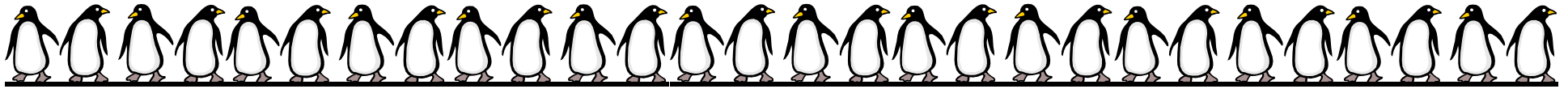


Burns Park Press - June 2009



Inside this Issue:

From our Principal	2
From our PTO Presidents.....	3
FREE School & Sports Physicals	3
Summer Reading Programs.....	4
Return Your Library Books and Win!.....	4
Music Notes.....	4
Burn\$ Park Buck\$	5
Skateboard Design Show.....	5
Ice Cream Social Thank You	6
Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.	6
Burns Park Participates in 2009 Science Olympiad	7
Art Room News.....	7
PTO Committee Chairs Needed—We Want YOU!	8
Our Schools Need Us To Step Up as A Community	9
Burns Park Song.....	10
Thanks a Million!.....	11

Check out the PTO websites:

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>
and Penguin Talk :
<http://www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/>

Calendar of Events

- Fri, May 29: **Check Lost & Found**
- Fri, June 5: **Library Books Due**
- Fri, June 12: **Check Lost & Found**
- Fifth Grade Graduation & Brunch, 10 am**
- Last day of School (Half Day)**

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.

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.

Congratulations and Goodbye to our 5th Graders!

Henry S. Abrams	Lauren Goldberg	Ibukunoluwa Omole
Aushmita Akbar	Benjamin Greenberg	Melissa Palfey
Anthony Albrecht	Samuel Greenberg	Sterling L. Paris
Mark Alence	Zoya Gurm	Matthew Parson
Noë Barrell	Darby Hakken	A'Leah Porter
Elise Blaauw	Nicholas Hallstrand	Aric Jackson
Akin-Arye Bolden	Sanelma Heinonen	Rasmussen
Julia Borbely	Jose Hernandez	Sam Rickman
Colin Bott	Nathaniel Hoang	Madeleine Schoeni
Henry V. Brown, IV	Rachel Hunsberger	Ian Schwenke
Thomas Burke	Sara Jackson	Lupe Silva
Jessica Cardenas	Luna Johnston	Hailee Simon
Rubio	T'ontaye Jones	Dani Smotrich-Barr
Eva Caston	Sophia Kleinheksel	Dylan Stephens
Hannah Chosid	Ellie Korman	Odia Sylla
Owen Curnow	Zoe Korman	Alexander Tesmer
Naomi Cutler	Raul Landrau Zayas	Jonathan Thomas
Kenzie Dalton	Miranda Lete-Straka	Milo Tucker-Meyer
Deydriana Davis	Holden Mass	Joseph Upchurch
Mason DeVarti	Isaac Mastie	Alexander Ward
Kevin Ehrenberger	Laura McNeil	Felix Watson
Abdullahi Farah	Daniel Metzler	Jakob Wickstrom
Michael J. Felkey	Sydney Moore-Padgett	Jordan Williams
Nicolas Figueroa	Meghan Napolitan	Jack Wood
Jaionah Fry		Jade Wright

From our Principal

Dear Families,

As we move into the busy final days of the school year, I look back with a sense of pride. With all their academic, social and behavioral gains, our students have all grown! Watching and helping children grow in so many ways is delightful. Thank you for sharing them with us.

We are pleased to welcome Meghan Lowe to our teaching staff next year. Meghan is transferring from Angell elementary where she taught kindergarten this past year. Prior to teaching at Angell, she taught a 4th/5th combination class and student taught in a 4th grade at Pittsfield Elementary.

Summer Learning Booklets

Once again the PTO will offer a Summer Learning Program to help “Stop the Summer Brain Drain” for all kindergarten through 4th grade students. Watch your child’s back pack for more information and a spiral bound book with 10 weeks of homework practice in reading, writing and math. Helen Starman presented the program to the kids during our Community Circle time on Wednesday, May 27.

To help motivate our kids to keep working on their books a group of PTO volunteers will offer help one day a week on the playground in front of the school. The teachers will offer this same help at Arbor Point and Greenway Park apartments. We hope that students living in Glencoe Hills will walk over to Arbor Point. The help sessions will last about an hour. More information about the help session will be forth coming.

Ice Cream Social

Wow, what fun the Ice Cream Social was! How about that weather! We couldn’t have asked for anything better. We’d like to acknowledge the work of Jane Wood and Kathy Cramer for chairing the committee of volunteers that made sure this evening was enjoyable for everyone. I do believe that almost every family from the school came at least for a little while. Thanks, volunteers, for all that you do!

Science Olympiad Team

Once again our Burns Park teams competed in the Science Olympiad competition held at Skyline High School and brought back several awards. We are very proud of all of them. Special thanks goes to Sue Culter and the many volunteer coaches for preparing our children well for the Olympiad.

Thank You

On behalf of the staff I want to thank you for the delicious Staff Appreciation Luncheon (the food is always so wonderful). Your continuous moral support throughout the year and, more importantly, your willingness to help in a multitude of practical ways goes a long way to make Burns Park School “*all that a kid could want.*”

Lunch Accounts

Again, thank you to all who have checked recently to ensure your child’s account balance is up-to-date. Please help us avoid having to pay this balance out of our instructional budget by making sure your child’s lunch account is paid in full.

Reminders Regarding the Last Day

School isn’t over till it’s over! Remember that the last day of school is Friday, June 12. We will continue teaching up to the last minute; please remind your children to keep learning!

Remember, June 12th is a half-day of school for students, with dismissal at 11:48.

Finally, we have had trouble in the past with students and family members bringing shaving cream to school on the last day. PLEASE LEAVE SHAVING CREAM, WATER BALLOONS, SILLY STRING, ETC. AT HOME—INCLUDING AFTER THE DISMISSAL BELL. I look forward to another shaving cream free day!

Educationally yours,

Kathy Morhous

From our PTO President

It is hard to believe another school year is drawing to a close! There are so many exciting programs and events happening between now and the end of the year, I would encourage you to check the press calendar and read the PTO email notes closely so you don't miss anything.

At our May PTO meeting we had two very informative and interesting presentations, and elected a new slate of officers for 2009 – 2010.

The first presentation was by Ray Fullerton, an Ann Arbor resident and volunteer for the organization Safe Routes to School. Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is an international movement—and now a federal program—to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for good health. Safe Routes to School initiatives also help ease traffic jams and air pollution, unite neighborhoods and contribute to students' readiness to learn in school. Mr. Fullerton wants to organize a group of Burns Park volunteers that will help to register and implement this wonderful program for our school. For more information, please visit the SR2S website: www.saferoutesmichigan.org. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Joel Dalton at daltonjd@gmail.com.

Our second presentation was by Burns Park parent Steve Norton, IT Chairperson and Executive Director of Michigan Parents for Schools. Michigan Parents for Schools is a non-profit organization of

public school parents who are worried about the funding problems our schools face and the consequences this has for our kids and communities. Steve spoke about the growing budget deficit that the Ann Arbor Public School system is facing, and the impact that will potentially have on staff and programs in the coming years. Michigan Parents for Schools is leading a campaign to help ensure funding to help offset State budget cuts to education. For more information, please visit the MPS website: www.miparentsforschools.org. Or feel free to contact Steve at snorton@okno.com.

We also elected the following slate of officers for the 2009 – 2010 school year:

Lynda Norton, President

Wendy Burke, President-elect

Jenny Freisthler and Steve Swaney, Co-treasurers

Elizabeth DeRose, Secretary

Kathy Cramer and Courtney McCreadie, Volunteer Coordinators

And last, we are still in the process of filling committee chair positions. We have opportunities of all shapes and sizes and are always looking for new faces. If you are interested in a specific job or just have questions be sure to talk to Lynda, Wendy, Kathy or Courtney.

Many thanks to all who volunteered this year! Have a wonderful summer!

Elizabeth DeRose, PTO President

FREE School & Sports Physicals

Hope Medical Clinic

103 Arnet

Ypsilanti, MI

1.5 blocks south & 1 block east of Michigan Ave and Prospect

Saturday, July 18, 2009 (no appointment needed)

Sign in: 1:15-3:15 pm

For children without insurance coverage for a summer physical

Wear: shorts & tanks or athletic T-shirts

Bring:

- ◆ forms from your school, Head Start of program
- ◆ prior immunization records if any (note: immunizations will NOT be provided)
- ◆ parent/guardian (required)

* A \$5 donation will be gratefully accepted

Necessary lab work will be ordered from SJMHS ONLY

This event is for well-child physicals only. Please call to make an appointment to address illnesses or medical concerns.

Hope Medical Clinic

for the uninsured

734-481-0111

Summer Reading Programs

We all know how important it is that children continue to read over the summer to prevent losing the skills they worked so hard to gain during the year. I'd like to share with you a couple of free opportunities to encourage daily reading and even earn free books. The Ann Arbor District Library will, once again, be offering their Summer Reading Program. We were lucky enough to have AADL librarian, Meaghan Battle, visit Burns Park on May 19 to tell the students about and invite the students to join in the fun. She revealed the theme: "Local Motion". There will be fun, free events all summer, including a summer reading kick-off concert with Gemini on June 16 at 6:30 pm at the Ark. Another summer reading option is at Barnes & Noble. Their theme is "Percy Jackson & the Olympians". Information about each of these summer reading programs (respectively) is available at any branch of the Ann Arbor District Library or at the Barnes & Noble store on Washtenaw. Children win free books after reading a certain number of books in both programs. So, why not join both!!!!

Return Your Library Books and Win!

As the end of the school year approaches, please help your student(s) look for and return any media center materials (books, magazines, audiobooks) they may have. **ALL** materials are due back by June 5th. As an added incentive to return all library books and other materials, I will be giving away prizes. During the week of June 1-5, students who have returned all their borrowed materials will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of ten envelopes filled with goodies (mostly books and school supplies). At the beginning of the school day on June 8th, I will announce winners over the P.A. We always hope for a 100% return rate so that more of next year's budget can be spent on acquiring new items and less on replacing old ones. Then, everyone's a winner.

Thank you very much, Rachel Erdstein

Music Notes

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for a great year of music with your children. They've been wonderful musicians. A big thanks to the many parents who helped produce the concerts and helped in the background. I couldn't do this job without your help. I almost never have a surplus of parents for the many jobs there are to do. Please let me know at any times of the year if you are available for any of the many tasks: typing words, making art to accompany songs (needed for lower el), doing research to find lyrics, technology help (transferring mini-DV tapes to DVD, helping make CD's of concert songs if I get a way to record in my classroom), electrical help with the grounding/constant problems of sound/lights/camera in the auditorium, 'behind the scenes' organizational help like keeping track of student instrument orders, availability/interest in accompanying concerts (especially important as my 'house band', who read charts and play by ear, is graduating : (and many more tasks. Please know that I'm happy to know of your willingness to help at any time of the year. It would be most useful for me for you to sign up as a music volunteer in the beginning of the year, letting me know what areas of expertise and interest you have. Thanks so much. Next year's 5th grade parents, a heads-up now that the Compositions concert, which will be scheduled for May, cannot happen without your help, so please sign up early if you'd be available.

Before I wish you a happy summer, I do have a special request: post- school-getting-out help with moving, setting up and hopefully painting Sue Cramer's current room, the room I will be moving into. The timetable is complicated and undetermined at this time, but should become known in the next few weeks. Moving and painting time could be shortly after school is out or it could be later in the summer. I could really use help for this monumental task! If you're available and willing, please let me know and I'll be in touch when the timetable becomes clear. You can contact me best at: pageboge@aaps.k12.mi.us

And one more related item: if you have any large sturdy boxes, please bring them to me now. I need to be packed up by the end-of-the- year. Seems impossible right now!

Happy Summer to you all, and see most of you next year!

Congratulations on graduating, 5th graders! See you next year, all other students!

With thanks and my best to you all, Cynthia Page

Burn\$ Park Buck\$

First of all, thank you to everyone who participated in the Burns Park Bucks program this year, especially those with standing orders and those who frequently reload their grocery cards! Because of your efforts, the program has earned over \$5,000 (with more to report after the May 27 order), the majority of which came from grocery card reloads (Hillers, Busch's, Kroger).

Please join me in thanking **Lynda Norton** for enduring rain, sleet and snow as she handed out scrip at the Flag Pole this year; **Devra Kellen** for her generosity in driving around town to make deliveries as gas prices crept ever higher this year; **Dave Lowenschuss** for his sustained patience in dealing with me, the greenhorn; and **Steve Norton** for his web magic and foralways backing us up!

Kroger has announced their new **Kroger Community Rewards** program for which they have committed \$2,000,000 annually. The program will replace the use of giftcards with the Kroger Plus card (the one many of us have attached to our keychains.) (Don't worry, if you have a balance on yours, you can still use it to pay for groceries, but amounts added after that will not benefit our PTO.) **In order for the PTO to receive any further rebate checks from Kroger, each of us (plus any friends, family, and supporters who are interested) will need to register a Kroger Plus card and link it to Burns Park Elementary School** (and remember to swipe it at the

checkout.) Unfortunately, the fine print says that this registration will be an annual occurrence. We hope that won't deter you, though!

To register your card, please go to this website: www.krogercommunityrewards.com

1. Create a new customer account. This will generate a verification email to you requiring you to activate your Kroger account by clicking the link and signing in to your new account.
2. Click on Edit Kroger Plus Card Info. Enter the 12 digit number on the back of your Kroger Plus card. (Or, if you don't have a Kroger Plus card there's an option noted allowing you to print a form and take it to the store's service desk.)
3. Click on Community Rewards Information. Use organization # 82907. Select Burns Park Elementary School.

Total activation time is estimated at 7-10 days, once you do the on-line part above. You'll know that the card is registered by looking at the bottom of the Kroger's receipt which should say "At your request, Kroger is donating to Burns Park Elementary School"

More information will be available on the PTO website, however, feel free to ask questions and provide comments. **Thanks again for your support!**

Cindy Middleton

Skateboard Design Show

Burns Park 5th grade design team wins second place in youth division of Skateboard Design Show!

Fifth grade classes collaborated on three pieces in their art class that were part of a juried art show this past Friday from 7:00-10:00 PM at the Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main St. in Ann Arbor.

The show was a fundraiser for the Ann Arbor Skatepark project. All pieces started out as blank skateboards. There are 50 pieces from youth and adult artists from Ann Arbor and across the country. The judges for the show include Mayor Hieftje, Ann Arbor Art Center president Marsha Chamberlain, Bryant art teacher Rene Dykes, pro skater Garold Vallie and others! After the showing at the Vault, the collection will be exhibited at the Ann Arbor Art Center's gallery in mid-June. Check it out this summer when school lets out!

Design team members were from Ms. Kreger's art class: MacKenzie Dalton, Rachel Hunsberger, Sophia Kleinhessel, Ellie Korman, Dylan Stephens, Mason DeVarti, Tommy Burke and Owen Curnow.

Kate Higgins

Ice Cream Social Thank You

THANK YOU to all the chairs for your hard work in making the 2009 Ice Cream Social such a great hit!!

The weather could not have been better to compliment an evening of fun and music which we owe a great deal to Jeff Fessler, who has organized our musical entertainment for his last year. Speaking of last years, Nancy Upchurch, Kristen Wickstrom, Dawn and Dave Korman, Mary Hampton and Loren Jackson have always done whatever is needed and will be sorely missed as they move on to middle school!

Tickets had new co-chairs this year and they jumped in with both feet, Inge Miller and Jennifer Griggs - Thank you for such a smooth transition with a very tedious job. I have never seen Pizza distribution run so smoothly as under Greta Krapohl and her husband Graydon - you would have thought we had sub-contracted the military - Thank You!

Set up and Clean up which is normally left to the chairs and their supporting spouses had another spouse to thank - PTO President Elect Lynda Norton loaned out a work horse by the name of Steve Norton - Thank YOU!! Speaking of spouses, you would think teaching a demanding 4th/5th grade split was enough, but not for Mike Cramer, no he has pitched in at every little snafu along the 3 month planning of the social through his co-chair

spouse Kathy and then set up and clean up, thank you (like you had a choice)!!

There wasn't a busier place on the warm sunny evening than 3rd grade drinks - thank you Gayle Rosen, I hope you will forgive me for possibly underestimating the magnitude of your table and just think you get to move on!!!

Thank you Nancy Upchurch for loaning out your teenage sons - River, Walker and Antoine, no one could have been cuter at the duck pond. Also, Burns Park Alums Annie Tamblin and her friend Lyndsay hung in there to run the moonbounces with 6 USA Hockey Players. These guys dealt with the longest lines and the most enthusiastic kids, Jake Fallon, Jared Tinordi, Matt Nieto, Kevin Clare, Shane Sooth, and John Merrill - remember these names as a couple of these guys will be at Michigan in the next year as well as possibly the NHL in the near future and we had them taking tickets at our sweet little social!

Now for those who are possibly returning and PLEASE do so, thank you for your hard work this year, Courtney McCreddie, Violet Souweidane, Katie Chosid, Rick Rickman, Lisa Markman, Susan Hutton, Karen Pender, Jenny Jalet, Karen Willatt, Melissa Bretzius, Liz Phillips, Elizabeth Jeffords, Barry Fuller, John Metzler, and Steve Swaney.

Jane Wood, Kathy Cramer and Rachel Seel

Thank you from the Hospitality Committee.

Thank you so much to all the families who made the Spring Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon such a success. The teachers and staff really do enjoy this event and it is a great way for us all to show them just how much we appreciate them.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a Big Thank You to all the members of this years Hospitality Committee, it was fun working with you all and don't forget you can always sign up for next year!.

Many thanks,

Kristy, Sally and Susan.

Burns Park Participates in 2009 Science Olympiad

This year, the Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO) was May 16th at Skyline High School. Burns Park had an enthusiastic team of 55 students from second through fifth grade who competed in this event. For the first time in Burns Park History, we had a full complement of coaches, allowing the kids to choose from eighteen different events for their participation.

WESO has grown since its inception 7 years ago to the largest elementary-level science Olympiad in the country! Twenty-two elementary schools participated this year, with about 1,600 kids competing in the events.

Here at Burns Park, WESO was not just a one-time competition. We created the BPSO Team (that stands for Burns Park Science Olympiad). We have been having "team" practices since February, and our Team had the opportunity to learn subjects related to math, science and engineering. For example, our Water Rockets teams designed and built their own water-propelled rockets beginning with a one-liter pop bottle to serve as the water chamber. Circuit Wizards learned basic aspects of circuit design, including diagramming circuits and electrical components, plus building their own. Anatomy students actually learned a ton of human anatomy, which even second graders were quite capable of remembering!

We hope next year you'll consider talking to your child about BPSO and you might even find coaching a rewarding way to contribute to your Burns Park community. We had many wonderful people who helped us make this event work, including all of the coaches, event supervisors, and parents who volunteered too! Please look at the BPSO thank you page in this BPPress.

Sue Cutler, Burns Park Head Coach

Burns Park Science Olympiad Team



We thank all of our coaches, event supervisors & WESO volunteers for 2009:

Yeong Kwok	Jud Hoffman	Cindy Middleton	Jeff Fessler	Steve Norton
Julia Caproni	Roopa Gurm	Isabelle Davignon	Chris Burke	Frank Connolly
Ed Huang	Monica Valluri	John Tesmer	Cathy Kim	Doug Forman
Krista Shulte	Emma Huntley	Nancy Vettorello	Pat Gibson	Dave Burke
Valerie Tesmer	Meg Wallace	Abigail Hohner	KC Brown	Mary Anne Purtill



Signed THE TEAM: 2nd Grade: Robert B., Allison D., Lincoln G., Bliss H., Greta H., Martin J., Sam K., Vishal K., Sophie L-S, Akhil M., Madison P., Max R., Harrison S., Parker S., Andrew T., Nico T., Jake Z., 3rd Grade: Hannah A., Matthew B., Thomas B., Ana C., Drew C., Gavi F., Danny F., Allie F., Sophia G., Booker G., Tolaska H-A, Audrey J., Evan K., Grace K., Sofia K., Thomas L., Sean Clyde M., Bess M., Alida N., Aldo P-G, Maximilian P., Brian R., Jacob S., Eric S., Sam S., Zoe S., Jack W., 4th Grade: Charlotte B., Rachel F., Neerja G., ReiHam G., Henry H., Adrian H., Patrick K., Matt L., Court M., Jamie N., Franz P., Alison S., Henry S., Maxwell T., Cooper V., Patrick W., 5th Grade: Tommy B., Owen C., Naomi C., Mason D., Mike F., Zoya G., Darby H., Sanelma H., Nathaniel H., Miranda L-S, Alex T., and Sue Cutler, BP Head Coach

PTO Committee Chairs Needed— We Want YOU!

Getting involved in the PTO is a great way to help your children, connect with other parents, and assist with projects that make a difference at our school. There are various PTO committees that are in need of chairpersons for the 2009-2010 school year. Please consider which of these jobs is a good fit with your interests, abilities, and availability:

Bulletin Boards: Maintain the two bulletin boards in the front of the school, using supplies already available plus others if you'd like. Boards can be changed monthly or as needed. Can be done during or after school, with or without your children. Great job for all you artists out there!

Burns Park Press Editor: Compile the Press each month, using articles that have been submitted by faculty and parents. Send out monthly email reminders to faculty and parents with upcoming deadlines. Flexible hours: can be done whenever the time is best for you. Great job for people who want a behind-the-scenes-job and can contribute on a regular basis.

Burns Park Run Co-Chair: Work with Jackie & Joel Dalton to chair this fantastic annual event. They would like one or more co-chairs who can work with them and eventually take over the job when their younger child graduates. Job involves making arrangements for the run and lining up volunteers and sponsors. Great job for people who are passionate about running and want to excite others about this community activity.

Directory Data Entry: Using database already created by Steve Norton, enter and verify information provided by parents on back-to-school forms. Work

will be completed by end of September. Great job for someone who is available in September and wants a behind-the-scenes job with very flexible hours.

Friends of Music: Work closely with Cynthia Page to assist with music activities, primarily to line up volunteers for grade level concerts. Does not require musical background or abilities! Job involves effort intermittently throughout the year. Great opportunity to assist Cynthia with her fabulous concerts.

Hospitality Co-Chair: Work with current chair, Sally Pinnell, to coordinate food and supplies for events such as teacher luncheons, conference night meals, welcome back coffee, and kindergarten round-up. Job involves effort intermittently throughout the year and will be shared with Sally. Hospitality efforts are always greatly appreciated by our wonderful faculty.

Ice Cream Social: This annual event was a huge success this year, and two or more co-chairs are needed for next year to make arrangements and recruit the many volunteers who will staff all the different events. The work is primarily done in the spring in the months leading up to the event. If you like party planning, this is the perfect job for you!

Information Technology Co-Chair: Steve Norton has worked tirelessly to develop our Burns Park PTO website and database. The IT co-chair will work with him and eventually take over the job once his children graduate. Flexible hours, intermittent effort throughout the year. Great job for techies who have lots of knowledge and enthusiasm for computer programming.

New Families: One or more co-chairs are needed who will welcome new families to our school and assist them as necessary with making connections to

other families from their children's grade levels. Work is primarily at the beginning of the school year, then occasionally during the rest of the year. These chairs can really make a difference in families' initial experiences in our community.

PTO Council: Represent our school at monthly meetings (3rd Monday) held by the district-wide PTO Council. Report back to the Burns Park community through written reports and/or at our monthly PTO meetings (3rd Thursday). Great job for people interested in district-wide discussions and connecting with AAPS administration and parents from other schools.

Yearbook: Using photos and templates provided by the school photography company, compile the yearbook. Can take additional photos and/or coordinate volunteers to take photos. Flexible hours, work can be done intermittently through the year with greatest effort before due date in late winter. Great job for people who enjoy photography and/or working with computer design.

Please consider these jobs and get in touch if you have questions and would like additional information. Most jobs can be done with a co-chair; you can ask a friend to join you, or we can recruit someone to work with you. Please let us know you're interested!

2008-2009 Volunteer Coordinators

Janice Lieberman (761-7431 or liebermanjanice@yahoo.com)

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

2009-2010 Volunteer Coordinators

Kathy Cramer (487-2185 or cramer4321@gmail.com)

Courtney McCreadie (929-2062 or cemccreadie@yahoo.com)

Our Schools Need Us To Step Up as A Community

Ann Arbor schools are heading towards a funding cliff, and all of us as a community need to decide if we are willing to step up. Good schools bring jobs today and keep our communities strong in the future – that’s what we get back from investing our tax dollars. If we let our schools crumble, we all pay more in the long run.

Did you know...?

- ◆ that AAPS has had to cut \$14 million worth of staff and programs over the last three years?
- ◆ that what AAPS is allowed to spend per child has fallen 9% since 1994, after inflation, while key costs like health care have risen many times faster than inflation?
- ◆ that the decision about how much to spend on running our schools is made in Lansing, not here in Ann Arbor?
- ◆ that the district’s current budget projections show that we need to find a way to cut over \$7 million next year, and similar amounts for the years after that?

The latest projections at the state level are making things look even worse. The Federal stimulus money that is supposed to prevent cuts to K-12 and higher education may run out before the end of next year, because the hole in our state budget is getting deeper by the day. That means that, year after next, AAPS could see cuts of \$200 to \$400 per pupil, leaving us with a deficit of \$12 million to \$16 million. That’s equivalent to 150 to 160 staff members, or school bus

transportation for general ed students, or.... You get the picture.

What can we do?

We can demand that our state legislators make changes in Michigan’s school funding system so that we don’t abandon a generation of children. That is a crucial conversation, and it needs to start today, but it will not be finished in time to save us from the funding cliff.

We can make private donations to our schools’ PTOs, and to the AAPS Educational Foundation. The AAPSEF has been doing important work to spark innovation and bring benefits to the district – visit www.aapsef.org to see all that they do. But this kind of giving will not protect whole programs – like elementary art, high school band, physical education, and so on.

Our one and only option to raise funds locally for running our schools, under state law, is a county-wide property tax that will help us protect our schools. This tax would have to be approved by the voters of the county (technically, the Washtenaw Intermediate School District), and the funds raised would be distributed equally to each child in the WISD. Ann Arbor schools would receive something like \$8 million from a 1.5 mill tax – not enough to make the problems go away, but enough to make the cuts simply painful rather than devastating.

The WISD board of education can put such a measure on the ballot, but they won’t act unless the county’s school boards support it. And in the current

economic climate, school boards are afraid of asking for a new tax unless they see that the parents and citizens in their communities support it.

Let’s put it to a vote! Ask the AAPS Board of Education to support putting on the ballot what the state calls an “enhancement millage” but what we call a “Stop the Bleeding Millage.”

At Michigan Parents for Schools, we’ve been working to get local parents and citizens involved in our schools and to educate everyone about the causes and consequences of the funding crisis our schools face. We’re a non-profit advocacy group based in Ann Arbor and started by AAPS parents. Please visit our web site at www.mipfs.org to learn more about what is happening at the state level and in Washtenaw County, or our local site www.aapfs.org to learn more about AAPS budget issues. You can also sign up for email updates, register on the sites to add to the discussion, and much more. Please join us!

Thank you for your support,

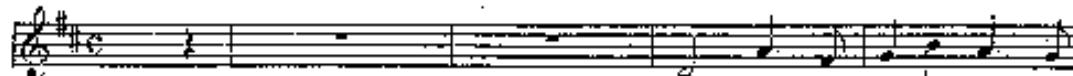
Steve Norton

Executive Director, Michigan Parents for Schools
and AAPS parent

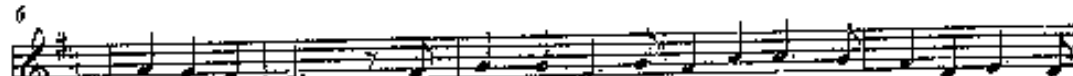
Burns Park Song

R. Tolman

E. Kaldjian




Burns Park, you're in my heart, I



6
sing my song to you! With friends each day I work and play, There's so much we can




11
do! From Ma - gic Moun - tain's ma - je - sty to the Old Fair Grounds we

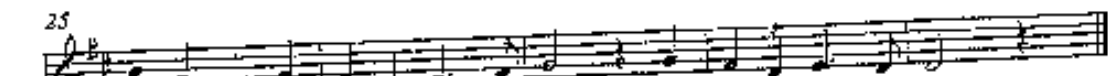


15
soar, We cast a-way our cares and say That Burns Park School is home!

Shant:
WE CHEER FOR:



20
Burns Park when we must part, for e - ver, we'll be true. And come what may, when



25
old and gray, we'll still re - mem - ber you! Burns Park we sing to you!

Thanks a Million!

Many, many thanks to the following people...

- ◆ This year's executive committee **Lynda Norton, David Lowenschuss, Raleigh Sadlier, Helen Starman** and **Janice Lieberman** who worked so hard all year in their respective roles and as a group to plan for the school. Extra special thanks to Lynda for taking over my responsibilities during my leave-of-absence.
 - ◆ **Jill Hunsberger, Jackie and Joel Dalton** and their volunteers for a great Burns Park Run, beautiful weather and an amazing turn out!
 - ◆ **Leslie Sapp and Courtney Simon** for organizing Walk & Talk and encouraging all of the students who were part of the Walk & Talk Team for the Burns Park Run!
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 - ◆ **Kathy Cramer and Jane Wood** and the many, many volunteers for another great Ice Cream Social!
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 - ◆ **Kathy Sample and Joe Tesar** for handling the Burns Park Press production all year!
 - ◆ **Cindy Middleton** for chairing and running our Burns Park Bucks program!
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 - ◆ **Ellen Rambo** for helping to organize another fun and exciting Field Day!
 - ◆ **Kristen Freshley** for putting together another wonderful yearbook!
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 - ◆ **Mike Cramer and Rachel Erdstein** for serving as our teacher PTO representatives!
 - ◆ **Andy Thomas** for serving as our PTO Council representative!
 - ◆ And last, but not least, to every parent and staff member at the school who supported the PTO and our students by volunteering, participating in fundraisers, attending meetings and always striving to make Burns Park "everything a kid could want!" It has been my pleasure to work with and know you all!
- Elizabeth DeRose, PTO President

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