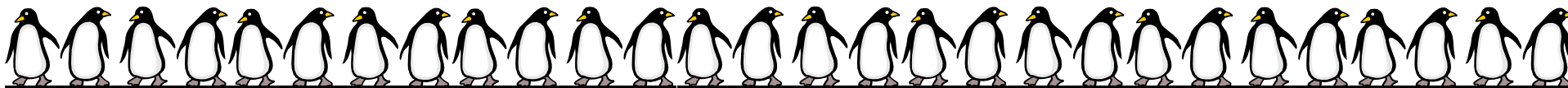


Burns Park Press - March 2009



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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

-
- Mon, Mar 2: **School resumes**
 - Mon, Mar 9: **No School**
 - Tue, Mar 10: **Tappan 6th Grade Meeting**
 - Fri, Mar 13: **Special Interest Forms Due**
 - Thur, Mar 19: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
 - Fri, Mar 20: **BP Press Articles Due**
 - Tue, Mar 24: **Special Interest Fair**
 - Tue, Mar 31: **Check Lost & Found**
 - Wed, Apr 1: **Math and Science Night**
 - Tue, Apr 7: **1st & 2nd Grade Concerts**
 - Thur, Apr 9: **Spring vacation begins at end of day**
 - Mon, Apr 20: **School resumes**
 - Thur, Apr 30: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
 - Thu Apr 30: **Check Lost & Found**
 - Sun, May 3: **Burns Park Run**

Attention 5th Grade Families!

Tappan is holding an evening orientation meeting for incoming 6th grade families on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The Special Interest Fair is Tuesday, March 24.

Information and registration forms were sent home in back pack mail. If you did not get a copy or need a new one, forms are in the office or on the PTO website. Registration forms must be returned by Friday, March 13 so we can determine how much space is needed and where each project will be displayed. Registration confirmations will be sent home on March 18.

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. We look forward to all of the great projects!

Questions? Contact fair co-chairs Carol Durgy (369-3393, carole@durgy.com) or Jenny Jalet (834-3871, sutton@umich.edu).

From our Principal

Dear Families,

During Black History month, we enjoyed the wonderful music of the Heavenly String Quartet from Detroit. The instrumentalists shared pieces from African American history (gospel, jazz and Motown), and explained some of the history behind the music. We are glad that we were able to share this assembly with several families during NAAPID day.

We also celebrated the many invaluable contributions of African Americans to American history and culture. We used the Internet to search for information about these contributions. You might like to check out the following website: http://endingstereotypesforamerica.org/black_inventors.html.

Parent Involvement Day

Our thanks go to everyone who joined us for Parent Involvement Day! We hope you got a chance to stop by the auditorium for some refreshments and to view our slideshow. In case you missed it, the slideshow shared what we've learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, other famous African Americans and the inauguration of President Barack Obama, as well as a host of slides from moments when families have shared Burns Park school experiences.

We thank the PTO for providing coffee and snacks. We hope that during your visit you all were able to see the terrific focus and effort shown by our children. We are so proud of them all.

Burns Park is committed to supporting parent involvement in children's education. You are always

welcome to come to school. Whenever you come to visit, just sign in at the office and get a visitor's pass.

SIT

Our School Improvement team and the staff have completed the Ed Yes and School Improvement Framework Action Portfolio. A copy is available in the office if you would like to view it.

Homework Help

Homework help is now available online for students in grades 3 and up. All you need is an Ann Arbor District Library card. All families living in the Ann Arbor Public School attendance area can get a library card free of charge. This online help allows users to chat on line with live tutors. Tutors will help you understand homework problems, help you build skills and critique your writing. Tutors are available in Spanish as well as English. If you don't have Internet access, you can go to any Ann Arbor Public Library location. Tutors are available from 2:00 to 11:00 PM, 7 days a week. The live online address is: AADL.ORG/HOMEWORK

March Report Letter

Report letters will be sent home on Monday, March 16. If our MEAP results arrive, we will include the results in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade reports. 4th and 5th graders will bring home Art and Music progress reports as well. PE reports will be included in the June report.

Not planning to return to Burns Park in the fall?

If you know that your child(ren) will not be attending Burns Park next fall, please let the office know as soon as possible. This information will be very useful as we project our enrollment for the fall.

Class Placements for 2009-2010

It is once again the time of year that we begin to determine class placements for students returning in the fall. Our goal is to bring staff and students together in such a way that student achievement can be the focus of every classroom.

The staff spends considerable time building classrooms that reflect a variety of abilities and personalities. As we place students, we take the following factors into consideration: gender, race/ethnicity, academic achievement strengths, group dynamics, social/emotional issues, and learning styles.

Most parents feel comfortable leaving the class placement of their children up to the judgment of the Burns Park staff. **Parents with specific concerns regarding placement should put them in writing and get them to me by Friday, May 1.**

We carefully consider all information parents share, including interests, friendships, energy, learning styles, etc. We will use this information, along with what we already know, to help us develop well-rounded classrooms for all students.

It is our goal to make good placements for all of the children and to include parental input in the process. Please understand that parental requests for a

... more from our Principal

specific teacher cannot be guaranteed but will be carefully considered as part of the process that builds an optimal learning environment for every child.

Sorry, No Space Available Transfers

This year, Burns Park will not be a Space Available school. That means that we cannot accept students that live within the Ann Arbor district, but not within the Burns Park attendance area. With 430 students, we are filled to capacity.

Fondly,

Kathy

Math and Science Night

Burns Park PTO Math and Science Family Night is scheduled for April 1, from 6 to 8 PM in the auditorium. Burns Park families are invited to an evening of fantastic, science based fun. Educators and families love this casual, self directed evening of fun. Children of all ages are welcome with a parent.

This event is a success each year because of Burns Park volunteers like you. Math and Science night requires 20+ volunteers. If you are able to help out during Math and Science Family Night contact the PTO chairperson Steven Swaney www.steveswaney@gmail.com.

From the Media Center

March is Reading Month at Burns Park and across the country. On March 4, this year's theme will be announced at our kick-off assembly. Back by popular demand, some of the other events in March will include a read-at-home program and a school-wide read-a-thon. There is also a daily calendar of activities for students, parents and teachers. Check your student's backpack on the 4th to learn more. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading both at school and at home.

Reading tips for March

I wanted to share a couple of great resources for helping your child become a better reader and enjoy reading even more. The first is a collection of ebooks for kids and is available through the Ann Arbor District Library. All you need is a username and password. Anyone who has an AADL card, can create this if you don't already have one. The AADL website describes Tumblebooks as "a collection of TumbleBooks (animated, talking picture books) TumblePuzzles. TumbleBooks are created from existing picture books which we have licensed from children's book publishers." This is very cool! It's easy to get to, too.

- ◆ Just go to www.aadl.org
- ◆ Click on Research (across the top)
- ◆ Click on Kids
- ◆ Scroll down and click on Tumblebooks
- ◆ Enter your library username and password

The second resource is for parents and students looking for more titles at the student's "Just Right" reading level. There is a leveled books database on the Web that you can visit. You'll want to search for "guided reading levels" A-Z. You can just look for titles or narrow your search by keyword. There are thousands of titles to find.

The website address is

http://books.atozteacherstuff.com/leveledbooks/index.php?p=getdb&db_id=1

Additionally, here are some tips when helping your child read. Encourage him/her to use these strategies:

- ◆ Look at the picture clues
- ◆ Think about the story
- ◆ Think about the first sound, get your mouth ready and make the sound
- ◆ Go back to the beginning of the sentence and reread
- ◆ Always be thinking
 - ◆ Does it make sense? Does it have meaning?
 - ◆ Does it sound right? Do we talk that way?
 - ◆ Does it look right? Do the letter sounds match?
- ◆ Take the hard word and "chunk" it into smaller parts.
 - ◆ Example: thin th-in
 - ◆ Example: Today to-day
 - ◆ Example: Call c-all

-Rachel Erdstein

From our PTO Presidents

We hope that everyone is enjoying Mid-Winter break!

Please note that school will be closed for a Teacher Service Day on Monday, March 9.

Last week, we officially kicked off our Multicultural Focus on the "Treasures and Wonders of the Arab World" with two wonderful presentations. First, Robert Haug from the University of Michigan Center for Middle East and North African Studies (CMENAS) gave a very informative overview and introduction to the language, geography and daily life of the countries in this region. Then, Linda Smolik, also from the U of M CMENAS, introduced our students to the art of belly dancing! It was a fun and interactive way to learn about this traditional Arabic form of dance...ask your student to show you some of the moves they learned, such as "snake arms" and "shimmy"! We are very fortunate to have had these presenters, and look forward to learning more about the Arab world in March and April.

Another exciting event happening in March is our Annual Special Interest Fair! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to pick a topic of their choice to research and do a project on.

Anything goes, and we are also encouraging students to pick something related to our Multicultural Focus. The fair will be on Tuesday, March 24, and is sure to be fun for all!

Our next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. We will have updates on the Summer Learning Program and the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation's Village Fund Initiative. We are also looking forward to a presentation by Nathan Ayers (uncle of Celia, 4th grade and Wilson, 1st grade) about Burns Park Green Energy Association, a new neighborhood non-profit organization. He will give us details about their plans to "educate and coalesce the Burns Park community into a unified and active voice towards a sustainable future." We will hear about the exciting programs they have in the works. Please join us...as always, fun and free childcare is provided in the gym.

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Elizabeth DeRose, PTO President

ederose@comcast.net or 677-0882

Lynda Norton, PTO President-elect

lnorton@okno.com or 761-1478

Burns Park Run

Sunday, May 3, 2009, 8:30am

Burns Park Elementary's biggest fundraiser for the PTO! More parent volunteers needed!

The 30th running of the Burns Park Run is coming up! Please visit <http://www.burnsparkrun.org/> for details about online and paper registration, times for the different events, and a link to our volunteer page. The Run requires nearly 100 volunteers from the school. Most tasks will allow you to run on race day and require a time commitment of only 2-3 hours. **Please consider giving your time to help raise the funds that support educational activities for all of our children.**

Volunteer meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 7-8pm, 1302 Henry Street.

Questions? Contact Jackie Dalton at 747-6952 or a2boss@gmail.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.

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

Music Notes

I have both thanks to give and new announcements, as we presented both 3rd & 4th grade concerts on Jan. 22 and will be presenting three more concerts coming up soon. Our 3rd & 4th graders did a superb job singing songs of Irving Berlin (3rd) and Hits of WW II (4th) to the accompaniment of our house band composed of three parents and a ragtime historian from Southfield. Many people worked behind the scenes to make these concerts possible and I thank them all. Thanks!!! The students and I appreciate all your help, as we can't do it without you!

1st & 2nd grade parents please mark on your calendars:

- ◆ 1st grade singing songs of "Friends & Friendship" on **Tuesday, April 7**, at 6:45 after the 1st grade Open House
- ◆ 2nd grade singing their songs at 7:15.

You'll be hearing more details as we go along and song lyrics will come home in a back-pack packet in the weeks prior to the concert. Please practice the words with your child if you can. I appreciate that home support. We are currently working on singing in tune, so don't be surprised if your child comes home hooting a high sound like an owl!

Here's a shortened list of tasks that need doing for each grade level:

- ◆ typing up all song lyrics;
- ◆ copy off lyrics and collate songbooks,
- ◆ art support if we have any decorations on stage;

- ◆ creating the program;
- ◆ running lights & sound;
- ◆ videotaping school and evening shows;
- ◆ transferring a mini-DV tape into a DVD.

Please contact myself and Janice Lieberman, who is co-coordinating volunteers (liebermanjanice@yahoo.com), if you would be able to volunteer. We'll get back to you in the beginning of March.

Ms. Kreger's, Mrs. Pryce's and Mr. Cramer's parents:

Please mark **Thursday, May 7**, at 7 p.m. on your calendars for our concert of Original Compositions of 2009. You'll be receiving an email from me shortly re: helping produce this concert, as it truly cannot happen without a dedicated crew. Please look for it, read the details, and let me know if you might be available. I'll get back to you when we get back from Spring Break re: delegating the tasks.

Thank you everyone for supporting your child as they go along through the music program. They are doing fantastic work and it is fun to be working with them. Please remember everyone you are welcome at any concert. I'll see the 1st, 2nd, 4/5th and 5th parents in April and May----in the spring!!

Cynthia Page-Bogen
Elementary Vocal Music Teacher

Thanks for Supporting 5th Grade Graduation

The Burns Park Elementary class of 2009 would like to thank everyone who stopped by our concession stands during Annie Get Your Gun. Thanks to your support, we were able to raise the bulk of the money needed for this year's 5th grade graduation activities.

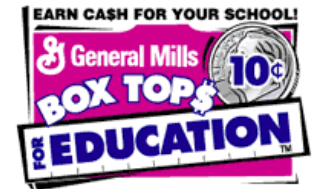
Thanks also to the many 5th grade students and families who volunteered to work the concession stands, and a special thanks to Victoria Booth, last year's concession stand manager, who helped us get started. Finally, thanks to Busch's on S. Main Street for donating the bouquet bags used to wrap the flowers. Please let them know you appreciate their support the next time you're there.

Kim Mass and Kelly Lohnes

5th grade graduation co-chairs

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

Art Room News

Multi-cultural Celebration

This year, the multi-cultural celebration's focus is on the Arab world. The art room has been busy studying Islamic architecture (1st grade), Persian Illuminated Manuscripts (2nd), mosaics (3rd), and Islamic clay tiles (4th). Vehicle painting from Pakistan has been the focus for 5th grade. (Note: Pakistan is not an Arab-speaking country, but is considered part of the Greater Middle East). Some artwork has already adorned the hallways; more is on the way.



Youth Art Month

YAM (Youth Art Month) celebrates student art in Ann Arbor. Many stores and businesses will have artwork displayed in their windows and interiors. Burns Park student artwork will be displayed at the Ann Arbor Art Center and the Bank of Ann Arbor (downtown location). Reception for student artists and their families will be on Sunday, March 22 at 1:00 at Palio's Restaurant on Main Street.

5th grade at the Ann Arbor Art Center

Henry Abrams	Sophia Kleinheksel
Kenzie Dalton	Rachel Hunsberger
Dylan Stephens	Kevin Ehrenberger
Jonathan Thomas	Jose Hernandez
Ellie Korman	Deydriana Davis
Senelma Heinonen	Nicolas Figueroa
Luna Johnston	Hailee Simon
Milo Tucker-Meyer	A'Leah Porter

2nd grade at the Bank of Ann Arbor

Andie Tappenden	Hawa Sow
Greta Hoffman	Emma Pinnell
Theresa McKelvey	Ari Basch
Max Garrity-Janger	Katie Capelli
Kinaan Kana	Chloe Cramer
Cole Pender	Jacalyn Wasserman
Jake Zell	Emma Winegarden

More Artwork on Display

Exhibiting student artwork is part of the mission of the art department. This year, we have already displayed paper molas (3rd grade) and arpilleras (2nd grade) at the Balas Administration Building on State Street during the months of December and January. The following artists had their work displayed:

3rd grade

Jack Wallace	Eric Steinhauer
Henry Taylor	Avery Hartsock
Alex Halberstam	Zak Brustman
Alida Norton	Sofia Kwok
Olivia Shulman	Jack Ammerman
Edward Lewis	

2nd grade

Callie Hastie	Claire Bott
Emma Silverman	Andie Tappenden
Madison Pugh	Hazel Byers
Allison Diebolt	Justin McNeil





For the month of March, the following 5th grade students will have their three-dimensional clay work displayed at Balas Administration Building:

Holden Maas	Sterling Paris
Abdullahi Farah	Alex Ward
Anthony Albrecht	Odia Syla
Lauren Goldberg	Owen Curnow
Colin Bott	Sydney Moore-Padgett
Jordan Williams	

Reichert Building

Through the main entrance to the Reichert Building at St. Joe's, you will come upon Burns Park artwork in the long hallway as you go toward MRI imaging. 4th graders made their prints with the theme of "change". The following students have their work displayed:

Will Brinkerhoff	Gracie Davis
Rebecca Durgy	Kiersten Hoff

Sophie Jones	Madeline Ward
Sophie Govert	Charles Goetzke
Annie Noffke	Henry Huang
Nicolas Arrivo	Allison Osterwisch
Will Demas	Mitchell Sapp
Tema Cohen	Adrian Huntley
Destiny Leath	Phoebe Engel

3rd Grade Goes to Toledo Museum of Art

There are two art field trip sponsored by the PTO. The Toledo Museum of Art is a little gem of a museum that has a great collection. 3rd graders will be going on March 5th. The premier art museum in the state of Michigan, the Detroit Institute of the Arts, will be the destination of the 5th grade on May 8th.

DOODLE4GOOGLE

Although we will not do a formal unit on design around the contest this year, anyone who is interested in entering the doodle4google logo contest can bring their design to me. I would be happy to submit it under the auspices of Burns Park School. For information, google "doodle4google.com". Deadline for submission is March 31st. Please download the permission slip and entry form and bring it with your child's entry to me. The theme this year is "what I wish for the world".

A very big thanks to all my art angels who have helped me adorn the hallways with your childrens' beautiful art!

Kate Higgins

AAPS Budget Forums

Tuesday, March 3, 7-9pm,
Scarlett Middle School, 3300 Lorraine

Thursday, March 5, 7-9pm

Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport

Superintendent Todd Roberts and Deputy Superintendent Robert Allen will be hosting two sessions to give staff, parents, students and community members an overview of the district's budget planning for the 2009/2010 school year.

Liz Margolis, Director of Communications
margolis@aaps.k12.mi.us., 734.994.2236

Lunchtime Choices Thank You!

Lunchtime Choices was a huge success again this year. Thanks to the following people for making that possible:

- ◆ **Qwest Martial Arts,**
- ◆ **Victoria Green, Janice Lieberman, Mike Bott, Carole Durgy, Kim Mass, Riyaz Kanji, Marla Williams, Jenny Alence, Bob Schoeni, Ken Silverman, Peter VanAlstine, and Helen Starman.**

Thanks also goes to **Steve and Lynda Norton** for being great short-notice subs!

- Katie Chosid

Thanks a Million!

Many, many thanks to...

- ◆ **Helen Starman**, for organizing the wonderful Disability Workshop that provided 4th graders with the opportunity to experience first-hand what it might be like to be disabled.
- ◆ **Sally Pinnell, Susan Hutton, Kristy Demas, the Hospitality Committee and PTO Chairs** for providing delicious treats and beverages for our NAAPID day and both the parent and student sessions of Kindergarten Round Up.
- ◆ **Sandy Kreger and her 5th graders**, for organizing and running the Blood Drive.
- ◆ **Katie Chosid, Helen Starman and the many parent volunteers**, for organizing and supervising the Lunchtime Choices activities – the students had a lot of fun!
- ◆ **Room parents and parent volunteers**, for helping with class Valentine's Day parties.
- ◆ **Burns Park Players**, for once again providing an amazing opportunity for almost 100 Burns Park students and their parents to participate in a musical production that is not only fun, but also a fundraiser for our school and for arts programs district wide.
- ◆ **Morgan & York**, for selling the Burns Park Players tickets – this is a time consuming job that directly benefits our school. Please thank them with your patronage!

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 April 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, March 20**. 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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