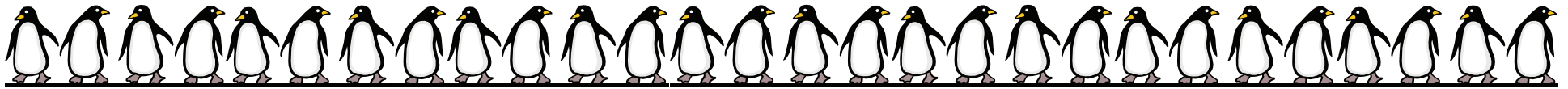


Burns Park Press - December 2009



Inside this Issue:

Family to Family Giving.....	1
Coat Drive.....	1
From our Principal.....	2-3
Hospitality Committee.....	3
School Garden.....	3
Letter from Andy Thomas.....	4
Special Interest Fair.....	4
Science Olympiad.....	4
News from the Music Room.....	5
Walk and Talk.....	5
Media Center News.....	5
Football Parking SCORES!.....	5
UNICEF scores too!.....	5
Box Tops For Education.....	5
From our PTO Presidents.....	6
Thanks a Million!.....	6
Burn\$ Park Bucks.....	7
PTO Executive Board.....	8
Burns Park Press Information.....	8
Classifieds.....	8
NIHI.....	9

Check out the **PTO websites:**

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>

and Penguin Talk :

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

Calendar of Events

- Fri. Dec. 18: **Winter vacation begins at end of school day**
- Mon. Jan 4: **School resumes**
- Thur. Jan 14: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Mon. Jan 18 **No School: MLK Day**
- Mon, Feb 15: **No School**
- Fri, Feb 19: **Mid-winter vacation begins at end of day**
- Mon, Mar 1: **School resumes**
- Mon, Mar 8: **No School**
- Tues. Mar 16: **Special Interest Fair**
- Thur, Mar 18: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Thur, Apr 1: **Spring vacation begins at end of day**
- Mon, Apr 12: **School resumes**
- Thur, Apr 22: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Thur, May 20: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym

Family To Family Giving

Burns Park has a tradition of helping our families in need for the Holiday Season. 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.

Please return the decorated envelope that your child brought home or make a direct donation in the designated box in the school office by December 14th.

It's a perfect opportunity to teach your child the importance of giving to others, rather than receiving themselves.

Any help that you can provide is appreciated.

For more information contact

Sara Figueroa sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com

Reinhart Winter Coat Drive Continues into December

Please join in this effort with your donation of a coat in good repair. All coats will be professionally cleaned and distributed locally.

Coats may be dropped off at 1237 Olivia or contact Deb Stern for pick-up 604-3704 deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

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.

From our Principal

Dear Burns Park Families,

It was great seeing everyone during fall Parent/Teacher Conferences. We hope that 100% of our families participate in these conversations about their children's achievement. If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call the office.

Report letters have been sent. Each report letter is a mid-fall "snapshot" of your child's progress on a yearlong journey toward the district outcomes for each grade level. Each child should have achieved some of these outcomes but still be working on many others. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give your child's teacher a call.

I am so impressed with the number of your children who earned, bronze, silver and gold medals for steadfastly working to stop *Brain Drain* over the summer months. The awards assembly was special for everyone as we recognized our student's initiative and effort to do their personal best during the Summer Learning program Think Stretch. A special thanks goes to Helen Starman for making this program and the awards possible!

Community Circles and Conflict Management

On Wednesday mornings we have once again begun our Community Circles. Students in grades 1 to 5 are meeting in mixed age groups of approximately 13 students to learn strategies that provide practice in community building and problem solving. We began with an all school assembly which introduced Life Long Guidelines, Life Skills and the Rainbow of Safety. Through out the year we will follow up on these themes as we explore topics such as sharing, dealing with disappointment, discouragement and frustration, making mistakes, bullies, and how to be a good communicator.

Community Circles are only one way that we help students manage all forms of conflict. Students are also taught lessons in their classrooms about bullying using the new health curriculum and the Take A Stand curriculum. Here they practice effective strategies that students can use in daily interactions with peers and adults.

How can my child be in the Burns Park Play?

The Burns Park Play started as a fund raiser for our school 25+ years ago. It grew so quickly that they moved to a larger auditorium at Tappan Middle School.

The annual Burns Park play is always a musical. The Burns Park Players provides a unique opportunity for family-oriented musical theater in Ann Arbor. Involving parents, children, teachers, and the wider Burns Park community, the Players produce a popular musical that the whole community can enjoy in an affordable, accessible setting.

All students who live within the Burns Park attendance area are invited to sing and dance in the chorus. There is a chorus for each grade level. If your child likes to sing and dance, this is a fun opportunity.

Rehearsals are during the student's lunch recess. Students usually bring their lunch to the auditorium where they eat and rehearse one day each week beginning in December and lasting until the beginning of February. Then in February when the show is produced, the students attend dress rehearsals and performances at Tappan Middle School in the evenings.

This year the Players will perform *Guys & Dolls* on **February 5th, 11th and 12th at 7:30 pm and February 6th and 13th at 4:00 pm; there will be a dress rehearsal on Thurs., February 4.**

If your son or daughter wants to participate in musical theatre, all you need to do is sign up to

help out back stage and make sure you get them to each performance. Contact Sara Meingast at 741-1723 if you want to find out more.

AAPS News

The Ann Arbor Public Schools invite you to read the *AAPS News*, a newsletter designed to offer information about our schools and showcase programs and activities throughout the district.

Log into <http://news.a2schools.org> to see the newest edition. Story ideas and information for publication are always welcome. Please send suggestions to Casey Hans at hansc@aaps.k12.mi.us or call her at 734-994-2090 ext 51228.

Holiday Gift Giving

As we approach the holiday season, please remember that the Board of Education's policy prohibits any district employee from accepting gifts from students of more than token value. If you'd like to honor your child's teacher or another member of the staff with a small gift, a card, something for the classroom, or a donation to the PTO's Family Giving project in their name it will be appreciated. Most importantly, however, your warm wishes are more than enough for us!

Help for Families

If you are looking for homework help, the following organization is offering free tutoring at the library. In addition, Washtenaw Literacy is sponsoring English Language instruction for families at the Pittsfield & Mallett's Creek Library Branch.

... more from our Principal

Drop-In Homework Help

AADL partners with the University of Michigan's Circle K chapter to provide free homework help for school-aged children and teenagers. College student volunteers are available on Wednesdays, 4:00-8:00 PM, in the Downtown Youth Story Corner for drop-in homework help.

ESL Conversation Groups

Washtenaw Literacy's ESL groups focus mainly on speaking and listening skills for adults in an informal, relaxed setting. Learn new vocabulary, meet new friends, practice pronunciation, and improve your conversation skills. TOEFL preparation is also available. There's a group that meets at our Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Drive on Mondays from 1:00-2:30 pm and a group on Fridays at Mallett's Creek at the same time, 1:00-2:30 pm. Here's their website for more information about groups and tutoring. <http://washtenawliteracy.org/>

Soon your children will be enjoying a two week vacation from school. However, being away from school doesn't mean they have to stop learning. Encourage your children to read, even read aloud from a favorite book, look for holiday customs that reflect your family's heritage, and visit the library! Have a wonderful winter break with your children! Best wishes for good health and prosperity in the new year!

Yours,

Kathy Morhous,

Principal

Hospitality Committee

Teacher Conference nights were the 2nd & 4th of November.

Thank you to **Michelle Redies of Domino's Pizza, Kimberly Morvan of Paesano's and Kroger** for their very generous contributions. The Staff were able to enjoy items from Domino's new menu and desserts from Paesano's, Kroger donated a gift card that enabled us to provide beverages.

Please support these local businesses and thank them for their support of Burns Park.

§ § § § § §

Our next event will be The Holiday Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, December 9th.

Look for the goldenrod flyer to sign-up. We need volunteers to bring food, beverages and to help set-up and clean up.

For info or to volunteer contact:

Sally Pinnell
pinnellsally@yahoo.com

Linda Dabrowski
bldabrow@yahoo.com

Check Out the School Garden!

The new school garden is located off the south side of the school (the new wing), in a rectangular area that is approximately 50' x 100'.

The garden will include an outdoor classroom area with benches, fruits (strawberries, blueberries and melons) and vegetables (lettuce, tomatoes, bean tepes, cucumbers, carrots, corn) that can be harvested during the school year, an herb garden, sunflower house and compost bins.

In just the last few weeks, 4 truck loads of compost have been spread and 5 classrooms (over 100 students!) have gotten their hands dirty in the garden planting herbs, bulbs, strawberries and making mulch paths.

Over the winter we will work with students and teachers to develop garden activities that will connect with class curriculum.

If you have ideas to share, please join us at our next Garden Meeting on Tuesday, December 8th from 7-9pm in the Media Center.

November 16, 2009

Lynda Norton, President
Burns Park PTO

Dear Lynda,

One year ago, the Burns Park PTO, with the help of Sandy Kerger's fifth-grade class, helped launch the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund, administered by the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation. Thanks to your efforts, we managed to raise over \$34,000. I would like to update you on how these funds are being used.

The purpose of the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund is to encourage and support reading at the elementary school level, particularly among economically disadvantaged children. The AAPSEF received a grant request from three teachers at Pittsfield Elementary School, one of our community's most diverse schools in which nearly half the students qualify for free- or reduced-lunch. Three teachers representing second- third- and fourth-grades requested funding to purchase classic children's books for their classes. AAPSEF decided to utilize Karen Thomas funds to support this initiative.

As a result, students are reading high-quality, age-appropriate literature that was not otherwise available to them through their school. Second-graders are reading lyrical, imaginative books such as Ralph Fletcher's *Twilight Comes Twice*. The hands-down favorite among third-graders is the entire *Chronicles of*

Narnia series. And the fourth-graders are enjoying classic English and American literature in both abridged and unabridged editions (including *Treasure Island*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Little Women*, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, and *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*, to name only a few). Many students start out by reading the simplified version of a particular book, then rereading it in the original version.

Although results of this initiative are difficult to quantify, teachers report that students enjoy reading more, read more critically and with improved comprehension, and think actively about the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by characters in the books. One teacher shared with me a student's essay on how Huck Finn was affected, positively and negatively, by his derelict father, and speculating on what kind of father Huck himself would make. This, from a fourth-grader!

Karen would have been extremely proud to know that her name is attached to this initiative. AAPSEF plans to use the remaining balance of the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund to sponsor similar innovative reading programs throughout the District. Once again, I would like to thank the Burns Park community and the many others who made this possible.

Sincerely,

Andy Thomas

The Special Interest Fair is Coming

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mark your calendars! 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 "The Mysterious Stonehenge," "Spices from the Middle East," "Big Cats," and "My Favorite Quarterback: Tom Brady").

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 after winter break. We look forward to all of the great projects!

Questions? Contact fair co-chairs

Carol Durgy (carole@durgy.com) or Jenny Jalet (sutton@umich.edu)



Practices for the 2010 Science Olympiad will be starting up in February. It is a fun all day science competition for 2nd – 5th grade. It will be held this year on June 5th at Skyline. There are 18 events, 20 schools, and 2000 kids who participate. We will have weekly practice to prepare the Burns Park Team for this event. We will also have a field trip to the River Rouge Truck ... in March.

Look for the flyer coming home in January!

News from the Music Room

It has been a joyful year in my new music room, Room 120. The room, and sunlight, are beautiful. I am loving have space in the room. It allows me to teach the children in the way I would wish---lots of room to move. Thanks to Meagan Shein and Jennifer Osterwisch, who came in over the summer and helped me paint some walls. It truly is a beautiful space and I am thriving in it!

I would like to welcome my student teacher, Kelly Ritter of UM, who is here for a short six but wonderful weeks. She is a superb teacher and it's a joy to have her.

Our 5th grade classes were incredibly lucky to have been given a day with Mr. Jon Deak, principal bassist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Deak came in and did creative composition with the 5th grade classes. Mr. Deak was brought to us by U of M's "Arts on Earth", an organization directed by Theresa Reid, parent of 3rd grader Lana Hershenson. We give her a huge shout out for including Burns Park in Mr. Deak's residency here in SE Michigan. Thanks, Theresa! That was a great opportunity!

It has been fun working with the students. We work a lot with music reading in the early fall and enjoy all of our Halloween musical materials. The 5th graders have composed two ostinato compositions so far and done a great job with those assignments. I look forward to the year with them and the rest of the grade levels.

My best to you all,

Cynthia Page-Bogen
Vocal Music Teacher

Walk Talk Volunteers are AWESOME!!

We wanted to send out a HUGE Thank You to our Fall Volunteers:

Stefanie Aronow, Sally Pinnell, Anne Leo, Jenny Jalet, Barbara Peitsch, Jenny Kinsey, Garrett Scott, Lauren Kinsherf, Suzanne Ross and Inge Miller. You all braved much wind, a little rain, and a few darn cold days! Thank you so much for your dedication. We could not run this program without you!

Courtney Simon & Leslie Sapp

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.

To access the E-CAT, just

1.go to the Media Center website:
http://burnspark.a2schools.org/burnspark/home/media_center

2.click on the "research links" link

3.click on the "E-CAT" link

view and search the catalog

Football Parking SCORES!!

We raised \$786.50 by charging game-goers to park at BPES!

One elderly gentleman leaned out of his car and said, "What took you so long!!!" before handing over his parking fee.

Great idea Tony Pinnell

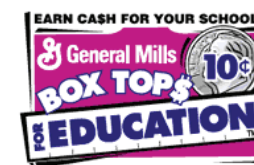
Great job Liz Phillips!!

UNICEF

Please pat your children on the back for a job well done! Over 100 UNICEF trick-or-treat boxes were returned to the school with a total of \$858.74 raised to help save and improve the lives of children living in poverty around the world. See how UNICEF is elevating poverty in this excellent video clip at (preview first, before sharing with children). Thank you for being so generous!

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!



From our PTO Presidents

Thank you to everyone who attended our November PTO meeting. Lynn Heumann, our new PTO Council representative, provided an update on district-wide school funding following the defeat of the proposed millage, and ways individuals and families can be involved, including donating to the AAPS Educational Foundation and getting involved with Michigan Parents for Schools. (More information can be found in the meeting minutes, which will be posted on-line.) Kathy Morhous also drew attention to grass roots efforts pressuring legislators that will be needed to make changes to school funding at the state level.

Also at the meeting, Jackie and Joel Dalton proposed formalizing relationships with other Ann Arbor schools to encourage more student participation in the Burns Park Run. This endeavor would help physical fitness in students at those schools, aid in fundraising efforts there, and bring in volunteers for the run. Meeting attendees were all in favor of them pursuing this proposal.

Anne Steinhauer brought to our attention changes that will be made in the Sally Foster program that makes it unattractive for Burns Park to continue with the program. The PTO is going to look into alternative fundraising efforts to replace this program, including brainstorming at a future meeting. If anyone has ideas for fundraisers, please let us know. Anne and Jen Osterwisch have done a tremendous job with Sally Foster over the past few years, with funds raised between \$5,000 and \$7,500 each of those years!

This month the PTO provides another great opportunity for Burns Park families to help others in need. Sara Figueroa has begun organizing the Family to Family Giving program. Watch for envelopes in your child's backpack 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!

Lynda Norton, President 761-1478 lnorton@okno.com
Wendy Burke, President-elect 585-5570 wendy.burke@mac.com

Thanks a Million!

- ◆ **Sally Pinnell, Linda Dabrowski** and the Hospitality Committee for organizing and providing our teachers and staff with dinners for both nights of Parent-Teacher Conferences;
- ◆ **Courtney McCreadie and Melissa Bruzzano** for coordinating the first Burns Park Movie Night;
- ◆ **Helen Starman** for collecting and sorting through all of the Summer Learning Workbooks;
- ◆ **Emily Hastie, Chris Burke, Lynne Raughley, and Sue Ann Bell** for assisting kindergarten and first grade classes with planting herbs, bulbs, and strawberries in the new school garden;
- ◆ **Bill Flodder, Lynne Raughley, Caren Goldberg, Ingmar Hartl, Eric Middleton, Emily Hastie, Sally Pinnell, Karen Schaefer, Gianna Lete,** and many more parents and students who helped out on our no school work day spreading several loads of compost in the garden;
- ◆ **Kate Korte-Turnbull** for organizing the workshop for 5th-grade girls on relational aggression;
- ◆ **Mary van der Velde and Kathy Cramer** for organizing the "Love our Library" shelf-organizing party.
- ◆ **Karen Schaefer and Emily Hastie** for coordinating the highly successful Penguin Food Drive;
- ◆ **Kathy Cramer** for coming to school to help with Picture Re-takes
- ◆ **Liz Phillips** for organizing volunteers for football parking, and all the volunteers who helped out with this new fundraising venture.

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers!



Burn\$ Park Buck\$



“Earn money for our school without spending an extra dime!”

The Burns Park PTO's scrip fundraiser, known as Burn\$ Park Buck\$, is starting its seventh year in early October. Burns Park families who participated in this fundraiser over the last few years earned thousands of dollars for our school without spending an extra dime; they simply changed the way they paid for their groceries and other retail items.

How does Burns Park Bucks work? The PTO purchases gift certificates or gift cards at a discount from local grocers and retailers including: Busch's, Hiller's, Whole Foods, The Produce Station, Gratz, Real Seafood Company, Barnes & Noble, Borders, LL Bean, Gap, Lands' End, Old Navy, Panera Bread, Starbucks, Williams Sonoma and many more. You buy the gift certificates or gift cards from the PTO at full face value and use them at the store (or on-line, if applicable) where they are worth full face value. The PTO keeps the difference between our cost and the price you pay; the discount we can receive ranges from five to eighteen percent.

Busch's and Hiller's offer rechargeable gift cards that allow you to initially purchase one card at the dollar value of your choice. The

card holds a balance as you use it, and you can refill the card, as needed, at the store—with cash, check or a credit card. (This way, you can still receive airline miles and other credit card rewards while supporting our school.) Burns Park continues to receive 5% whenever you refill your card.

Kroger has simplified their process of donating to Burns Park PTO. Instead of purchasing and recharging gift cards, they allow us to link our Kroger Plus cards—the one you swipe to get the discount prices—to Burns Park PTO, so that anytime you shop a percentage will automatically get credited to our account. To register your card you'll need to set up an account first at this website:
www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Create a new customer account by clicking on **Sign in/ Register** link on the upper right side of the page.. 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.

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.)

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"

Plum Market also has a similar program to Kroger; visit their Service Desk to complete the form and link your rewards card to Burns Park School PTO.

How do I order my Burns Park Bucks? Once a month you will receive an e-mail reminder to order on-line at www.burnsparkpto.org (you may also print out the order form and drop it off in the Burns Park Bucks box in the office). You will receive your completed order on the following Wednesday. You may choose one of two methods for paying for your order: by credit card directly on-line or by check. Burns Park PTO does pay a percentage for the service of using the on-line services, so if you would like to maximize your contribution, feel free to write a check. Payments may be placed in the Burns Park Bucks box in the office or mailed to: Cindy Middleton, 1402 Brooklyn Ave., Ann Arbor, 48104. You may also choose one of two methods for receiving your order: 1) pick-up at the school Wednesday morning or afternoon or 2) home delivery. The first email reminder will be sent on September 28 with **orders due by Wednesday, September 30**. If you would like to plan ahead, the order deadlines for 2009-10 will be: Oct 28, Dec 9, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, Apr 28, May 26.

Any questions? Feel free to contact Cindy Middleton at cynthia.middleton@gmail.com or 623-1704

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 Deb Stern, BP Press Editor, deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

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 Deb at 604-3704 or deb.odom.stern@stanfordaluni.org

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

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

Still want to receive a paper copy each month? Complete the "Burns Park Press Opt-IN letter" included in your First Day Packet. Or send an email requesting a paper copy to Kathy Sample at kesample@umich.edu.

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 December 2009 issue are due no later than **Wednesday, December 23rd**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

Experienced Babysitter

- ◆ Very dependable & responsible
- ◆ Looking for part/full time position(s)
- ◆ 8 yrs. experience with kids of all ages
- ◆ Swim Lessons if pool is available
- ◆ First Aid & CPR certified through the Red Cross
- ◆ Resume & references available upon request

Chelsea Meyer ■ 419-591-6603 ■ meyerc1@yahoo.com

GIVE
OPPORTUNITY
A PLACE
TO KNOCK



Deb Odom Stern

Realtor, ABR

734.604.3704

deb@debodomstern.com
www.debodomstern.com

Reinhart
Charles Reinhart • Equity Realtor

PTO Executive Board

Principal

Kathy Morhous 994-919
morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us

President

Lynda Norton 761-1478
lnorton@okno.com

President-Elect

Wendy Burke 585-5570
wendy.burke@mac.com

Treasurer

Steve Swaney 997-0898
steveswaney@gmail.com

Jenny Freisthler 327-5995
jenny@freisthler.com

Secretary

Elizabeth DeRose 677-0882
ederose@comcast.net

Volunteer Coordinators

Kathy Cramer 487-2185
cramer4321@gmail.com

Courtney McCreadie 929-2062
cemccreadie@yahoo.com

Burns Park Press

Editor

Deb Odom Stern 604-3704
deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

Production

Kathy Sample 846-4080
kesample@earthlink.net

Dear AAPS Families,

The Washtenaw County Department of Public Health continues to notify the district weekly with updates on the H1N1 and seasonal flu activity.

As of this week Washtenaw County is reaching the peak of influenza activity. Confirmed cases of influenza have increased sharply for both Influenza A and H1N1. The age range is mostly in the 5 – 24 year group.

In the Ann Arbor Public Schools we have seen an increase in respiratory illness associated with flu and flu-like symptoms. We also know that a few schools on the west side of the state have already had to close for a few days because of the high absent rate. On the advice of Public Health if a school reaches around the 30% absence rate for students or staff it is likely that that school will be closed for a period of time.

We also learned this week that Public Health only received about 30% of the shipment of the H1N1 vaccine. Because of this shortage the H1N1 vaccine will only be given to priority groups:

- Pregnant women
- Caregivers/contacts of children under 6 months old
- Children 6 months – 4 years old
- Children 5-18 years with underlying medical conditions, and
- EMS and health care workers with direct patient contact.

The AAPS will still be hosting 2 H1N1 vaccination clinics for the priority groups only:

- November 5 at Huron High School, 2:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- November 10 at Pioneer High School, 2:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We still need your help to contain the spread of the flu virus.

KEEP SICK CHILDREN AT HOME for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of a fever without using a fever-reducing drug. Keeping children with a fever home will reduce the number of people who may get infected. It may take up to 7 days for the illness to subside.

DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home

Other steps we continue to take....

- ✓ **•We will send sick students and staff home to stay at home until a fever of 100 degrees or higher returns to normal for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications**
- ✓ **•We will move students and staff who become ill at school with flu symptoms into a separate room until they are able to be picked up and leave school**
- ✓ **•Surfaces such as desks, doorknobs, and door handles are cleaned following CDC protocol. Remember, this is mainly an air-born transmitted virus**
- ✓ **•Personal protection masks are available at school and will be offered to students who exhibit flu-like symptoms and are waiting to be taken home**

The district have developed an educational plan based on the recommendation from the Federal and State Department of Education for extended absences or school closing in a severe outbreak which includes;

- The district will post curriculum maps for the core academic courses at each grade level K-12 on the district and school websites
- On-line resources will be posted for each course such as textbooks, E2020 (Grs. 6-12)
- Links to on-line tutorial resources will be posted for

each subject area

- Teachers are being encouraged to post assignments weekly in PowerSchool for student/parent access

One of the most important things you can do to help keep our schools open and operating as usual is to develop a family plan to address any illness that requires your student to remain home.

- ✓ **•Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol based hand sanitizer. Include small containers of hand sanitizer in their backpacks.**
- ✓ **•Teach your children not to share personal items such as drinks, food, and unwashed utensils and to cover their cough and sneeze with tissue or the side of their arm.**
- ✓ **•Know the signs and symptoms of the flu which include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.**

For more information the district and school websites (www.a2schools.org <<http://www.a2schools.org>>) have a direct link to current information on H1N1 including a link to the Washtenaw County Public Health school portal: http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/school_portal/index2_html

You can also visit the CDC site for current information www.flu.gov <<http://www.flu.gov>> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Sincerely,
J. Todd Roberts
Superintendent