GIVING THANKS
Sometimes it is not easy to be thankful.

Yesterday, I had to leave work because a delivery driver damaged my garage door. The next morning, I discovered that my vehicle had been prowled and that someone had stolen my backpack, computer, money and other items. Coronavirus cases are surging, more restrictions are in place, and our children are not able to come to school. "Happy Thanksgiving" seems so distant from the annual celebration we take time for every year.

But if we take a closer look at the original story of 'Thanksgiving', we begin to realize that the circumstances weren't ideal—in fact, far from it. Those days were filled with anxiety and frustration and concern for everyone involved. The 'Pilgrim' settlers from Europe, seeking religious freedom, were in a fight for survival. Most of them didn't make it. The Wampanoag tribe and other native people groups were just beginning a struggle for their very existence. Pushed from their lands and exposed to new diseases from Europe, it decimated their population.

But despite their hardships, as the story goes, they still took time to gather for a three-day feast to express their thankfulness for what they had. This is a good lesson. While 2020 has been a hard year for all of us, it seems especially important for us to take stock of what we have and look forward to a better future. To be grateful. To be appreciative. To be thankful.

I am thankful for our students... (see Student Green Team and Clothing Drive)
For hanging in there in this weird virtual world. For adapting to change. For being good to your teachers, particularly your original teachers (your parents). I miss having you visit our school each day and I can't wait until that day finally arrives.

I am thankful for our parents... (see the Parent Education Series)

As a parent myself, I know that the situation is not fair for you. You have graciously accepted another 'hat' to add to your many other roles and responsibilities. I thank you for your support and your patience. And I am thankful for grandparents and older siblings who have come along side when parents are working or not otherwise available.

I am thankful for our staff...

For not being complacent. For jumping in and making the best of the situation. For learning new things. For problem solving tech issues. For working as a team. For focusing on our students. For not giving up.

I am thankful for our PTSA... (keep reading for a PTSA Update including Readathon Results)

For continuing to support the school under these extraordinary circumstances. For their encouragement and unwavering enthusiasm for Audubon.

I am thankful for my family, the Seahawks and very thankful that you have made it this far in my newsletter... 😊

To our Audubon Community: Happy Thanksgiving! Sincerely, Mr. Spray/Principal

STUDENT GREEN TEAM AND CLOTHING DRIVE

The Student Green Team and the PTSA have joined forces this season to lend a helping hand to those in need!

Prompted by two of our students who wanted to make a difference in our community, the Green Team will be conducting a clothes and essential items drive called 'Be a Green Hero' from December 14th to December 17th.
All donations will go to Mary’s Place, a shelter in our community that provides support to women, children and families on their journey out of homelessness.

We are asking the community to collect gently used clothing items such as coats, blankets, raincoats, towels, as well as essential items like hand sanitizer, cough drops, body wash and canned food.

Donations can be dropped-off at school during December 14th to the 17th at available boxes in the front of the school entrance.

More information will be provided next week via PTSA e-news.

**PARENT EDUCATION SERIES**

The staff at Audubon know how valuable our school-to-home connection is, especially as we conduct classes in an online environment.

As a result, a group of staff members, headed by Megan Ames, Associate Principal and Taylor Caldwell, School Psychologist have put together a six-part parent education series focused on a variety of topics, to include:

- Bucket Filling--A Positive Discipline Plan (Tu., Dec. 8th, 7pm)
- Tech 101 Q&A--Tech Tips to improve your child’s online experience (Tu., Dec. 15th, 7pm)
- Play and Praise (Tu., Jan. 12th, 7pm)
- Setting Expectations and Routines--Getting organized and reducing stress (Tu., Jan. 21st, 7pm)
- Fostering Motivation (Tu., Feb. 2nd, 7pm)
- Mindfulness and Emotion Regulation (Tu., Feb. 9th, 7pm)

Taught by teams of Audubon staff, these are sure to be fun and informative. Save the dates! More information coming next week!

**PTSA UPDATE & READATHON RESULTS**

**READATHON RESULTS**

Thank you for supporting our Read-A-Thon Fundraiser! Huge thanks to our students who read all week and thank you to all those who have made a donation contribution! You can make a donation to our PTSA and support our programs! We have exciting individual and class prizes.
All donation dollars go towards student enrichment, family engagement, and for supporting our school programs.

As of last week, we have made over $7,000 through donations, and made just over $10,000. 238 students participated by logging over 14,000 minutes of reading.

Congratulations to Mrs. Voight’s class with the highest participation of 57%! And six drawing winners will be joining Principal Spray and Assoc. Principal Ames with a special UberEats virtual lunch!

PTSA ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Audubon PTSA offers several programs for our students to continue to learn and explore through the year. These are fun to participate and earn rewards. Check out our programs:

- Math Challenge – Solve math problems once a month. Subscribe to MC | Visit our MC page
- Passport Club – A brand NEW geography enrichment program with once a month online quiz. Lots of fun things to learn about the word and countries. Visit the Passport Club.
- Spelling Bee – Orientation was on Friday, Nov. 20th. Contact us at info@audubonptsa.org if you were not able to attend.
- Math Tournament – Gear up for the annual National Mathematics tournament open to Grade *1 -5 students. Registration is open until Nov. 23rd. More information

PTSA Enews & Website – Stay up-to-date with our PTSA programs, community connection, monthly events and activities, parent ed workshops, council news and more! Enews goes out weekly on Monday mornings. Subscribe today!

For any questions please contact info@audubonptsa.org | Website: https://audubonptsa.org