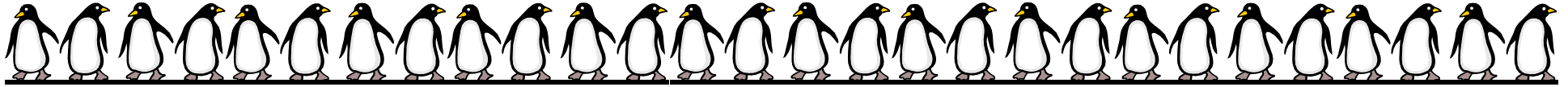


Burns Park Press - January 2009



Inside this Issue:

From our Principal	2-3
From our PTO Presidents.....	4
The Special Interest Fair is Coming.....	4
MLK Children & Youth Program.....	4
Hospitality Committee Thank You!.....	5
Box Tops for Education.....	5
Rubberbandance Group Free Family Event! .	5
Thanks a Million!.....	6
Burns Park Press Submissions	6
Burns Park Press Advertising	6
Grolier Online Encyclopedia	7-8

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

-
- 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**
- Thu, Feb 5: **Kreger Class Blood Drive**
- Mon, Feb 16: **No School**
- Fri, Feb 20: **Check Lost & Found**
- Fri, Feb 20: **Mid-winter vacation begins at end of day**
- Mon, Mar 2: **School resumes**
- Mon, Mar 9: **No School**
- Thur, Mar 19: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Tue, Mar 24: **Special Interest Fair**

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.

Sandy Kreger's class blood drive...

Thursday Feb. 5 2009, anytime between 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the Burns Park Auditorium and Gym.

You can expect: A hand written thank you note, a goody bag with local coupons and treats, home made yummy baked goods, a personal chaperone, to be treated like royalty, and live entertainment!

To sign up, just e mail Sandy Kreger: Kreger@aaps.k12.mi.us
Registration is not online yet, but she will save your info and sign you up at the time of your convenience.

Family to Family Giving

We have successfully given 66 children a gift card this year with our total donation coming to 3432 dollars! Thank you all for helping to make a difference for these children for the holidays!.

Sara Figueroa (sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com)

From our Principal

Dear Families,

As the holidays approach, I find myself recalling those priceless moments that I enjoyed with my son as he was growing up. Reading together was at the top of the list! Mem Fox, noted children's picture book author, has listed many ideas for reading together on his website. It is an old list, but a great one.

Mem Fox's Ten Read-Aloud Commandments

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.
2. Read at least three stories a day: It may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they learn to read!
3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don't be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud; have fun and laugh a lot.
4. Read with joy and enjoyment—real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for your listeners.
5. Read the stories that the kids love over and over and over again, and always read in the same 'tune' for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly; or sing any old song that you can remember, or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are short!

8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as finding the letters that start your child's name and yours, remembering that it's never work, it's always a fabulous game.
9. Never ever 'teach' reading or get tense around books.
10. Read aloud every day because you just love being with your child, not because it's the right thing to do.

Source: <http://www.memfox.com/>

Thanks PTO

Yum! Thank you for the great food and hospitality. The staff and I truly enjoyed the great food and relaxing luncheon atmosphere. Being surrounded by busy children every day makes it hard to find the time to eat a delicious and relaxing lunch. Thanks for making this possible. You make us feel so appreciated!

Kindergarten Round Up

Kindergarten Round Up is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17. That evening there will be a parent information meeting and then on Thursday, February 19 children are invited for an afternoon visit. Kindergarten students for the 2009-10 school year need to be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2009. Please help us spread the word by telling your neighbors of school-age children. New families can call of office at 994-1919 with any question regarding kindergarten Round Up.

MLK Day Honored at Burns Park

We will honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in many ways in our classrooms and Community Circles as we focus on the life skills of caring and being kind to others. We also encourage you to participate in the many local events scheduled for MLK day.

Writers Workshop and Word Study - What are "Seeds" and where are my child's weekly spelling words?

I wanted to take a moment to share some information about two components of your child's literacy instruction – writing and word study. This article was written by Carrie Dworkin, a 4th grade teacher at Burns Park and does a nice job of explaining two aspects of the curriculum.

In the first several weeks of school, students spend time developing "seeds" for their writing, based on their own life experiences (small moments). They then begin to develop these seeds into full writing projects by moving through the process of drafting, revising, editing and creating a final draft.

What is the difference between revising and editing?

Revising, the most difficult stage for many children, and even adults, involves monitoring our work for meaning or asking, "Does this make sense?" It, therefore, entails adding, deleting or rearranging words, phrases and sentences to make it easier for readers to understand our writing.

Editing, on the other hand, is the polishing stage, during which we check for spelling, punctuation,

... more from our Principal

capitalization and grammar. Since the process is circular, the emphasis is on students doing their best writing rather than completing pieces quickly. Does that make sense?

Many new parents wonder why they're not seeing weekly spelling words. Well, rather than assigning all students a set group of words to learn – words that some students may already know while others may not yet be ready to tackle – the district's word study program focuses on individualized spelling lists chosen from your child's own reading and writing. As we read through his or her work, we make lists of misspelled words for your child to include on a master "Words to Learn" list. Each week, the students then learn words through a process that entails choosing words, building them with magnetic letters, repeatedly saying and writing them (through a process called "Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check"), doing "buddy tests" during which partners take turns testing each other, making connections with other words that look and sound like those that we are learning, and taking a final test. The goal behind this process is to help students formulate good spelling strategies that will not only help them learn to spell these words but also become better spellers overall. Soon, your child's riteing weel look les lick thise...and more like this!

Parent Involvement Day

Mark your calendars now for NAAPID Day (National African American Parent Involvement Day). It is scheduled for Monday, February 9. On this day ALL parents are invited and encouraged to come to school

for some part or all day to experience the learning environment first hand. Look for additional information soon, but please plan on coming to school that day.

Bucketfiller Presentation

You are invited to attend a special adult presentation of the Bucketfilling assembly your children viewed in September. Mark your calendars for the evening of January 15 at 7:00. The PTO meeting will follow this presentation. Childcare will be provided.

As you will recall Bucketfiller's worked with all of our students to encourage them to reach out and care about others during an assembly and workshops for 4th and 5th graders in September. We are continuing this theme throughout the year in our classrooms, the playground, and Community Circles. The image of "bucket filling" is used to 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. Please plan to join us for a fun filled evening.

Recess and Cold Weather

Now that the really cold weather is finally with us, we encourage you to remind your children to come to school every day dressed warmly and expecting to play outside. There are days in which the morning forecast justifies making plans for staying in for recess, but by the time noon rolls around the wind has died down, the sun has come out and we are ready to go outside for just a few short minutes of fresh air. Rest

assured that if it is too cold to be out for even a few minutes we will keep your children inside. If all students come to school dressed to go out then we will be ready to enjoy the sun and snow whenever we can. A few minutes of fresh air can make a world of difference in a child's ability to return to studying in the afternoon.

Snow Rules

It would greatly help us if you could reinforce a rule we have here at school. "snow stays on the ground". There should be no snowballs thrown at school or going to and coming from school. That includes no throwing or kicking snow at each other. As much fun as a friendly snowball fight can be, it can also be dangerous. Snowballs have been known to become more ice than snow or contain foreign matter in addition to snow. In those cases, serious injuries can result. Rather than take the risk, we just don't allow throwing of snow at all.

We also remind children that snow structures that are built at school don't belong to anyone. They are likely to be modified by others during the day. On the other hand, wantonly destroying what others have built – just to destroy it – is unkind and will not be allowed. We appreciate your reinforcing these ideas at home.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2009!

Kathy Morhous

From our PTO Presidents

Although this is the January issue of the Burns Park Press, it is being published before winter break, so instead of saying "Welcome back and Happy New Year!", we will say that we hope that you all have happy and healthy holidays!

At our January 15 PTO meeting we will have a presentation by the people behind our new Bucketfillers program. Students have been practicing "filling each other's emotional buckets" during Community Circle time, which is a way of encouraging the students to reach out and care about others. We look forward to hearing more details about this innovative method of teaching thoughtfulness. We hope that you will join us... Patricia Silverman has generously offered to make her famous and delicious cookies, and as always, fun and free childcare will be provided in the gym.

We also would like to take a moment at this time of year to thank everyone who has helped with our Family to Family Giving program and Salvation Army Food Drive. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive and caring school community, and so appreciate the efforts that everyone has made.

Enjoy the break, and we'll see you in '09!

Elizabeth DeRose, PTO president

Lynda Norton, PTO president-elect

The Special Interest Fair is Coming: March 24, 2009

Mark your calendars! The Special Interest Fair is Tuesday, March 24, 2009. For those of you not familiar with the fair, it is similar to a science fair, but almost anything goes. The purpose of the fair is to encourage students to pursue a topic of their interest and provide a showcase for their efforts (examples of last years' projects include "Formula One Racing," "Africa's Female Leaders," "The Foods of India," and "Horses") . This year, we are encouraging students to make projects that relate to our multicultural focus on Treasures and Wonders of the Arab World (Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Syria).

All students from kindergarten through 5th grade are encouraged to submit a project! The fair is non-competitive and children may work alone or in a group. Watch for details. We look forward to all of the great projects!

Questions? Contact fair co-chairs Carole Durgy (carole@durgy.com) or Jenny Jalet (sutton@umich.edu).

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>

Hospitality Committee

Thank You!

The Burns Park Hospitality and Teacher Appreciation Committee would like to extend a hearty thank you to those local business that contributed meals and extras for our conference night dinners for teachers on November 3 and 13. The meals were a hit and ensured that our talented and very much appreciated teachers had a warm dinner before spending their evenings talking with parents.

In particular, we would like to thank Michael Endres and Becky Gregg of **Noodles and Company** on State Street, Kim Roberts, manager of the Briarwood mall location of **California Pizza Kitchen**, and Michael Roddy of **Paesano's** for their generosity, helpfulness and willingness to contribute meals for 28 plus people. We are also grateful to **Plum Market** for the \$100 gift certificate which was used for beverages and desserts, nicely rounding out the meals.

While all the donors were very modest, Paesano's Michael Roddy nicely summed up the spirit of giving by noting there was, "...no need to be listed in any program or list. Just tell the staff that we appreciate them and love helping our community!"

THANK YOU!

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



Rubberbandance Group

Free Family Event!

The University Musical Society is offering a free family workshop in conjunction with the Ann Arbor debut of hip-hop dance company RUBBERBANDANCE GROUP: drawing on elements of hip hop, ballet, martial arts and yoga, the contemporary dance company Rubberbandance Group takes a truly multidisciplinary approach to their work. This participatory family event will give children an introduction to the many art forms used by the company in their explosive and inventive dances. Come ready to get up and move! (Workshop is followed by a RUBBERBANDANCE GROUP family performance.

Tickets for the performance are available at www.ums.org or (734) 764-2538)

Saturday, January 10, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

U-M Alumni Center (200 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor)

Workshop is free and open to the public (no ticket required)

Thanks a Million!

Thanks to:

Mary Hampton for organizing and running our Salvation Army Food Drive!

Kristy Demas, Susan Hutton, Sally Pinnell, the entire Hospitality Committee and everyone who contributed to the Holiday Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon – everything looked so wonderful and the delicious food was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Sara Figueroa for organizing and running our Family to Family Giving program

Elizabeth DeRose and Lynda Norton

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 February 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, January 16**. 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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Ann Arbor, MI 48103

www.AnneGilbert.com

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.

Where do I find...

Safe Web Links

- Within an article, click the Web links or WWW button
- From your FIND IT FAST (All Grolier Online) search results, simply click on the WEBSITES tab

Current Events/News

- From *Passport* or *Kids* under News Now, you can access at least three feature stories
- *Passport* additional news features:
 - Associated Press live news feed
 - International news sources

Homework Help

- Within *The New Book of Knowledge* database, click on HOMEWORK HELP on the left-hand side to get help with research, writing, and studying
- Within *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, click on RESEARCH STARTERS for suggested topics as well as help with planning, writing, and citing references

Timelines

- *The New Book of Knowledge* and *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*: Click TIMELINES on the left-hand side

How to Search

1. Type your search term in the FIND IT FAST box
2. For Advanced or Boolean searching, click on ADVANCED SEARCH
3. Results are displayed in a tabbed format:
 - a. Encyclopedia Articles
 - b. Websites
 - c. Media
 - d. News Feature Stories
 - e. Magazines(Only relevant tabs will be displayed.)

Maps

From either homepage, click ATLAS. You can use the Atlas in four different ways:

- You can **search for a specific location**, by typing it in the MAP SEARCH box at the top.
 - 📷 Click on the camera icon and see a photo showing a place of interest
- **View four different types of maps** by selecting from those available within each map: Thematic (agriculture, population, etc.); Geopolitical; Exploration (shows routes of famous explorers); and Historical (maps showing old tribes)
- **Calculate the distance** between two points: click on Global Distances in the upper right-hand corner or on Local Distances in the upper left-hand corner
- **Find latitudes and longitudes** by clicking on Lats/Longs on the top left

Magazines

- Within an article, click the PERIODICALS or MAGAZINES button
- From your Grolier Online search results, simply click on the MAGAZINES tab

Dictionaries/Thesauri

There are two main ways to use the dictionaries and thesauri:

- From either homepage, click DICTIONARIES for a list of available dictionaries and thesauri
 - Type in your word
 - 🔊 Click on the small megaphone for an audio pronunciation
- **Cool Feature!** From *any* database, highlight a word you want to look up, double-click it, then click the DICTIONARIES button in the top right to see the definition