check-in/check-out, etc., and **2) Auction Committee:** Responsibilities can include: solicitation of auction items, donations/fundraising, correspondence, financial management, online auction management, etc.

### Help With Classroom Art for Auction (**COMMUNITY WELCOME**)

Did you like what you saw at the Classroom Art for Auction (CAA) Exhibit at Starbucks last year? Do you think that this initiative is a valuable part of the Gala? Want to get involved? We're looking for parents to: 1) lead art projects in classrooms and 2) co-lead the school-wide CAA initiative, including coordinating with the room parent network to find an art project leader for each classroom, attending one initial art idea sharing meeting, transporting art, setting up the student art display at Starbucks and at the Gala, making a flyer for Starbucks Student Art Night, preparing art project descriptions and signage for art exhibits and publicity, formulating and communicating to Gala Committee minimum bid prices, photographing art and gathering photos of students with completed art projects. Reply to this email ([audubonptp@yahoo.com](mailto:audubonptp@yahoo.com)).



### Take It and Make It



Possibly the most convenient way to help out the teachers and the classrooms—Take It and Make It. Parent volunteers can visit the Take It & Make It Center in room 207 any day, any time, choose any available project (in envelopes) from any class box in the Center (shelf facing west towards Hamilton Ave.), and work on it there in room 207, or take it home and return it completed by the project deadline included. These projects are classroom materials and other lesson enhancements specifically requested by teachers for the classrooms that ALL students can benefit from, and that teachers would not otherwise be able to do in class. Projects often include

bulletin board displays, board games, educational booklets and other learning materials. A small group meets Fridays at 8am for Take It and Make It in room 207, but again, you can stop in anytime 7am-6pm to grab a project to do on your own, as well.

### Schoolwide Directory

Audubon is looking for a parent interested in putting together a school directory with parent contact information. Most of the information has already been received and some of it already input in .xl format, but another format could be used. If you are skilled at data entry and simple layout, this is the job for you. It's also a great volunteer opportunity for working parents, as it can be done outside of school hours. If interested, email [audubonptp@yahoo.com](mailto:audubonptp@yahoo.com). Also, if anyone knows a printer who would enjoy this annual business, we'd love a great deal!

### Desks for Sale

\$10 per desk! (cash only) Reach in desks with separate chair (comes with). Email [efay@cps.edu](mailto:efay@cps.edu).

### Jameson Real Estate Offer Benefits Audubon AND You!

Through their Audubon Sales Drive Program, Jameson Real Estate Agents and new Audubon 100 Partners (Audubon Parent) Janet Fitzpatrick and sister and partner Nancy Hearon will donate 10% of their sales commission resulting from an Audubon referral to Friends of Audubon and a matching gift of 10% to the buyer or seller that uses their services. Thank you for supporting Audubon, Janet and Nancy! Email [jfitzpatrick@jameson.com](mailto:jfitzpatrick@jameson.com).



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#### Audubon Parent Teacher Partnership

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The Audubon Parent Teacher Partnership Email Newsletter is sent, on an opt-in basis, to approximately 700 Audubon Families and community members, including current Audubon families, prospective families, neighborhood families, LSC board members, local business supporters politicians, 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.