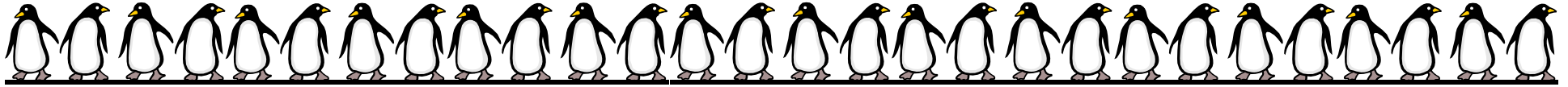


# Burns Park Press - January 2008



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## Check out the PTO websites:

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

## 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.

## Calendar of Events

Mon, Jan 7:	<b>School Resumes</b>
Thur, Jan 17:	<b>PTO Meeting, 7pm</b>
Fri, Jan 18	<b>BP Press Articles Due</b>
Mon, Jan 21:	<b>No School: MLK Jr Day</b>
Wed Jan 23:	<b>"Drum Me a Story" Assembly</b>
Tues, Jan 29:	<b>Spiegel / Dworkin Concert</b>
Thur, Jan 31	<b>Blood Drive</b>
Feb 8 & 9:	<b>BPP "Beauty &amp; the Beast"</b>
Mon, Feb 11:	<b>NAAPID DAY</b>
	<b>Kindergarten Round-up: Bring Your Parent to School Day</b>
Feb 15 & 16:	<b>BPP "Beauty &amp; the Beast"</b>
Mon: Feb 18:	<b>No School</b>
Tues, Feb 19:	<b>Kindergarten Parent Night</b>
Thur, Feb 21:	<b>Kindergarten Round-up Children's Visit</b>
Fri, Feb 22:	<b>Mid-winter break begins at end of day</b>
Mon, Mar 3:	<b>School Resumes</b>

## Blood Drive

Ms. Kreger's class will be sponsoring a blood drive on Thurs. Jan. 31 (and also on April 30) , and YOU are a V.I.P.! So, if you are interested in giving blood and being served like royalty by our children, here is what you can do:

1. Go to <http://www.givelife.org> .
2. Type in bpe for the source code. bpe stands for Burns Park Elementary.
3. Fill out a profile.
4. Pick a time!

## From our PTO Presidents

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope that you all had happy, healthy holidays!

This month at our January 17 PTO meeting Kathy Morhous will be talking about the bond and the planned renovations at Burns Park. In addition, Luciana Borbely will be presenting about the University Musical Society and the arts programs that they make available to students and teachers in the Ann Arbor public schools. We hope that you will join us, as always, free child care will be provided in the gym.

*Helen Starman, President*  
994-8553 or [hstarman@comcast.net](mailto:hstarman@comcast.net)

*Elizabeth DeRose, President-elect*  
677-0882 or [ederose@comcast.net](mailto:ederose@comcast.net)

## From our Principal

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Dear Burns Park Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a fun filled, relaxing and healthy break. It's great to be back! Many, many thanks go to all of the wonderful volunteers that provided us with lunch on Wednesday, December 12th. Those of us in the field of education truly appreciate an opportunity to eat good food and relax during the noon hour. Thanks for orchestrating this for us; you are wonderful!

### **The Brilliance of Learning Math Facts with Fact Triangles**

Our EDM math program encourages students to practice their math facts in many different ways. The games used in the program motivate kids, and it is easy for families to encourage kids to practice through the game format. If, however, you are looking for a more “traditional” way to memorize basic facts, fact triangles (as opposed to regular flashcards) are the answer. When children practice with fact triangles they “memorize” all three numbers together.

For example, if the triangle has 20, 5, and 4, then children memorize  $4 \times 5$ ,  $5 \times 4$ ,  $20/5$  and  $20/4$  almost simultaneously. Compare that with traditional flashcards that require students to learn them as 4 different facts from four different flashcards. Triangles also reinforce the relationship between multiplication/division and addition/ subtraction as inverse operations.

Your children are familiar with fact triangles through our EDM math program. I wholeheartedly believe in

the games to teach basic math facts, and I encourage you to play the games or practice triangles at home as much as possible.

Joel Dalton, Cammie and MacKenzie's father, has discovered a new computer game called Timez Attack. A free version is downloadable from the Internet. We're trying it out with some of our students and they seem to like it as much as Cammie and Mackenzie. If you give it a try, let me know what you think.

### **Basic Fact Strategies**

To help students memorize basic facts, we teach them some strategies that aid the memory. Ask your children to explain these strategies to you. Knowing these strategies before practicing will help them be more successful sooner.

#### **Addition**

0 in addition

Counting on – 1,2,3

Doubles, Near Doubles

Making a 10

#### **Subtraction**

Subtracting 0

Counting back – 1,2,3

Counting up – 1,2,3

Use what you know:

Doubles, Near Doubles, Making 10

### **Multiplication**

Properties of (0's & 1's)

Skip counting (5's)

Doubles (2's)

Using tens (9's)

Use what you know (3's, 4's, 6's, 7's, 8's)

### **Division**

Use multiplication facts you know

### **What Are “Seeds”?**

As part of our staff's efforts to maintain ongoing dialog with parents about the district's literacy program, I wanted to take a moment to share some information about one component of your child's literacy instruction – writing. Thanks goes to Carrie Dworkin for sharing this with us.

In the first several weeks of school, students spend time developing “seeds” for their writing, based on their own life experiences, in their journals. They then began to develop these seeds into full writing projects by moving through the process of drafting, revising, editing and creating a final draft.

What is the difference between revising and editing? Revising, the most difficult stage for many children, and even adults, involves monitoring our work for meaning or asking, “Does this make sense?” It, therefore, entails adding, deleting or rearranging words, phrases and sentences to make it easier for readers to understand our writing. Editing, on the

## ... more from our Principal

other hand, is the polishing stage, during which we check for spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar. Since the process is circular, the emphasis is on students doing their best writing rather than completing pieces quickly.

### **MLK Day Observed at Burns Park**

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we at Burns Park will take a serious look at what it takes to stand up for what is right, even if it isn't popular or easy. We will honor Dr. King's peaceful ways to "stand up" for the civil rights of all. As we do this we will ask students to identify the Lifelong Guidelines and Core Democratic values that Dr. King used to stand up for justice.

**There is no school on Monday, January 21 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

### **Parent Involvement Day**

Mark your calendars now for NAAPID Day (National African American Parent Involvement Day). It is scheduled for Monday, February 11. On this day, ALL parents are invited and encouraged to come to school for some part or all day to experience the learning environment first hand. Look for additional information soon from your child's teacher, but please plan on visiting with us on this day.

### **2007-2008 Kindergarten Round-Up (Scavenger Hunt & Visit)**

**Bring Your Parent to School Day - Monday, February 11 from 9:30 to 11:00.**

New kindergarten families are invited to join the rest of our families and visit our school. We have designed a Scavenger Hunt to allow you to tour our building at your own pace. Please call the office and let us know that you are interested so that we plan for the correct number of families.

### **Kindergarten Parent Night —Tuesday, February 19, 7:00 PM (parents only)**

During this meeting we'll talk about our kindergarten program and answer any questions you might have. You will get a chance to visit the kindergarten classrooms and see some slides of children in action during the regular kindergarten day. We will also distribute all the necessary registration forms. Since this meeting is designed for parents, the PTO will provide childcare as they do for PTO meetings. You will need to register for childcare prior to that evening.

### **Children's Visit — Thursday, February 21**

The following Thursday afternoon, we will have a program for the incoming kindergartners. This is an opportunity for our prospective kindergartners to get an idea of what it is like to come to school at Burns Park. We will divide them into small groups of 12 to 15 students, and they will spend approximately one hour with one of the kindergarten teachers doing kindergarten activities. Parents may sign their

prospective kindergartners up for the visit at the Parent Night.

If you know of any families with children to enroll in kindergarten for the fall, please let them know about these events for Kindergarten Round-Up.

### **Cold Weather**

Cold weather and snow are upon us. Please make sure students come to school dressed for outdoor activities during recess periods. Students are expected to go outside for class recess and lunch playtime. We keep students indoors only when temperatures (adjusted for wind chill) fall below zero. Students need to remove their boots while in the building. Therefore, we recommend that each student keep an extra pair of shoes in his locker to wear indoors in case they forget their shoes. Lastly, please talk with your children about our school's expectations regarding snow. Snow stays on the ground and snow structures are to be built not purposely destroyed by others. Thank you.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2008!

Sincerely,

Kathy

## Multicultural Committee Focus for 2007-08:AFRICA

### January multi-cultural activities

Lunch time choices: Six weeks: Fridays, January 11-February 22

- Week 1. African Art
2. African Drumming
  3. African Dance
  4. African Food
  5. African Wildlife, Echo-systems, Natural Resources
  6. Presentations from Burns Park, Tappan students, and outside speakers on African subjects

Parent volunteers are needed to help with Lunchtime choices!

### Assemblies

January 23: "Drum Me a Story" Wild Swan Theater Assembly (K-2)

Volunteers needed to assist with performers and lights (training provided)

### Coming up in February:

February 8: Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble, Youth Performance, University Musical Society

Music from the Arab traditions of North Africa and the Middle East, Grades 2-3

February 15: "Along the Tracks" Wild Swan Theater, Grade 4

Drumming residency: Teaching percussion based on African traditions in hands-on workshop, Grade 5

Families or individuals who can share experience, knowledge, interest or love for Africa are invited to participate and volunteer!

Please contact any of us:

Luciana Borbely (lborbely@comcast.net), Julie Cohen (jggico@hotmail.com), Cynthia Page-Bogen, Ruth Slavin (rslavin@umich.edu) and Violet Souweidane (souweidane@aol).

## Thomas Jefferson Visits Burns Park School

*The fifth grade classes enjoyed a visit by a Thomas Jefferson re-enactor from Colonial Williamsburg. He came all that way to talk about the Declaration of Independence and the importance he places on education. He was also here to promote the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation electronic field trip "Founders & Traitors" on December 6. "Thomas Jefferson" was enthusiastic, warm, dynamic and wonderfully knowledgeable, and students asked and answered questions eagerly. After "Former President Jefferson" was finished speaking, students scrambled to ask more questions and to get autographs. One girl even said, "He signed my cast!" Jefferson's visit was coordinated by Burns Park media specialist Rachel Erdstein and made possible by an anonymous donor. Teachers pronounced the event a big success.*

Here is one response:

Thomas Jefferson came to the Media Center on Tuesday, December 4th. He came all the way from Colonial Williamsburg.

He thought we were dressed funny, but he was wearing a three-corner hat, a long coat, a ruffy shirt, knickers, and tights, along with a bow in his hair. In his pocket, he had a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

According to him, we live in the state of Virginia. He arrived here by horse and it took a month and a half to arrive. He was shocked by the speed limit signs here. A horse can only go five miles an hour for you to ride comfortably.

He said it was not 2007; it was 1780. When a fifth-grader asked if Thomas Jefferson was there when the Battle of Yorktown happened. He replied that he wasn't there, and that it hadn't happened yet. It was going to happen in 1781.

When we talked about how they communicated with each other, someone suggested calling someone on the phone. He said he could call someone, but they wouldn't hear him from very far away.

It was a great experience to have him visit us. We learned a lot about the 1700's.

- Seetha, Obi, & Mildred from Mr. Cramer's class

## Burns Park Players Mark 25th Anniversary with “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast”

The Burns Park Players will celebrate its silver anniversary season in February with performances of the popular musical Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. You won’t want to miss this enchanting and colorful show, which is perfect for people of all ages.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 8 and 15, and at 4 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 9 and 16. All shows are at the Tappan Middle School Auditorium, 2251 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. For the first time in its 25-year history, the Players will open the final dress rehearsal to the public on Thurs., Feb. 7. Rehearsal begins at 7:30.

There are three ticket options:

- ◆ Reserved seating tickets are available for \$15 at Morgan and York Market, 1928 Packard, Ann Arbor, or at the door one hour before the show.
- ◆ Premium seating tickets (which include reserved parking) are available for \$30. For information on purchasing premium tickets, please contact Colleen Kollman at [colleenkollman@aol.com](mailto:colleenkollman@aol.com) or by calling 734-478-0449.
- ◆ Tickets for the dress rehearsal are \$5 and available at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m.

Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast includes all of the songs from the popular film, written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman (Little Shop of Horrors), plus new songs written especially for the Broadway version by Menken and Tim Rice (Aladdin, Aida).

The musical begins in a lovely French provincial town where the beautiful Belle lives with her father, a dotty inventor.

When her father doesn’t return from a trip to the local fair, Belle rushes off to find him. To her dismay, she discovers he is being held captive in an old castle by a horrible beast. She trades her freedom for his and the “tale as old as time” begins.

The 260-member cast and crew of Burns Park School area community members ranges in age from 6 to 87. Featured performers include Karen Ostafinski, Jon Wardner, Jeffrey Post, Clinch Steward, Jay Pekala, Lisa Mann, Bob Galardi, Dawn Korman and Zack Pearlman. In keeping with Burns Park Players tradition, more than 100 students from Burns Park Elementary School also are featured in the cast. Twenty-five students from the University of Michigan’s Alice Lloyd Hall are helping build and paint the sets, making this a true “town and gown” effort.

As in years past, proceeds from this show will benefit performing arts in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Since its inception, the Burns Park Players has contributed more than \$250,000 to AAPS students all over the district.

Director is Alex Puette and choreographer is Darren Biggart. The musical is produced by Susan Hurwitz.

The Burns Park Players was formed in 1984 by a small group of parents looking for a way to raise money to send their Burns Park Elementary School children to camp. Since that time, the group has grown into an active and unique community theater company that has maintained its original commitment to family-oriented musical productions.

To find out more about the Burns Park Players, please visit us at <http://www.burnsparkplayers.org>.

The logo for Anne Gilbert features the name "Anne" in a purple serif font above "Gilbert" in a larger purple serif font. To the left of "Gilbert" are three horizontal green wavy lines.

Associate Broker

734 657 7121

[AGilbert@Surovell.com](mailto:AGilbert@Surovell.com)

Burns Park real estate expert and parent. Neighborhood sales information at:

<http://www.AnneGilbert.com>

Edward Surovell Realtors  
1898 West Stadium Boulevard  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

### **\*It's the Coolest\***

The Burns Park Science Olympiad Team is beginning in January!

We need coaches! We need kids! Science Olympiad Team is a way for kids to have fun, and learn how to think like a scientist!!

The Burns Park Science Olympiad Team sign up sheet will be coming home at the beginning of January. Don't miss it!! Kids can participate in many different events. Second through fifth graders can participate.

Prospective coaches can sign up now, tomorrow, at midnight, before breakfast, after your favorite TV show, or while taking notes on your laptop during important business meetings. Just contact Sue Cutler, B.P.S.O. Team Head Coach: 995-5399 or [secutler@umich.edu](mailto:secutler@umich.edu)

We still need coaches for the following events: Boatmania (grades 4 & 5), Circuit Wizardry (4 & 5), Estimania (2, 3, 4, & 5), No Bones About It (2, 3, 4, & 5), Science Jeopardy (4 & 5); Sink and Float (2), Water Rockets (3, 4, & 5), Wright Stuff and (4 & 5). Afraid to coach? Be an assistant coach! Check out event descriptions at:

[http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards.home/events\\_2008](http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards.home/events_2008)

### **Penguins Care Club – What's in Your Lunch Box?**

Did you know that in America we use 2 million plastic bottles every 5 minutes? Penguins Care Club members now know this, as they learned about how to reduce the amount of trash we make at their December meeting. The kids were amazed when they saw some of the slides of trash created by artist Chris Jordan (see [www.chrisjordan.com](http://www.chrisjordan.com)) and a video clip about the stew of trash in our oceans. To do their part, they examined their lunches and snacks and discussed how to reduce waste by eating fresh foods and using reusable containers such as lunch boxes, cloth napkins and tupperware. Students also decorated cloth grocery bags that were sent home to parents in hopes that the trash reduction would continue.

### **Book Fair Success:**

#### **We Couldn't Have Done It Without You**

Once again, our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! In just four days, Burns Park students and their families purchased over \$10,000 worth of books. Students and parents were excited to see the great selection of books. Many students wanted to get the same books as their friends. I even overheard conversations between students about sharing books. It was a lot of fun to meet Geronimo Stilton, Mouse Detective, on Thursday evening. Teachers were thrilled with donations to classrooms. Profits from the sale (25%) will be used to increase our book collection, particularly nonfiction, in the Library Media Center.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in this highly labor-intensive effort. Special thanks to Nancy Vettorello for helping to coordinate volunteers. Thanks also go to Elizabeth DeRose, the Matossian family, Sonya Freiband, Gayle Rosen, Roopa Gurm, Karen Govern, Ed Hoffman, Kathy Sample, Helen Starman, Janice Lieberman, Julie Cohen, Andrea McNeil, Lynda Norton, Kim Mass, Srinath Kodali, Kelly Fennell, Garrett Scott, Krista Schulte, Betsy Capelli, Cindy Middleton, Kristy Demas, Cathy Wagoner, Beth Randall, Elizabeth Phillips, Jenny Jalet, Semra Koknar and my parents, Janice and George Erdstein for setting up, staffing and taking down the fair. Thanks especially to the generous donors who made it possible for every child to get a book at our book fair. Thanks also to Dave Lowenschuss, PTO treasurer, who helped me with the financial matters. I apologize if I've left anyone out. All of your help is greatly appreciated.

I hope that all who bought books enjoy reading their choices, and look forward to hearing about them from our students.

Rachel Erdstein and the Friends of the Library

## Thank you from the PTO Hospitality / Teacher Appreciation Committee

We would like to thank all of the Burns Park families who contributed to the Holiday Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. It was a huge success! The teachers and staff were overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity. We received many thank you notes afterwards expressing gratitude to everyone that worked on the luncheon. As one teacher put it, "I hope you know how much we look forward to this special day each year!". An extra special thanks goes to the Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation Committee for their assistance with set up and clean up. And more thanks to Lynda Norton and Ellen Moss for washing all of the platters and serving pieces! We couldn't have done this without the help of our wonderful Burns Park community!

Elizabeth DeRose and Leslie Sapp

Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation Co-Chairs

## In Memoriam: Juha Heinonen

We offer our sincerest condolences to the family of Burns Park 4th grader, Sanelma Heinonen, and her mother, Karen Smith, on the loss of their beloved father and husband, Juha Heinonen, who passed away this fall. Juha will be remembered as a brilliant mathematician and an outstanding athlete who achieved great success in cross-country skiing and orienteering. Juha had great appreciation for nature and the outdoors. Most of all, he was a kind, loving man who got tremendous pleasure from spending time with his family and friends. He will be greatly missed in our community.

## Burns Park Press Submissions

This newsletter is published monthly by the Burns Park PTO. Contributions from teachers, staff, parents, and students are welcomed. Articles can be sent via email (preferred) or placed in the BP Press box in the office. Articles for the February 2008 issue are due no later than **Friday, January 18**. 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.

## PTO Executive Board

### Principal

Kathy Morhous 994-1919  
[morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us)

### President

Helen Starman 994-8553  
[hstarman@comcast.net](mailto:hstarman@comcast.net)

### President-Elect

Elizabeth DeRose 677-0882  
[ederose@comcast.net](mailto:ederose@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

David Lowenschuss 623-9877  
[david.lowenschuss@pfizer.com](mailto:david.lowenschuss@pfizer.com)

### Secretary

Raleigh Sadlier 327-0534  
[sadlierfam@yahoo.com](mailto:sadlierfam@yahoo.com)

### Volunteer Coordinator

Janice Lieberman 761-7431  
[liebermanjanice@yahoo.com](mailto:liebermanjanice@yahoo.com)

### Burns Park Press

#### Editor

Anne Gilbert 657-7121  
[AGilbert@Surovell.com](mailto:AGilbert@Surovell.com)

#### Production

Sue Burke 930-2655  
[saburke@umich.edu](mailto:saburke@umich.edu)

### 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.