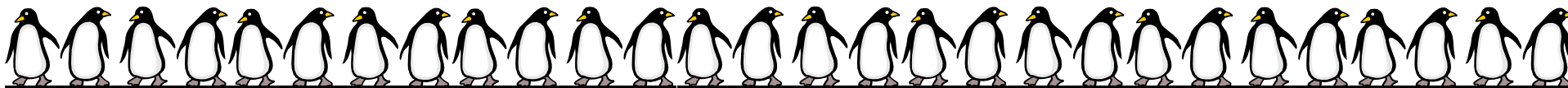


Burns Park Press - December 2008



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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

-
- Thu, Dec 4: **Clay Houses (Cramer)**
- Tue, Dec 9: **AAPSEF Donation Day at Play It Again Sports**
- Wed, Dec 10: **Holiday Luncheon**
- Fri, Dec 12: **BP Press Articles Due**
- Fri, Dec 19: **Check Lost & Found**
- Fri, Dec 19: **Winter vacation begins at end of day**
- Mon, Jan 5: **School resumes**
- Lunchtime Choices Begins**
- Thur, Jan 15: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Mon, Jan 19: **No School: MLK, Jr. Day**
- Thu, Jan 22: **3rd & 4th Grade Concert**
- Fri, Jan 23: **Disability Awareness Workshop**
- Fri, Jan 30: **Check Lost & Found**
- Mon, Feb 16: **No School**
- Fri, Feb 20: **Check Lost & Found**

It's time to celebrate our wonderful **teachers and staff** with a **Holiday Luncheon** on Wednesday December 10. To make this happen and be a success, we need your help. Parent volunteers are needed to provide main dishes, side dishes, salads and desserts. Please fill in and return the volunteer form that was in your child's backpack.

Kristy Demas, Susan Hutton and Sally Pinnell.

Lunchtime Choices is an opportunity for the kids to choose an activity during lunch recess inside (once a week) during the coldest months of winter. It will start the week of January 5 and run until February 20. So far this year, the activities will be floor hockey, math games, karate and computers. We are looking for a few more ideas and parents who are able to donate about two hours (11:25am-1:05pm) once a week. Please email Katie Chosid at kchosid@yahoo.com with ideas or to volunteer.

Family to Family Giving: Each year at this time we ask for donations to provide children at our school with holiday gift money that they would otherwise not be able to have without our help. During the month of December you will find a decorated envelope attached to a flyer in your child's back pack. Please place any possible donation in the envelope and return it to their class in your child's backpack. You may also make a direct donation to the FTFG box if you like. We appreciate any help that you can provide.

Sara Figueroa (sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com)

From our Principal

Dear Burns Park Families,

As we move into the month of December, I can't help but reflect and be thankful for the construction improvements that have taken place and continue to take place to improve the learning environment for our children, the unusually beautiful fall weather, our historic election, and how fortunate I am to be able to share my days with your children. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children, it gives me great joy, every day!

It was great seeing everyone during fall Parent/Teacher Conferences. More than that 98% of our families participated in these conversations about their children's achievement. If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call the office. If you need special assistance like translation or transportation, let the office know and we will try to help.

Report letters were sent home just before Thanksgiving break. Take time to celebrate your child's efforts. What are his or her strengths? Where is the passion for learning most evident? What can you do to support and encourage their learning experience? Your child has worked hard. Their teacher has worked hard. Learning is not always easy. Take time to celebrate all that has been accomplished!

School Improvement – CARE

We continue to learn to develop the will, skill, knowledge and capacity to provide all children with

culturally relevant instruction. Our school's CARE (Collaborative Action Research for Equity) team met with Jaime Almanzan from the Pacific Educational Group for the first of several in-service days scheduled this year. Members of our team are Carrie Dworkin, Jill Chappuis, Nancy Ambrosino, Jewel Walters, Molly Crankshaw, and Sandy Kreger. CARE is designed to support teachers in discovering the challenges that exist in their relationships with students of color and then improve their instructional delivery accordingly. As a part of CARE, each teacher will partner with a focus group of students of color to better understand the aspects of teaching that positively impact student learning. Engaging student voices and examining student work are central in developing CARE teachers' ability to pinpoint how and when they are most and least effective. The CARE model is built on the notion that a focused, small start, centering on improved instructional and support strategies for underserved student groups, is likely to yield significant whole school changes over time.

Community Circles – Ask your child what a Bucket Filler does

On Wednesday mornings, students in grades 1 to 5 meet in mixed age groups of 13 or 14 students to learn more about each other and to learn to value and respect those things that make us alike or unique. Your children are getting to know other children who are in different grades and neighborhoods. They are looking at what it means to

act kindly and responsibly when they are on the bus, in the cafeteria or on the playground—especially when adult supervision may be low. In the next few months, they will explore such topics as sharing, dealing with disappointment, discouragement and frustration, making mistakes, and how to be a good communicator. Should you like to view any of the lesson plans, they are available in the school office.

Walking and/or Transporting Students to School

We are fortunate to reside in a neighborhood where nearly half of our students walk to school. We ask parents who drive their children to school to take safety precautions to insure that all of our students are safe. If you drive your child to school, please leave enough time to drive safely. Make sure you come to a complete stop at all stop signs and wait for children to safely cross the intersection. Please pull safely up to the curb before opening car doors. Insist that your riders exit on the curbside of the car. Lastly, don't block intersections by dropping children off at stop signs.

The start and end of the school day are very congested times in the parking lot. Drivers must be continually alert to the presence of children. Remember, when you exit the parking lot please make a right hand turn. The few minutes it takes to go around the block are well worth the safety of our children.

... more from our Principal

Cold and Flu Season

If your child is ill, has had a fever or been nauseous within the last 24 hours, he or she should not be in school. Keeping children home an extra day after being ill allows time for their immune systems to recover and be able to fight off the next set of germs. Please keep your telephone numbers on our emergency cards current so that you can be reached should your child become ill.

Reminders

Does your child eat hot lunch? Please keep enough money in your child's lunch account to cover the cost.

Gifts to Employees

As the holidays approach I will remind everyone of the Board of Education Policy No. 4117, which states, *As employees of the district, individuals shall not accept gifts of more than token value from students or their parents or guardians or from vendors or businesses. (Exception: gifts to a retiring or reassigned employee.)*

Lastly

I am proud of all of our students and the wonderful academic progress they are making. Please continue to work with your child at home, and we'll continue to do our best here at school. Reading together everyday is one of the best ways to support your child's learning.

Enjoy your holiday break as a family. May it be a peaceful and joyful time for all of you!

Educationally yours,

Kathy Morhous

Music Notes

Hello, all! A reminder to 3rd grade parents and parents in Mrs. Spiegel's and Ms. Dworkin's classes, that on Thursday evening, Jan. 22, your children will be presenting their musical concerts. We will begin the 3rd grade concert promptly at 7 p.m. 3rd grade students should go down to the hallway by the music classroom to meet their teacher and line up at 6:50. They should wear the T-shirt they've made in art class and any black or dark bottom, pants or skirts. The Spiegel/Dworkin concert begins at 7:40. 4th grade families (Ms. Dworkin's and Mrs. Spiegel's students) should arrive at 7:30 for the performance. These students will also meet in the hallway by the music room, their teacher will be greeting them there. They also should have their art-room printed T-shirts and black or dark bottoms.

You will receive lyric booklets for the 3rd Grade "Irving Berlin" concert and Spiegel/Dworkin "Hit Tunes of WW II" prior to Winter Break. Please encourage your child to practice them over the break, as ideally I'd love for everyone to have their words memorized upon return to school on January 5th. We'll need our rehearsal time when we come back and won't have time to be focusing exclusively on words. Thanks for your help with this.

Parent/Guardians of the concert classes, please remember to send in T-shirts for

your child to stamp-print. Plain, white undershirts, and extras, especially in large sizes, are most welcome. Please put your child's name and class on the label. If you are available to help with the T-shirts during your child's art time, please contact Kate at: higgins@aaps.k12.mi.us

I am really enjoying working on this great musical material with your children. One more thing: if anyone knows of a WWII veteran who might come in to quickly present their experiences in WWII, we would love to have you share with Mrs. Spiegel's and Ms. Dworkin's classes. Finding a USO singer or entertainer of the troops would be a real coup! Please let me know if you know someone who might share.

All school community: please also know that if your family/child has transportation issues that would preclude your child attending his/her concert, our PTO has a fund to send your family a taxi to carry you to and fro. We would like 100% attendance at concerts, so please let myself, the classroom teacher, or Mrs. Morhous know if we can help you with transportation.

Thanks, everyone. See some of you in January! As always, anyone is welcome to attend any concert.

Cynthia Page

Vocal/General Music Teacher

From our PTO Presidents

Thank you to everyone who attended our November PTO meeting. We heard an update from Helen Starman about the new structure of foreign language instruction that will start with 3rd graders next year, and then roll out to include 3rd, 4th and 5th graders the following year. During the transition period, all other grades that are currently receiving Spanish instruction will continue to do so with funding through the Burns Park Foreign Language Initiative. If you would like further information, please read the newsletter that recently went out, available at <http://www.bpfl.org/documents/FLnewsletter10-08.pdf>

This month the PTO provides two great opportunities for Burns Park families to help others in need. Mary Hampton has organized the **Salvation Army Food Drive**. You can donate canned goods and paper products to local families in need by bringing them to school and putting them in the boxes outside the auditorium. Sara Figueroa has begun organizing the **Family to Family Giving program**. Watch for envelopes in your child's back pack so that you can participate in this wonderful program that directly benefits Burns Park families in need.

Remember our scrip fundraiser, **Burns Park Buck\$**, is an easy and painless way to support our PTO and our school. Please take a look at our list of retailers (<http://www.burnsparkpto.org/scrip/>) before you do your holiday shopping; gift cards and certificates make GREAT presents for friends, family and teachers and benefit your child at the same time.

Finally ... happy holidays to all and best wishes for a happy new year!

Elizabeth DeRose, PTO president

Lynda Norton, PTO president-elect

MLK Children & Youth Program

Monday, January 19, 2009
8:30am - 3:00pm in the
Modern Languages Building [MLB] at
812 E. Washington, Ann Arbor

Come join us on MLK Day, Monday, January 19, 2009, where CREATIVITY, DIALOGUE, & ENTERTAINMENT is on the program for all students in grades K-12!

The University of Michigan hosts the largest MLK Symposium in the world, and has the premier Children & Youth Program. This premier program is specifically designed to engage students at each of the elementary, middle school, and high school grade-levels. The three programs run simultaneously in the same building. Guided by teacher-leaders from the School of Education, and volunteers from the School of Social Work, The Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, and many more campus groups, K-12 students enjoy both small and large group activities, which focus on the work of Dr. King and how it relates to their lives today.

This is a FREE program for students in grades K-12. Pre-registration is encouraged to reserve space, food, and materials for each participant.

For more specific information and to pre-register, see the MLK Children & Youth Program website at:
<http://www.umich.edu/~tauep/MLKDay.html>

Karen Thomas Memorial Fund

THERE'S STILL TIME...to contribute to the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund. Make your donation prior to December 31 and benefit in two ways:

1. Get a tax deduction for 2008
2. Make your charitable contribution go farther by taking advantage of "matching dollars" (all donations will be matched dollar for dollar through the end of the year)

The Karen Thomas Memorial Fund is dedicated to the promotion of reading and literacy among economically disadvantaged elementary school children throughout the Ann Arbor School District.

Make your check payable to "AAPSEF" with the annotation "Karen Thomas Memorial Fund", and mail to:

Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational
Foundation

2555 South State Street

Ann Arbor MI 48104

You may also make an online donation by credit card through the following web site:
www.supportannarborschools.org

Burns Park Library Birthday Books

Want to help build the Burns Park Library collection? A great way to do it is to donate a book in honor of your child's birthday!

Buy a book and Miss Erdstein will add a decorative book plate to the inside cover honoring your child on his/her birthday. If you'd prefer to have Miss Erdstein do the shopping, that's great too! Just fill out the form below or contact Miss Erdstein directly to make arrangements.

This is also a great way to celebrate your child's teacher! Your child's and his/her teacher's name will be written on the book plate.

Replacing lost and/or damaged books is expensive. The annual allotment for replacing books is tied to enrollment, which is lower this year at Burns Park. You can help maintain the collection by donating a book this year.

Please buy a book for my child's birthday!

Child's name: _____

Child's birth date: _____

We'd prefer a book for the fiction, non-fiction or Everybody section (circle one)

Amount enclosed: _____

Media Center News: Did you Know....?

You can view the Library Media Center collection from any computer with Internet access. With our new, upgraded circulation system, our library catalog (E-CAT to the students) can be searched via the Internet. This may be a great way for you and your student to search together for his/her next library choice, find books on a particular topic, or locate a favorite.

1. To access the E-CAT, go to the Media Center website: <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/burnspark.erdstein/home>
2. click on the "research links" link
3. click on the "E-CAT" link
4. view and search the catalog

Happy searching, Rachel Erdstein, media specialist

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



Sally Foster Thank You!

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the Sally Foster Gift Wrap fundraiser! We appreciate everyone's support through orders and volunteering with the fundraiser to make it so successful. The fundraiser helped raise \$5,250 for Burns Park school! This money helps fund Golden Apple grants and makes field trips possible for our kids.

Additional online orders will help our school so please order online if you need more items. Please remember to enter our school code so Burns Park gets credit (253593).

For missing items or incorrect items, those issues should be resolved in the next few weeks. All backordered items will be delivered to the school and we will make sure those items get to you as soon as they are available.

A special thanks and congratulations goes out to our top individual sellers and our top classroom orders! Congratulations to Sophie Jones, Patrick Wellman and Sophia Matossian as our top three individual sellers! And congratulations to the top classrooms: Mrs. Crankshaw, Ms. Dworkin and Mrs. Pryce!

Thank you,,

Anne Steinhauer and Jennifer Osterwisch

Disability Awareness Workshop - Volunteers Needed!

On Friday, January 23, 2009, all Burns Park fourth grade students will participate in the Disability Awareness Workshop. This program is a hands-on, activity-based workshop whose main purpose is to help students understand how difficult and complex daily living can be for individuals with disabilities. The program includes activities centered on an empathetic understanding of physical, speech, hearing, vision and learning impairments. The students participate in a wide variety of activities including: a wheelchair obstacle course, wearing glasses that give them momentary vision impairments, speaking with an electric larynx and experiencing several reading disabilities. The goal is for the students to learn through this hands-on experience that people should be respected no matter how they may look, act, walk or talk.

This workshop was developed in 1998 by two parents in the Rochester Community Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee; it has now expanded to many schools in Oakland County. In the Ann Arbor Public Schools, the workshop was first held at Logan Elementary School in 2005; this year, 2009, it will be held at 13 Ann Arbor elementary schools!

Please consider volunteering to help with the workshop. We need 20 volunteers to help in the morning from 8:45 am until 12:00 pm, when the students have their lunch break. You are welcome to remain for the rest of the program (12:45 pm to 3:00 pm), but volunteers are not needed in the afternoon. This is a fun and meaningful experience for the volunteers as well as the students. Volunteers will be trained to oversee students as they rotate through three different stations:

1. Physical Impairment Centers: Wheelchairs, walkers and fine motor activities
2. Vision, Hearing and Speech Stations: Hearing & speech, vision and learning disabilities
3. Accessibility Checklist (students work in teams to complete a checklist that requires measuring and math computations)

Thank you for contributing to the success of the workshop. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering and/or if you have any questions.

Helen Starman (hstarman@comcast.net, 994-8553)

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



Housekeeping
by Debra
734-664-8118

Too Busy to Clean
your Home?
Call Debra Richards.

References:
Patricia and Ken Silverman

Weekly or Every Other Week Service Call
for an estimate or a one time cleaning.

Babysitting Network: Introducing the **Ann Arbor Babysitting Company**, formed by two seniors at the University of Michigan. Our goal is to make finding a babysitter as easy as possible. We've interviewed them. Called their references. You call one agency and we connect you to over 50 sitters from the University of Michigan! We require that we interview families before sending our babysitters, so email us today! Jennifer and Kristen at AABCompany@gmail.com

Flu Season

The flu season is upon us.

The flu or influenza is a highly contagious respiratory illness that typically presents itself with a sudden onset of chills and fever, a stuffy nose, headache, tiredness, body aches, sore throat, and a dry, hacking cough. Diarrhea and vomiting can also occur more commonly in children. The worst of the illness usually lasts for 3 to 4 days, but the cough and a “worn out feeling” can last for a week or more.

The flu is caused by a virus. A person is contagious (can spread the flu) 2 days before they show symptoms and for 3 to 5 days after they develop symptoms. The incubation period for the flu is generally 24 to 72 hours.

Influenza spreads easily by inhaling droplets coughed or sneezed into the air by a person who has the flu. The flu can also be spread by touching surfaces or objects contaminated by secretions from a person ill with the flu. The virus may live for hours in dried mucus.

How can you prevent you and your family from getting the flu and how can you help prevent the spread of illnesses?

- ◆ GET A FLU SHOT!!!! It is not too late to vaccinate against the flu. The best time to get your yearly flu shot is in October or November, but it is not too late to get the shot in December and later. Flu season can begin as early as October and can last as late as May.
- ◆ GET ADEQUATE REST, FLUIDS, AND EXERCISE AND EAT A BALANCED DIET

- ◆ HANDWASHING! Encourage everyone in your family to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently throughout the day.
- ◆ CATCH YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE!! Catch your cough or sneeze in the inner part of your elbow. This prevents the spread of the droplets and helps keep your hands from being contaminated. Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- ◆ KEEP YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM YOUR EYES, NOSE, AND MOUTH!!!
- ◆ Touching these areas can transfer germs from your hands to the mucous membranes and into your body.
- ◆ USE TISSUES!!!! After using a tissue, immediately throw the soiled tissue in a trash receptacle and wash your hands.
- ◆ STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK!!!!!! A person should be fever free (without taking a fever reducer) for 24 hours, be able to be on a regular diet, and have adequate energy before returning to work or school.

If you have any questions please contact your doctor, your child’s doctor, or the school nurse.

Here’s to a healthy winter!

In peace,

Debita Graham, RN, School Nurse

Thanks a Million!

- ◆ **Sally Pinnell, Susan Hutton, Kristy Demas** and the **Hospitality Committee** for organizing and providing our teachers and staff with dinners for both nights of Parent-Teacher Conferences...the delicious meals were appreciated by all
- ◆ **Katrina Sykes** and **Karen Govern** for coming to school to help with Picture Re-takes
- ◆ **David Lowenschuss** and **Cooper Vettorello** for helping with the parking for the UM vs. MSU football game in our school lot

Elizabeth DeRose, and Lynda Norton

AAPSEF Donation Day at Play It Again Sports

Support the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation! Shop at Play it Again Sports on Tuesday, December 9 and they will donate 10% of all sales to the Foundation.

To learn more about the Foundation please visit our website www.aapsef.org or contact Helen Starman, hstarman@comcast.net or 994-8553.

Thanks for your support!

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 January 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, December 12**. 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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