

Welcome



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Welcome everyone to our first Audubon Spring Gala Newsletter.

This is a busy and exciting time of year when all of our community pulls together to support our largest fundraising event, the 4th Annual Audubon Spring Gala 2010.

Over the next five months we will be bringing you regular updates, highlighting auction items and telling you about the exciting evening we have planned.

We have a great team of people with lots of enthusiasm and experience. Over 70 dedicated volunteers (in front and behind the scenes) will help to pull this event together. Please read on to learn who is leading which team. Over the coming months you will be seeing and hearing a lot from us!

The Gala Committee has been busy planning and executing all areas of the Gala from soliciting auction items, raising interest in advertising and sponsorship, not to mention the sourcing of décor items and coordinating the very popular class art for auction project.

This year it is our aim to pull together all our efforts and celebrate the hard work and commitments of the many who contribute to make Audubon School one **that believes that all children should have access to high quality programs and a belief in integration and inclusion.**

I encourage everyone to join us in making the Audubon Spring Gala 2010 a night to remember!

With best wishes,

Sarah Levens
Chair, Spring Gala, 2010

Gearing up!

**Only 5 months until the 4th Annual Spring Gala 2010!
“FEATHERS & FEDORAS”**

Saturday April 24th, 2010

Save the date and book a sitter, the 4th Annual Audubon Spring Gala will take place on
Saturday, April 24th, 2010

Take a step back in time to the glamour and glitz of the 1920's at the beautiful
Pazzo's Restaurant
311 South Wacker Drive

If you would like to volunteer please contact Sarah Levens at r.levens@att.net

The big question.....

What is the Gala and why is it such a big deal?

The Audubon Spring Gala is Friends of Audubon's (FoA) signature fundraiser each year. This is the 4th year for the Gala and your participation is greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the Gala enable achievement of the school's vision: *that every student will have a clear understanding of their own strengths and passions for learning, allowing each child to identify and pursue his or her individual goals.*

The Gala fundraiser makes achievement of this vision possible with your financial assistance through event sponsorship, in-kind donations, admission fees, silent and live auction proceeds, and raffle ticket sales.

Money from the event helps pay to reduce class sizes, increase the use of technology, provide for additional staff development, and enhance curricular materials. Your generosity is how we sustain these vital needs.

Benefits we can see.

Last year, the funds raised from the 2009 Spring Gala, were used to hire a full-time math differentiation specialist for Audubon students. The math differentiation specialist is currently developing a new math program for 2nd-4th grades and is working with accelerated students in grades K-2nd.

Meet the 2010 Gala Team:

Chair:
Sarah Levens
r.levens@att.net
 (Parent of Lucas-1st Grade)



Co-Chair: Auction:
Alison Beitzel
Alison.beitzel@ubs.com
 (Parent of Max-TBPK & Emerson-TBPK)



Co-Chair: Auction:
Noreen Hardgrove
n.hardgrove@hotmail.com
 (Parent of Lauren-2nd Grade & Ryan-Kindergarten)



Co-Chair: Site:
Allie Lippert
alippert@ameritech.net
 (Parent of Ava-Kindergarten & Sophia-TBPK)



Co-Chair: Site:
Susan Gust
susan.gust@yahoo.com
 (Parent of Nicholas-7th Grade)



Chair: c-Market:
Kathy Argentar
boilerkha@ameritech.net
 (Parent of Amy-5th Grade & Camille-4th Grade)



Co-Chair: Class Art for Auction:
Julie Loose
Julie@breakloose.com
 (Parent of Fuller-2nd Grade & Charlie- Kindergarten)



Co-Chair: Class Art for Auction:
Lara LeVoy
llevoy@earthlink.net
 (Parent of Ella-1st Grade)



Chair: Finance
Keith Schwartz
keith.schwartz@hs2solutions.com
 (Parent of Brody- 2nd Grade)



"A belief that all children should have access to high quality programs"

"A belief in integration and inclusion"

John Price

Meet the 2010 Gala Team:

Chair:

Marketing

Trinda Cutler

flloydcutler@aim.com

(Parent of August-6th Grade &
Tatum-1st Grade)



Chair:

Wine-O-Rama

Kathleen Katz

kathkatz@aol.com

(Parent of Jamieson-2nd Grade
& Shelby-Kindergarten)



Chair:

Photography Day

Rainy Showalter

rainyshowalter@sbcglobal.net

(Parent of Abbie-1st Grade)



**Audubon's 2009
successes:**

***Students are learning
more, faster, than at other
comparable CPS schools***

***Math and Reading Scores
are at an all-time high***

What cMarket is and how YOU can help:

Did you know that every item offered at the Spring Gala Silent Auction can be viewed in advance online? This is possible via our partnership with cMarket. cMarket is an on-demand, online auction platform solely for organizations engaged in fundraising for nonprofit causes. And, cMarket's BiddingForGood.com network brings together all cMarket related charity auctions in one place, making it possible for people all over the country to view, bid on and purchase items from our silent auction. Last year, one of the premier silent auction items offered was won and purchased by a bidder from out of state! Our participation in cMarket increases visibility and profitability for Audubon.

If you would like to be part of the cMarket online auction team, here's what we're looking for: Individuals who enjoy creative writing and who can help "jazz up" the auction item descriptions to increase their appeal, as well as a few tech-savvy people who would take multiple images, compress them into a single file and upload them in batch to the cMarket website. Both jobs would be done over a period of about two months with updates weekly (about 1-2 hours/week for the writing job; less than that for the photo uploading). This work can be completed from home or a location of your choice as passwords allow access to our site remotely.

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Argentar at boilerkha@yahoo.com.

Audubon's 2009 successes:

Audubon is now recognized as a Tier 1 CPS School

96% Attendance Rate

Science Scores increased by 16% points

How YOU can help the Auction Team:

Each year we search for donations of special items that make the silent or live auction exciting and magical. Many of these items are contributed by someone like you and are described as **PRICELESS**. Please take a moment to look over some suggestions we've listed below that may get your ideas flowing on how YOU can contribute to the Gala.

Host a party or teach someone a valuable skill. Donate theatre tickets or professional sporting events tickets. Tickets for /or an appearance on a TV show. Create a themed package or contribute a unique single item. A piece of art work or sports memorabilia, vacation rental, airline tickets, hotel rewards, restaurant certificates, spa certificates these are items that will be auctioned to raise money at the Spring Gala.

We are looking for more volunteers to join the Auction Committee to assist us in soliciting donations from individuals as well as various local business that may have donated last year or might be willing to assist us this year for the silent auction.

Contributions and YOUR connections are key to making this year's Gala a success!

Please contact Alison Beitzel at Alison.beitzel@ubs.com or 773-315-8253 if you are interested in joining the Auction Committee.

EVENT HOSTING:

Events hosted by Audubon families are very popular items for the Gala auction and they are a great way to get to know other Audubon families. Consider hosting an event yourself or team up with another friend or family. You decide the day and time, the attendees and all of the details. Gala participants 'bid' to attend your event! Here are some ideas that have proven to be lots of fun and terrific fundraisers for the school.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ➤ Mom's Margarita night | ➤ Parent's poker night |
| ➤ Cupcake or tea party | ➤ Basketball and burgers lunch |
| ➤ Wine tasting | ➤ Backyard beach party |
| ➤ Backyard movie-matinee | ➤ Kid's chef pizza party |
| ➤ Pancake brunch | ➤ Brats and brew flights |
| ➤ Golf outing | ➤ Dad's garage crawl |
| ➤ Babysitting Packages | ➤ Picnic and concert at Millennium Park |

If you would like to host an event, please contact Noreen Hardgrove at nhardgrove@hotmail.com or 773-244-0203.

Friends of Audubon
Audubon Elementary
School
3500 N Hoyne
Chicago, IL 60618

Phone
(773) 534-5470

*2010 Spring Gala
"Feathers & Fedoras"*

About Friends of Audubon:

Friends of Audubon (FoA) is a 501 © (3) organization whose sole mission is to raise money to support Audubon School. The primary goals of FoA are:

- To promote and support the academic and extra-curricular programs at Audubon School.
- To assist Audubon School in enriching its educational programs by securing, raising and arranging for funds and capital through fundraising activities, including special events, solicitations and grant requests.
- To aid Audubon School in obtaining resources for improving and beautifying its facilities and grounds necessary for the well-being and safety of the school community.
- To develop plans and strategies to identify and solicit individuals, community members, businesses and foundations for gift and grant support.
- To foster business and community involvement to improve the quality of public education and assist Audubon School in achieving its educational objectives.
- To educate the community on the advantages of charitable giving and to motivate prospects to make donations that benefit and promote the educational needs of the community.

To learn more about FoA contact Kathy Argentar at boilerkha@yahoo.com

Friends of Audubon
Audubon Elementary School
3500 N. Hoyne
Chicago, IL 60618



Watch this space for our
new web-site!

