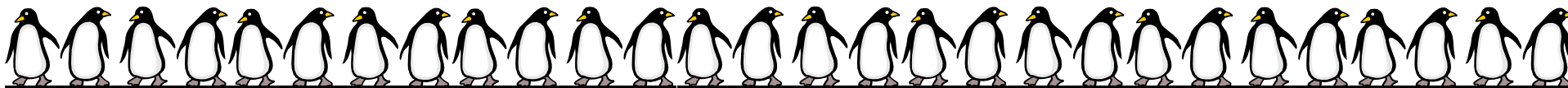


Burns Park Press - September 2008



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Burns Park Mission Statement:

All of our children will become confident, secure, caring individuals of a diverse community who are lifelong learners and achieve personal success.

Check out the PTO websites:

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>

and Penguin Talk :

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/>

Calendar of Events

- Tues, Sept 2: **Back to School**
- Tues, Sept 9: **Curriculum Night**
- Tues, Sept 16: **BP Players Meeting**
- Thur, Sept 18: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Fri, Sept 20: **BP Press Articles Due**
- Wed, Sept 24: **Fall Festival**
- Sun, Sept 28: **Big House, Big Heart 5K and fun run**
- Mon, Sept 29: **Sally Foster Sale Begins**
- We, Oct 8: **Walk to School Day**
- Oct 14,16,21,23: **MEAP**
- Thur, Oct 16: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Sat, Oct 18: **BP Used Book Sale**
- Tues, Nov 4: **No School: Election Day**
- Thur, Nov 20: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Wed - Fri: **No School:**
Nov 26-28 **Thanksgiving**

Fall Festival!

When: 5:30-8:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Where: Lawn in front of Burns Park School.

What: Bring your own dinner and a dessert to share.

Enjoy reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones!

New to Burns Park School?

Welcome!!! If you have a student who is attending Burns Park for the first time, and if you have any questions at all about our school or processes, please call Kathy Sample @ 846-4080 or Colleen Dowd Kollman @ 994-0898 and we'll get an answer for you!

Look for the New Family Packet in the office if you did not attend the New Family Orientation.

The Burns Park Press is published on-line each month!

By reading the Burns Park Press on-line, we save about 2600 printed sides of paper EACH MONTH!!! This saves ink, paper, copying resources and time!!!

Still want to receive a paper copy each month? Send an email requesting a paper copy to Kathy Sample at kesample@umich.edu, or leave a note at the office in the Burns Park Press box.

From our Principal

Dear Families,

The first day of school is exciting for students, parents and staff. Students are excited to begin their new school year, and parents are excited, but also anxious about letting go of these precious hands. The staff understands the nervous feelings and will be there to support and encourage students the first day of school and every day thereafter. We want to make sure your children feel as special at school as they do at home. Please feel free to ask questions any time through out the school year. We look forward to meeting all of our new families and welcoming back all returning families.

Changes in the Building

We've gone through some major renovations this summer. The bathrooms on the 1st and 3rd floors and the cafeteria have been completely renovated. Our cafeteria has more than doubled in size. The work on the addition is well underway and we hope to be able to occupy those rooms by January. Air conditioning was installed in the Media Center, Computer Lab and Office. Next summer we will complete the project by increasing the size of the 6 very small rooms on the 3rd floor. The PTO installed a new "jungle gym" on the front playground. Thanks go to the PTO, Jim Wallace and the playground committee for their work to get this accomplished over the summer.

Welcome New Staff

Ms. Glynda Wilks will join us as a teacher of 2nd grade. She recently received her master's in education from the University of Michigan (ELMAC program). She is also a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Before launching her career in education, Mrs. Wilks worked as an editor for more than four metropolitan newspapers including the Detroit Free Press and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. She lives in Ann Arbor with her husband, James; their three sons, Alex, 12, Chris, 10, and Stephen, 6, and their dog, Chocolate Chip (Chip for short). Mrs. Wilks enjoys reading newspapers and news magazines, cooking, writing, and rollerblading. Some of her favorite writers of children's books include Ezra Jack Keats, Gloria Whelan, and Patricia Polacco. She looks forward to working with your children and getting to know everyone in the Burns Park family.

Ms. Elizabeth Davila will join us as a first grade teacher. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She grew up in Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York. She had family from Long Island that moved to Troy, Michigan and was soon exposed to the wonderful state of Michigan. She enrolled in the University of Michigan and fell in love with Ann Arbor! Before coming to Burns Park, she pre-student taught at North Creek Elementary in Chelsea and Heritage Middle School in Saline. She did her full time student teaching at Holmes Elementary in Ypsilanti. She graduated from U of M's Elementary Education program in April with certification in K-5 teaching, a

major in Language Arts, and a minor in Social Studies. She is excited to join the Burns Park Family!

Bucketfillers

During the first week of school our students will participate in a workshop that teaches them about "Bucketfillers". This year our Community Circles will use "Bucket filling" as a theme to help us promote attitudes that encourage us to reach out and care about others. The image of "bucket filling" is used help students think about how filling another person's emotional bucket with good thoughts and feelings, also fills our own emotional bucket with good thoughts and feelings. It is a lesson in learning how being "other-centered" can feel good and help us take care of ourselves in the process.

Curriculum Night

I hope to see all of you at Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 9. Curriculum Night is a chance for you to meet your child's teacher, learn about the curriculum being taught this year and sign up for a parent/teacher conference. It is also a chance to hear about highlights of our school's Annual Report and be introduced to other teachers in the school such as the PE, Music, Art and Media teachers. Please plan on attending this very important event.

At 6:00 families of grades K, 1, and 2 will meet their children's teacher in the classroom and at 7:00 they will meet in the auditorium for an explanation of our Annual Report and staff introductions.

... more from our Principal

Beginning at 6:30 families of students in grades 3-5 will meet with in the auditorium for staff introductions and an explanation of the Annual Report. At 7:00, 3-5 grade parents will meet their child's teacher in their classrooms. This evening is designed for parents only. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself to the Art, P.E., Music and Media Center teachers.

6:00 to 6:45 – Families of K-2 students meet in classroom with teachers

6:30 to 7:00 – Families of 3-5 students meet in the Auditorium

7:00 to 7:30 – Families of K-2 students meet in the Auditorium

7:00 to 7:45 – Families of 3-5 students meet in classrooms with teachers

SIT

Burns Park has a School "In search of excellence" Team (SIT). The team's membership includes teachers, parents, staff, and the principal. The charge of this team is to focus on increasing students' achievement and success. The team meets every other month and we are looking for some new members to replace retiring members. This year we will spend time discussing the work we have been doing as a school to encourage and sustain difficult conversations about race, equity, privilege, and serving children without bias and preconception. As part of this effort, we will be reading and discussing the book *White Like Me*. If you are interested, please call the office and let us know.

Walk to School Day! (Wednesday, October 8)

We are registered to participate in the International Walk to School Day in Michigan! We will join hundreds of thousands of youth and adults worldwide who will walk and or a bicycle to school on Wednesday, October 8, 2008. A special thank you goes to Joel Dalton for chairing the PTO committee that is working to promote Safe Routes to School. A separate flyer will be sent home to all possible walkers and bicycle riders before the event.

MEAP

The MEAP test is required to be given throughout the state on the following dates in October to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. We hope that you will help us keep to this schedule by avoiding taking your child out of school on October 14, 16, 21 and 23. If you know that your child will not be in school on any of these dates, please let the office and your child's teacher know as soon as possible.

In closing, if there is ever anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to call or come in to visit with us. We strive to make sure that your child loves school and learning. We look forward to working together to make this a rewarding year for your child.

Sincerely,
Kathy Morhous
Principal

Burns Park

Science Olympiad Team

If you missed a trip to the Olympics in Beijing last month, don't worry. Be happy: We will have Olympics in our own backyard once again this year!! The Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad, that is. Over 1,600 students from 20 elementary schools competed last May at Huron High School. And if you want to see a lot of energy and excitement, that's the place to be in May 2009!

Our team (the BPSO Team--can you figure out what that stands for?) will begin practices in January. This is big fun for kids and coaches and parents! Sign up for team members will begin in Dec. Right now, however, we are actively recruiting coaches! If you'd like to volunteer to coach and reap the rewards of fostering young children's development of interest in math, science and engineering, there's no better time to call! Interested in coaching or assistant coaching? Please call me for further information. No experience is necessary. Inquiries accepted with no obligation! Call today!

Sue Cutler, BPSO Head Coach (995-5399)

From our PTO Presidents

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Welcome back to our returning families and to our new families. We are excited that you are joining the Burns Park community and we look forward to meeting you all.

Our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is very active, sponsoring numerous events for students and their families throughout the year. We rely on our parents to volunteer and to participate in our fundraisers to make these events possible. With over 30 committees the PTO has a volunteer job for **any** level of time commitment and talent. Additionally, classroom and special teachers also rely on parent volunteers.

In your welcome back to school packet you will find descriptions of our committees as well as PTO and classroom volunteer sign up sheets. Please take a few minutes to read through them and consider what you would like to do; completed forms need to be returned to the school by Friday, September 12.

One easy way to participate in the PTO is to attend our monthly meetings held the third Thursday of the month (except December & February). Our first meeting is September 18 at 7 PM in the media center; fun, FREE child care will be provided in the gym. We welcome all parents!

In addition to the meeting we hope to see you at the following events:

- ◆ Curriculum Night: Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 PM – meet your child's teacher and learn about the classroom curriculum
- ◆ Fall Festival: Wednesday, September 24 – bring a blanket, a picnic dinner and a dessert to share

The start of school can be a very busy and hectic time for families, especially if you are new to the school. Please feel free to call or email either of us with any questions or concerns. We're looking forward to a great year!

Elizabeth DeRose, President

677-0882 or ederose@comcast.net

Lynda Norton, President-elect

761-1478 or lnorton@okno.com

Thanks a Million!

Thanks to **ALL** of the volunteers who have worked over the summer, and especially in the last few weeks to help our school year get off to a great start! We appreciate your time and effort, and couldn't have done it without you!

Many, many thanks to:

- ◆ **Helen Starman and all of the volunteers** who helped organize and run the Summer Learning Program!
- ◆ **Janice Lieberman and Helen Starman**, Volunteer Coordinators, for working over the summer to finalize our PTO committee chairs and for organizing our volunteer sign up.
- ◆ **Sally Pennell, the Hospitality Committee** and all who brought delicious goodies for our annual Welcome Back Coffee.
- ◆ **Steve Norton and Ginny Rogers** for updating and maintaining our family and volunteer database.
- ◆ **Steve Norton** again – for updating our website and keeping it running smoothly. Check it out at www.burnsparkpto.org.
- ◆ **Colleen Kollman and Kathy Sample** for assembling folders for new families and for helping to orient new families to our school.
- ◆ **Patricia Silverman, Kelly Lohnes, Kim Mass, Gretchen Spreitzer, Caren Goldberg, Suzanne Ross and Nancy Vettorello** for organizing the wonderful Back-to-School Get-Together for all of the grades.
- ◆ **Kathy Kyle and Michelle Stevens**, our amazing school secretaries, for helping to get all of the forms ready for the 1st day packets.
- ◆ **Various friends and PTO Chairs** for helping to assemble the 1st day packets.
- ◆ **PTO Chairs** for volunteering to help run your respective committees! You make our PTO run smoothly!
- ◆ **Anne Gilbert and Kathy Sample** for the first Burns Park Press of the new school year.

We look forward to a great year!

Elizabeth DeRose & Lynda Norton

Media Center News

Welcome to the new school year! I hope all of our students had a wonderful summer, filled with books, stories, family and adventure. I look forward to hearing about all of the books that Burns Park students have read since I've seen them last.

I'm happy to report that we've upgraded our circulation system and, while we're still learning the ins and outs, we're raring to go.

Last Spring, Señora Alfonso and I undertook a special project to increase our collection of Spanish-language materials. We can boast that we've added close to one hundred books to our already impressive foreign language shelves. With our foreign language initiative and focus on Spanish, this is a perfect way for your student to explore the language, learn new words, or connect with other students.

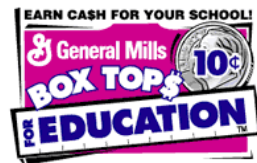
Students are eagerly checking out books, magazines and audio books in the Library Media Center. Each student has his/her own library card. Parents and community members can also sign up for library cards and check out or use the Library Media Center materials.

As we hash out the final details of the schedule and get parent volunteers in to help with each class, I am really looking forward to a fantastic year. If you would like to be a volunteer during your student's library class time or during any part of the school day or for special events, please visit me in the Library Media Center or email me at erdstein@aaps.k12.mi.us. Our special Library Media Center programs rely heavily on parent volunteers, and our students love to see their parents as helpers.

Box Tops for Education

We will continue collecting Box Tops for Education this year. This program augments our Library Media Center budget. If you already use these items, you can help. Clip and save Box Tops logos from participating products. Then, turn in your Box Tops logos to the designated orange box in the Library media Center. I will mail them to General Mills. They, in turn, will issue a check to our school. Last year, we earned over \$300! Let's keep it up. Each Box Top is worth ten cents and we can earn up to \$20,000 this year! Thank you!

- Rachel Erdstein



Burns Park Used Book Sale

Saturday, October 18

Have too many books? Want to benefit a worthy cause? Donate your gently used children's and adult books to the Burns Park Used Book Sale, Saturday, October 18. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund (established through the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation), and the Burns Park PTO.

Many of the books are from the personal collection of Karen Thomas, an avid collector of vintage children's picture books. But we also hope to collect current fiction and non-fiction, cook books, travel, self-help – whatever you would like to contribute!

There will also be a silent auction of rare and unusual books, including scarce first editions by John Steinbeck, Truman Capote, Rachel Carson and Dr. Seuss. Find the perfect holiday gift for the book-lover on your list!

The Karen Thomas Memorial Fund will honor Karen's profound love of reading, and her belief that literacy is essential to a successful and fulfilling life. The Fund will sponsor literacy programs for underprivileged children at the elementary level.

Anne
Gilbert

Burns Park real estate
expert and parent.

Neighborhood sales
information at:

www.AnneGilbert.com

734 657 7121

AGilbert@Surovell.com

Associate Broker

Edward Surovell Realtors
1898 West Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Please Come to the Burns Park Players Fall Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 pm

Where: Burns Park School Auditorium

What: To discuss our 2009 musical, Annie Get Your Gun, to be performed the weekends of February 7 and 14

Why: If you are interested in meeting new people in your community, having fun and livening up your winter evenings!

Who: EVERYONE interested in trying out (auditions for adults will be held October 20th and 21st with callbacks October 23rd) NO theater experience is required.

EVERYONE interested in working backstage on sets, costumes, props, make up, orchestra, child care etc.

You don't have to be a Burns Park school parent to be involved, you only have to live within the Burns Park school boundaries. Please invite your friends and neighbors; specific skills such as painting, sewing and accounting are especially needed.

If you can't make the meeting, but would like to be involved or want more information, please visit our website:

<http://www.burnsparkplayers.org> or

email the producers at producers@burnsparkplayers.org.

Crew members are expected to give a minimum of 30 hours effort towards the production and cast members must adhere to the attendance policy which will be reviewed at the meeting. Elementary aged children of parents who are participating in the play are eligible for a small part in the production (no tryouts, practices held at school during lunchtime).

Walk and Talk to Begin in Fall

Tie up those tennis shoes and come on over to the park for this fall's season of Walk and Talk. Walk and Talk is an activity where the students gather at to walk or run with each other around a specified loop at Burns Park. The kids earn "toe tags" for a certain number of loops around the park and really are motivated by the fresh air, their friends and the encouragement of the parent volunteers.

We are hoping to start up the week of Sept. 15 if we can get our parent volunteers in place by then. If you can help out on Monday, Wednesday or Friday during lunch time (approximately from 11:15 – 1:10 or any part thereof), please contact Courtney Simon (csimon1974@yahoo.com or 369-4695) or Leslie Sapp (jlsapp@comcast.net 994-6186). We would also like to encourage parents to come and walk and talk with the kids – enjoy each other plus the added bonus of modeling/inspiring physical fitness too!

There is a fantastic opportunity for the kids to run in the Big House Big Heart 5k on Sept. 28 (finish line is on the 50 yard line) to raise money for Burns Park School and Walk and Talk. We'll help get them ready!

Big House, Big Heart 5K and fun run

Support ALS research and get fit at the same time!

Sunday, September 28, 2008

<http://www.bighousebigheart.com/>

Running Fit will donate a portion of every race entry to ALS research at The University of Michigan Program for Neurology Research & Discovery and to C. S. Mott Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital!

Walk or run in either event and consider joining the team that will be forming at the school to raise even more funds for ALS research! We will make donation collection easy with an online link to FirstGiving. Please watch the Burns Park Run web page (www.burnsparkrun.org) for updates and details.

Thank you to Joel Dalton for organizing the web page. Want to volunteer to help with the BHBH packet pick-up? Call or email Joel: 945-8132 or daltonjd@gmail.com.

¡Hola Burns Park!

Thanks to the generous support of parents and local businesses, this year students in grades 1 – 5 will receive Spanish instruction in the classroom three times a week. Remember to ask your student about it! For more information see our letter in the Welcome Back to school packet or visit our website, <http://www.bpfli.org>.

Ann Arbor Public Schools Non-Discrimination Policy: No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, height, weight, marital status, or disability. The Ann Arbor Public School District will provide reasonable aids and accommodations to individuals who desire information regarding the education of District students.

Burns Park Press Submissions

This newsletter is published monthly by the Burns Park PTO. Contributions from teachers, staff, parents, and students are welcomed. Articles can be sent via email (preferred) or placed in the BP Press box in the office. Articles for the October 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, September 19**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

Anne Gilbert, 657-7121 or AGilbert@Surovell.com

Burns Park Press Advertising

Display Ads: We welcome ads for companies and services of interest to our Burns Park community. 1/8 page ads are \$35/ issue or 3 months for \$100. 1/4 pages ads are \$70/issue or 3 months for \$200.

Classifieds: Classifieds are to be used by the families of the Burns Park area to sell/buy personal items and/or services. Classifieds rates are \$.20/word.

Electronic Submission, please! Submit your ad to Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor, agilbert@surovell.com.

Payment: Please place your check (made out to Burns Park PTO) in an envelope labeled "BP Press Ads, attn: Treasurer" in the PTO box in the school office. (They may also be mailed to the school at 1414 Wells, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.) Both the electronic ad copy and payment must be received by the published deadline for the issue in which the ad is placed.

Questions? Contact Anne at 657-7121 or AGilbert@Surovell.com.

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Burns Park Press

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