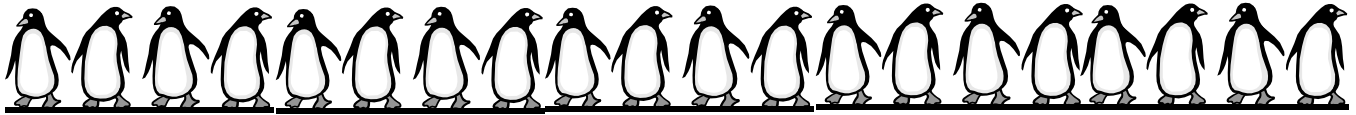


Burns Park Press



November 2006 - Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mark your Calendars: December 1: Report Letters go home December 23: First Day of Winter Vacation			1 Burns Park Bucks Order Forms Due	2 Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distribution	3	4
5	6 No School	7 Kids Care Meeting	8 Burns Park Bucks Orders Sent Home	9 Conferences	10	11
12	13	14 Conferences Oliver Auditions	15 Oliver Middle School Auditions	16 7pm PTO Meeting: Free Childcare Burns Park Press Articles Due	17	18
19	20	21	22 No School: Thanksgiving Break	23 No School: Thanksgiving Break	24 No School: Thanksgiving Break	25
26	27 Burns Park Bucks Order Forms Home	28	29 Burns Park Bucks Order Forms Due	30		

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Burns Park Mission Statement: All of our children will become confident, secure, caring individuals of a diverse community who are lifelong learners and achieve personal success.

From our Principal

Dear Burns Park Families,

Thanks for being willing to use the flag pole entrance door, sign in at the office, and wear a visitors tag when visiting with us. I know that sometimes this may cause an inconvenience, but safety is key and I thank you all for understanding.

We all enjoyed the Halloween festivities and thank our students and their families for making Halloween a fun and safe event. Even the weather warmed up so that we could enjoy our parade around the neighborhood. A special thanks goes to Ms. Jarosz (ELL teacher), who organized fun activities for those students who did not participate, to the PTO volunteers who applied face paint to students who forgot their costumes and the Kids Care Club who organized a costume drive.

Courage to Stand

Using inspirational real-life stories and dynamic visuals, three different kinds of "Courage" were demonstrated to our students through a multimedia presentation. The students really enjoyed the show. *Courage to Stand* kicked off the yearlong theme for our cross-age Community Circles that began October 25th.

The key points in the presentation were:

1. Stand up for one another – be a friend, stand together against bullies, reach out to others who are new or different, include others.
2. Stand up for what is right - stand in the face of peer pressure for what is right
3. Stand against fear– facing your fears, everyone has them, and showing courage brings its own rewards.

We will continue to work on building community and caring as we launch our *Courage To Stand* Community Circle activities this year.

Parent / Teacher Conferences

Our teaching staff will continue to meet with all families throughout the month of November to discuss academic progress, effort and achievement. All children will receive a written report on or before Friday, December 1st. If you have a conference scheduled in November, it is very likely that you will receive your child's report card the day before your conference. Please take time to review this report with your child. Point out what you are proud of and make sure your child understands what areas he/she needs to improve upon. Setting realistic goals with your child now can help keep them focused. Your support can make a big difference in your children's school success.

Report letter coming

Although I am sure that teachers explained the report letter during Curriculum Night back in September and/or during conferences, I wanted to give a few reminders to assist you in understanding it:

Social Behaviors

For both the K–2 and 3–5 report letters, the Learning Social Behavior Key is: S=Secure; P=Progress; and I=needs to improve.

Writing

In the K–2 report letter, writing progress is displayed on a continuum. The outcomes for the year before and the year after are displayed. Children are unique and sometimes master the outcomes quickly. Other times they need more practice and opportunity

for learning. When a student masters an outcome, it will be marked F=Fall, W=Winter, or S=Spring. Students are expected to master the grade level outcomes by the end of the year.

Progress in writing in grades 3–5 is reflected by B=Beginning, D=Developing, and S=Secure at fall, winter and spring intervals. At the end of each outcome the end-of-year target is noted.

Reading

The instructional reading level is reported in the K–2 report letters. A description of the text level appears in the dialogue box to help parents understand their child's level of text ability. The last box on the page will indicate whether a student is "on target," "below target," or "above target."

Reading levels are not reported after 2nd grade, though the end-of-year outcomes are listed and progress is indicated by B=Beginning, D=Developing, and S=Secure at fall, winter and spring intervals.

Math

For both the K-2 and 3-5 report letter, math outcomes are assessed after each unit of study. The expectation is that students reach the expected outcome (indicated by B=Beginning, D=Developing, S=Secure designations at the end of each outcome) by the end of the year. Students who don't reach the expected goal by the end of the unit will continue to work toward mastery throughout the year.

On line Language Learning

Did you know that if you have an Ann Arbor Library Card you and your children could learn a language through the Internet? The Ann Arbor Public Library sponsors the Rosetta Stone Language Learning Success

More from our Principal

program, free of charge, for all Ann Arbor residents. All you need to do is apply for a library card and register. With your library card in hand, log into the following website to register.

<http://annarbor.onlinelanguagelearning.com/en/welcome>

Go to the registration section and fill in your name and your library card number. Once you have registered all you will need to do to log into the website is enter the name and password you used when registering.

We think this is a wonderful support for our English Language Learners as well as our students who are learning Spanish through our Spanish Enrichment program. You may register from home, any Ann Arbor Library branch, or send your child to school with their library card and we will help them get registered. Students will be able to use this resource from our computers at school. If you have a high-speed Internet connection at home, students can go online from home. You can also use the language program from the computers in any Ann Arbor Public Library.

No School Nov. 6.

On Monday, November 6 there will be no school for students. Teachers will be writing report cards and participating in staff development opportunities.

Thanksgiving Break

The Ann Arbor Public Schools' Thanksgiving break begins on Wednesday, the day before the official holiday. The last day of school before the break will be Tuesday, November 21. Students will not attend school on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday November 22, 23 and 24.

Educationally yours,

From our PTO Presidents

Thanks so much to all those who attended the PTO meeting this month! We discussed academic enrichment.

Prior to the meeting, we had an exciting talk with Joan Singer, the Enrichment Coordinator at Angell School. Her information provided the basis for much of the discussion at the PTO meeting. Our next step will be to attend a staff meeting and collect ideas and limitations from them. Please contact our Academic Enrichment chairperson, Katie Chosid at (kchosid@yahoo.com) if you have ideas and thoughts on this. We welcome your input!

Also at the PTO meeting we approved Two Golden Apple grants both based upon parent ideas. The first is a service project for interested 4th and 5th graders/Kids Care Club members which involves purchasing fleece and making no-sew baby blankets for The Corner Health Center, a local non-profit organization. The other is an all school assembly featuring a performance by the musical group "Two of a Kind". The performance will tie in with themes discussed in community circles. We still have funds set aside specifically for parent ideas, and forms are available outside the office.

Our scrip fundraiser, Burns Park Bucks, kicked off this month. This is such a great fundraiser because it costs you nothing! There was participation this month by 41 families which was comparable to this time last year. With over 300 families at the school, we could do better! And Hiller's now uses a rechargeable card which makes it even easier. Remember, you can place your orders online at www.burnsparkpto.org/scrip/index.php, and you can even pay with a credit card so you still get those airline miles. Try it out...it's easy!

Our next PTO meeting will be Thursday, November 16 at 7pm in the library. Hope to see you there!

Kelly Bumgarner, President
761-5439
skbum@sbcglobal.net

Helen Starman, President-Elect
994-8553
hstarman@comcast.net

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.

PTO Websites:

Check out the websites for the PTO: www.burnsparkpto.org and

Penguin Talk :
www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/

When Should a Child Stay Home from School?

Children are most successful in school when they are present for as many school days as possible. However, children who are sick need to stay home if they will not be able to concentrate sufficiently for learning or may cause others to become sick.

To help reduce the spread of illness to students and staff, please keep your children home from school for the following reasons:

1. **Fever:** Your child should be fever free (without being medicated) for 24 hours before returning to school.
2. **Rash:** Check with your child's doctor before sending your child to school with a rash.
3. **Vomiting:** Your child may return to school after s/he has not thrown up for 24 hours and is back on a regular diet.
4. **Diarrhea:** If your child has had more than one loose stool in 24 hours, s/he needs to stay home to make sure s/he gets enough fluids. S/He may return to school after being diarrhea-free for over 24 hours.
5. **Colds:** If your child's cough is frequent or severe and his/her nose is extremely runny, it is likely that they do not feel very well and will not be able to concentrate sufficiently for learning. S/He also would benefit from more rest and fluids at home.
6. **Doctor Recommendation:** If you have needed to consult a doctor concerning an injury or illness of your child, check with the doctor as to when your child may return to school. If your child has been prescribed an antibiotic, check to see if your child needs to be on the antibiotic for 24 hours before being able to return to school.

When your child does stay home from school, please call the school office and let us know that s/he will be out and the reason for the absence. For some contagious illnesses, we send letters home to the appropriate classroom(s) and others we are required to report to the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD).

AAPS follows WCHD guidelines for when students should stay home related to communicable diseases. The Communicable Disease Fact Sheets are available at:

www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/ph_hltpublic.html/ph_hltpcds.html

Our entire staff works to provide a safe, healthy, and enriching environment for our children. Thank you for helping.

If you have any health-related questions, feel free to contact me.

Debita Graham, RN, School Nurse

Pager: 817-3701

Voicemail: 994-8292 ext 52338

Email: graham@aaps.k12.mi.us

Burns Park Library Birthday Books

Want to help build the Burns Park Library collection? A great way to do it is to donate a book in honor of your child's birthday!

Buy a book and Miss Erdstein will add a decorative book plate to the inside cover honoring your child on his/her birthday. If you'd prefer to have Miss Erdstein do the shopping, that's great too! Just fill out the form below or contact Miss Erdstein directly to make arrangements.

This is also a great way to celebrate your child's teacher! Your child's and his/her teacher's name will be written on the book plate.

Replacing lost and/or damaged books is expensive. The annual allotment for replacing books is tied to enrollment, which is lower this year at Burns Park. You can help maintain the collection by donating a book this year.

Please buy a book for my child's birthday!

Child's name: _____

Child's birthdate: _____

We'd prefer a book for the
fiction, non-fiction or Everybody section
(circle one)

Amount enclosed: _____

Art Room News: November, 2006

It's good to be back and start on another exciting year in the art classroom. Every classroom started out their art year by making Pinwheels for Peace. Peace is such an important part of all of our lives both at home and at school that we began our discussion about what peace is, where and who you can find it with, and how we can make our world more peaceful. This ties in with our school-wide goal of making our school environment a kinder and gentler place.

Each pinwheel has words about peace (sometimes in different languages) on one side and peaceful images on the other. We then constructed the pinwheels and they are colorfully displayed on the walls of Burns Park in honor of International Day of Peace (September 21). Enjoy them as you come to visit our school.

Fall Focus Festival

Last year's 3rd graders (now 4th graders) participated in a photography project spearheaded by Dale Fisher, a local aerial photographer. Each student used a disposable camera to take photos of subjects that were interesting to them. Mr. Fisher then selected the best photo from each student to frame for a photography show. That exhibit was shown on September 16 and 17 in Grass Lake. It was a fabulous show that featured photographs not only from students from our Burns Park community, but other schools in southeast Michigan. Congratulations! Stay tuned while I work to put the photographs up on my classroom website (www.aaps.k12.mi.us/burnspark.higgins/home).

The photographs are now at Burns Park and will be displayed in the auditorium hallway (media center side) through November. Please come and see them!

Please Save

Please save the following items for the art room. Your trash is our treasure!

- ◆ fabric remnants
- ◆ ribbon
- ◆ buttons, beads
- ◆ yogurt containers-all sizes (cleaned please!)
- ◆ gift wrap samples in Sally Foster ordering
- ◆ yarn
- ◆ plastic newspaper bags

Art Angels

What are they? Art Angels are helpers to the art teacher in many ways. Help can range from putting up and taking down artwork in the hallways, helping in the art classroom when an extra pair of adult hands would come in handy for

struggling young artists, or actually leading an art enrichment activity for your child's classroom or grade level.

No experience or expertise in art is necessary for being an art angel-just a willingness to come in and help where and when it's needed.

Come and talk to me if you have any questions, email me at higginsk@aaps.k12.mi.us, or call and leave a message for me in the office.

News Flash!!! 5th Grade!!!

I also would like to make an all-call for 5th parent help during clay house making time. For families new to Burns Park, 5th graders traditionally do large-scale slab building to make a piece of architecture. Students come as early as 8:20 am and work til they're done-usually about 11:00. A project of this scale could not happen without parent volunteers. No experience necessary. We are doing things a little differently this year to accommodate our large 5th grade classes: we are doing three sessions for the two 5th grades and we are scheduling students in alphabetical order. This time is tentatively scheduled for these Friday mornings (8:30-11:00 or any part of that time):

Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10
Alvarez		
Babbitt	Hoff	Robins
Bishop	Hu	Rojo
Blaauw	Hutton	Saint
Bott	Hutton	Sandweiss
Butz	Jones	Sapp
Cutler	Kelsey	Seel
Davis	Langa	Souweidane
Doyle	Lepola	Starman
Dressler	Lieberman	Steele
Epstein	Lupia	Surratt
Freshley	Lupian	Tappenden
Gago	Montiel	Taub
Ginsberg	Moravy-	Terrell
Hammerslough	Penchansky	Turnbull
Hayman	Morris	Veeser
Hershenson	Noor	Wilkin
Hester	Normolle	Williams
Hochster	Ortiz	Winston
	Rickman	Yeatts
	Rivard	

Family to Family Giving

We have made it a tradition at Burns Park to help some of our friends and neighbors who may have little or nothing to celebrate with during the holiday season with this program. Many of you may know first hand that the contributions that we have given in the past has helped many parents give their kids more than they could have otherwise afforded for the holiday season.

We are asking for your help again this year!

We will provide information and donation envelopes near the end of November to be collected through December 15th. The total donations will provide a holiday gift card for each family, taking into account the number of children that they have, that is selected within our community based on their need.

Please look in your child's backpack this month and return the envelopes in the backpack with your donation. We will collect them from the teachers. A collection box in the School office will also be available for donations.

Thanks for your help in this gift for others for the holidays!

Sincerely, Sara Figueroa (sarerefigueroa@yahoo.com)
and Theresa Reid (theresa@theresareidbooks.com)

Burns Park Kids Care

... about children staying at Mott Children's Hospital.

At our November meeting, the Burns Park Kids Care Club will be making fleece hats, craft kits and drawings for patients at Mott.

We would like to thank **Paesano's Restaurant** for its generous donation of 60 packets of crayons for this project. When we explained to the people at Paesano's what our club was all about, and what we planned to do for Mott in November, they jumped at the chance to help. Our club has received warm support from parents and school staff; it is nice for the club members to get a pat on the back from our neighbors, like Paesano's, too!

Meeting details: Tues, November 7 3:42-4:45

Rooms 306 (grades 3-5) and 307 (grades K-2)

Lunchtime Choices Seeks Volunteers & Ideas!

Lunchtime Choices is a program that takes place during the coldest months of the year (last two weeks of January until the Winter Break in February), and gives students the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of indoor activities. Parent volunteers set up and supervise the activities throughout the lunch/recess period of all grades (approximately a 2 hour time commitment).

We have many returning parents who have participated in the past, but we are always looking for more help! You can decide what fits best with your schedule – once or twice per week or every other week.

Some of the activities we have done in the past include: yoga, knitting, floor hockey, perler beads, origami, and lots of different arts and crafts.

If you are interested in volunteering for this fun program (and one of the students' favorites!), or if you have any ideas for potential activities, please contact Elizabeth DeRose, ederose@comcast.net. Thank you!

News from Walk and Talk

The weather hasn't been as cooperative as we'd have liked for Walk and Talk so far this Fall but the kids (and parent volunteers) have trudged on in the name of toe tags and physical fitness. We refuse to let a little rain and 32 degree weather hold us back. The kids have been amazing – working so diligently to earn their toe tags. We would love to see more parent walkers out there with us. It's a great way to connect with your child and other students during the school day.

Please join us Monday, Wednesday or Friday anytime from 11:15 – 1:20.

AuPairCare
LIVE-IN CHILDCARE

Veronica Saint

Area Director

veronicasaint@hotmail.com

Phone : 734.213.1570

Fax : 734.213.1571

www.aupaircare.com

Sally Foster Delivery

Thank you to everyone who made this year's fundraiser a success!! A special thanks goes to our top 3 sellers: Olivia & Sophie Jones, Brandon & Naomi Cutler, and Patrick Wellman who together sold almost \$1,500 – that's \$750 in profit for Burns Park!!

Orders will be sent home with the students on Thursday, November 2. They will be delivered the students' classrooms early afternoon that day. If you have a large order, you may want to meet your child at pick-up to help bring the items home.

Please review your order to make sure that all items received are correct.

If you find any mistakes, please contact Leila Surratt (369-4625, lyimsurratt@comcast.net) or Jill Stanevich (213-6777, jill@stanevich.com) **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9** to address missing items, returns or exchanges.

If you forgot to order or would like to order something more, you may still do so on-line at www.SallyFoster.com. Our school earns credit for every sale until January 15, 2007. When you're ready to check out, click "I want to enter a Group Account Number" and it will bring you to another page where you can enter our account # 253593. (Note, do NOT enter this number in the "Seller Number" field since the seller number refers to student ID numbers.) Items are shipped directly to the person and there's free shipping for any purchase over \$60.

Tuition Pre-Schools Are Up and Running

This fall the Ann Arbor Public Schools opened new tuition pre-schools at Allen and Thurston elementary schools. The pre-schools are housed in outstanding new classrooms that were especially designed for young children. Although the programs are new, the curriculum and design are the result of the district's long-term experience with pre-school education at the Pre-School and Family Center. Serving 3 ½ and 4 year olds, the teachers utilize Dialogic Reading, Pre-School Everyday Math, and other curricula that promote developmentally appropriate learning opportunities. Parents may choose from five scheduling options, including both full day and half-day programs. New enrollments are welcomed throughout the year.

For further information, check out the district's website (preschool.a2schools.org) or call 994-2234.

Burns Park Players Announcements

Many thanks to all those who came for the Burns Park Players meeting last month. OLIVER promises to be a great show!

Still looking for a few more volunteers:

Even if you've missed the meeting, you aren't too late!! We will be doing Oliver! this year and still have a few more crew spots available. We particularly need make-up people, but you aren't limited to that. If you can swing a hammer or sew on a button or direct traffic on show nights, we could really use you. It's a great way to meet new people, get involved with your community while giving away thousands of dollars to benefit the arts in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Please consider helping out this year.

Auditions

All those wishing to try out for the show should mark their calendars for **Tuesday, November 14**. Auditions will be held in the Tappan auditorium beginning at 7:00. We will be taking groups in shifts with a staggered start, so arriving promptly at 7:00 is not mandatory. Come prepared to sing dance, and act. All that fun in one night!! No preparations are necessary.

For those of you with middle-schoolers interested in auditioning for the part of Oliver, auditions will also be held in the Tappan auditorium on **Wed., November 15** at 7:00 with no preparation necessary. All callbacks (middle-schoolers and adults) will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00.

Hope to see you there!!

For information, please contact Susan Hurwitz susanh22@aol.com or 994-3508

Sheets and Tablecloths Needed

The Burns Park Players' costume committee needs your help! Please donate any old, worn-out or stained white and off-white tablecloths or sheets for us to make into orphan outfits for this year's production of Oliver. You can leave your donations in the box outside the school office or call/email Helen Starman (994-8553 or hstarman@comcast.net) to pick them up. Thanks in advance for your help!

Thanks a Million

A big thank you goes to **Julie Lawson-Timmer** and **Joel Dalton** for the time and energy they have put in to our new Kids Care Club, and also to their parent helpers Jackie Dalton, Jeannette Jackson, Ruth Slavin, and Dan Timmer. This fantastic opportunity for our kids would not happen with out all of you!

Thanks to the **PTO Executive Board** (Jennifer Kiely, David Lowenschuss, and Raleigh Sadlier) for reading and replying to lots of emails regarding Golden Apples.

Sue Burke, Anne Gilbert, and **Steve Norton** for their help in getting the online Burns Park Press off the ground. This is a big change, but it will save lots of time and money!

We appreciate the efforts of the **Kids Care Club** for organizing the costume drive, decorating a great collection box, and posting colorful signs throughout the school. They are also to thank for the Unicef collection boxes which came home for trick-or-treat.

We are lucky to have such **great room parents and others** organizing and coordinating Halloween parties. The kids love this day...many thanks!

Our kids will have germ-free hands as they eat lunch thanks to the **Chosid family**, who has provided jugs of hand sanitizer for before lunch use.

Kelly Bumgarner & Helen Starman

PTO Executive Board

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morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us

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Burns Park Press Advertising

Display Ads

We welcome ads for companies and services of interest to our Burns Park community. The BP Press ad size is a nominal 2.5 x 4.25 vertical or horizontal, roughly 1/8 of a page for \$35/ issue or 3 months for \$100. The ads may be enlarged to fit the available space, at no extra charge.

All ads must be submitted electronically to Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor (agilbert@surovell.com). File formats must be MS Publisher, MS Word, or PDF. Both the electronic ad layout and payment must be received by the published deadline for the issue in which the ad is placed.

Please place your check for payment (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 1919 Wells, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.)

Classifieds

Classifieds are meant to be used by the families of the Burns Park area to sell/buy personal items and/or services. Classifieds will be included on a first come, first served basis as space permits. Rates are \$.20/word.

All ads must be submitted electronically as text in an e-mail message to Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor (agilbert@surovell.com). Both the electronic ad copy and payment must be received by the published deadline for the issue in which the ad is placed.

Please place your check for payment (made out to Burns Park PTO) in an envelope labeled "BP Press Ads, attn: Treasurer" in the PTO box in the school office.

Questions?

Contact Anne Gilbert at 657-7121 or AGilbert@Surovell.com.

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 2006 issue are due no later than Thursday, November 16. Late submissions may not be included.

Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

Anne Gilbert