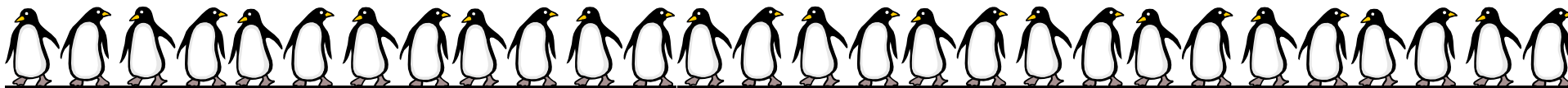


# Burns Park Press - November 2007



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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

- Wed, Oct 31: **Halloween Parade, 2:30**  
**BP Bucks Orders Due**
- Mon, Nov 5: **Parent - Teacher Conferences**
- Tues, Nov 6: **No School**
- Wed, Nov 7: **BP Bucks Orders Delivered**
- Thur, Nov 8: **Parent - Teacher Conferences**
- Thur, Nov 15: **PTO Meeting, 7pm**
- Fri, Nov 16: **Burns Park Press Articles Due**
- Tues, Nov 20: **Coffee with the Principal**
- Nov 21-23: **No School: Thanksgiving**
- Wed, Nov 28: **BP Bucks Orders Due**
- Thur, Nov 29: **Book Fair Family Night 6-8:30**
- Wed, Dec 5: **BP Bucks Orders Delivered**
- Fri, Dec 21: **Winter break begins at end of day**
- Mon, Jan 7: **School Resumes**
- Mon, Jan 21: **No School: MLK Jr Day**
- Thur, Jan 24: **4th Grade Concert**

Please consider a donation to the **Family to Family Giving Program!** The Burns Park Community has made a commitment to helping children in our area who otherwise could not afford to have a happy holiday celebration.

An envelope will come home in your child's backpack the last week of November. You can help this year by making a contribution that you feel comfortable with (cash or a check made out to Burns Park PTO.) Simply return your envelope in your child's backpack or in the drop box located in the main office and feel great about giving this holiday season!

Thanks in advance for any help you can give! The kids really appreciate it!

Sara Figueroa and Theresa Reid

**Book Fair!** Mark your calendars now so you won't miss our **Scholastic Book Fair!** The dates are **November 27 - 30**, including a special **Family Night on Thursday, November 29 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.** More on page 6!

Is all that **extra Halloween candy** just piled up at your house waiting to be eaten? We can always use your excess candy for Lunches With Love, the Tuesday morning lunches that our students help make for the homeless shelter!

You may leave the candy in a box opposite the office, or just bring it to the lunch room on a Tuesday morning!

## From our Principal

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Dear Burns Park Families,

Thanks for all of your patience as we tried to carefully respond to the directives given to us by the Health Department with regards to the possible threat of a measles outbreak. With the worries of the beginning of the month behind us, I think we were all ready to enjoy the creativity associated with our Halloween festivities. Special thanks goes to our students and their families for making Halloween a fun and safe event. Thanks also to Ms. Page, who organized fun activities for those students who did not participate, to the many families that donated costumes, and to the PTO volunteers who applied face paint to students who forgot their costumes.

### **No School for Students**

Remember that on Tuesday, November 6 there will be no school for students. Teachers will meet for professional staff-development and to write report cards. Thanksgiving break is November 21, 22, and 23. If you haven't already noticed, winter break is the week of February 25 and spring break this year is the week of April 7.

### **Dog Policy for BP**

As is the policy in the city of Ann Arbor, dogs must be on a leash at all times on the school grounds. We ask students not to pet other children's dogs on school grounds even if they are on a leash. Dogs should never be left unattended on school grounds, even if tied up to a tree, etc. Although 99% of the time dogs and kids get along famously, kids as well as pets can be unpredictable. Some of our students fear

dogs, especially large ones. Please help us keep all children safe by abiding by these guidelines.

### **Lunch**

Have you heard about the new Fruit and Vegetable Bar we have in the cafeteria? It is open to all students, whether they purchase a meal or not. It is free. We suggest that students bring a recyclable container if they plan to use the salad bar. This is available every day of the week.

Yes, peanut butter sandwiches are allowed in our cafeteria. We have a "no nut" table for students with allergies. Only students with allergies (bringing their lunch from home) or students eating a hot lunch from our cafeteria can sit at this table.

### **Coffee with the Principal**

I'm hosting a coffee for parents and guardians on Tuesday, November 20 at 9:00 am in the Media Center. Please drop in after the school day has begun for a cup of coffee and to chat. I'm here to answer your questions and am interested in hearing about how the school year is going. If you have a recommendation for a specific day or time of the week for future meetings, please let me know and I'll try to accommodate.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Attending Parent-Teacher Conferences is one of the most important ways to help your child be successful in school. It is a vital time of sharing between home and school. If you have not yet signed up for a conference, please do so.

Our teaching staff will meet with all families throughout the month of November to discuss academic progress, effort and achievement. All school conference nights will be held on Monday, November 5 and Thursday, Nov. 8. All children will receive a written report by Friday, November 30. 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.

### **Community Circles**

During the first few weeks of school our teachers taught the "Take a Stand Anti-bullying" curriculum. With this curriculum teachers engage your children in age appropriate discussions and activities to help them better understand bullying behavior, what that behavior looks like/feels like, what strategies students can use when confronted by a bully and what students can do to decrease the incidences of bullying.

I'm happy to say that Community Circle groups started Wed. Oct. 24. They are scheduled from 8:55 to 9:20 almost every Wednesday morning. During this time we review life skills and community building in small cross-age groups.

This year we are excited about a new partnership with the U of M Center for the Family. The Center staff will join our Community Circles to work with our 4th graders. They will facilitate some activities

## .. more from our Principal

that promote empathy, and tolerance as an extension of our community circle themes. We look forward to this partnership as we broaden our students' views of each other and the world.

### **Recess - 6 Steps to a Trouble Free Playground**

What is a Trouble Free Playground game? It is a game designed to promote, fun, friendships and exercise. Dr. Hinson, the author of the Trouble Free games, was a PE teacher who also had the responsibility of supervising noon recess. As he spent time on the playground, he noticed that most kids played sports games such as soccer and football. However, when they tried to adapt these games to the playground environment without coaches or referees, conflicts were common. Dr. Hinson used his expertise as a PE educator to introduce developmentally appropriate variations of these games. He refers to his modified games as "co-petitive." They are designed to be both cooperative and competitive. They are played in smaller groups and have clear boundaries that make it easier for kids to monitor their own games and effectively negotiate when disagreements occur.

Parents often wonder about these "co-petitive" games. The games include an element of cooperation as well as competition. The element of cooperation makes sure that all of the kids in the game can be active most of the time, not just the best players as in traditional sports. For example, in kickball, soccer and football the ball is passed to all players on the team, before the team can score. It then takes teamwork to score. In tag, we define a safe area for the game with cones so that the person designated as "it" has a

better opportunity of tagging another player. Once another player is tagged, they become the "it" team and that team continues to grow until all players are "it".

The games also have the traditional element of competition. Goals are still scored, number of runs determines the winner, last person tagged wins, and play goes to the other team when they take possession of the ball.

In addition, boundaries are set that help avoid arguments. For example we use flag belts to eliminate tackling or other physical contact. Flag belts are used most frequently with tag and football so that it is clear when the person has been tagged or touched. Players must pull the flag off the belt. There is no need to argue about whether or not you have been tagged, the flag in hand is the proof.

This fall two of the trouble free games are very popular with our older students: 4-Square, and 4 on 4 Kickball.

Four on Four Kickball is played differently than traditional kickball. The rules are designed to get more kids active and engaged throughout the game. The traditional rules have a lot of wait time. (This is fine when you have 2 hours to play the game, but not so good when you only have 20 to 30 min.) Under the traditional rules unless you are in the right spot in the outfield when the ball is kicked, you wait while others gather up the ball and try to pass it to a base to get the player out. The modified rules require all team members of the outfield to pass the ball to one

another until the ball is brought to the center of the infield – which stops the runner. In the meantime the kicking team is working cooperatively by taking turns running the bases. When all of the players on the kicking team have had their turn to kick, they switch with the outfield team. This keeps the game more active for all of the players. Yet still the team that scores the most runs is the winning team.

In 4-Square the rules are the same as the traditional rules, except that we keep the number of players to no more than 8. The challenge of 4-Square is to use your hands like a paddle in an underhand hit, rather than throw and catch. Some kids want to throw and catch, because it is easier. They have a better chance of remaining in the game by throwing and catching, until they become more skilled at hitting the ball. By keeping the number of players at 8 or less, the amount of wait time when "out" is significantly reduced. Thus we encourage kids to learn to hit the ball correctly in order to play the game as it was originally designed.

Your children are learning as all children learn. Please feel free to call me if you have questions about the playground or about any incident or complaint from your child regarding the playground. I'm always happy to investigate and get back to you.

Thanks for your support of our efforts to make recess a fun, friendly, active experience for everyone.

Educationally yours,

*Kathy Morhous*  
Principal

## From our PTO Presidents

Thanks to all who attended our PTO meeting this month. We had a presentation from Wendy Correll, executive director of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Education Foundation. The foundation formed in 1990 originally used funds raised through events to support teacher grants in the school district. As proposal A has eroded the funding that schools receive from the state it has become apparent that the foundation needs to take a more active role in supporting the Ann Arbor public schools; they will do this by acting as a safety net to financially support the breadth and width of K - 12 programs that our community expects the schools to offer. The foundation has just launched their first big fundraising campaign and will be looking to community members, parents, alumni and businesses for financial support.

Wendy stressed that the foundation is not in competition with PTO's and is different from them because their focus is district wide. However, the foundation will be working with PTO's to facilitate conversations about best practices, equity and sharing of resources to save money (i.e. three elementary schools could attend an assembly together rather than pay the "speaker" to go to each school) For more information about the

foundation, the grants they fund and the oversight and stewardship they provide please visit their website  
<http://www.aapsef.org>.

Our Sally Foster gift wrap fundraiser has ended! Thanks so much to all the families who participated by selling and buying gift wrap. If you did not get a chance to order it's not too late, you can order online (<http://www.sallyfoster.com>) and our school will receive credit.

The Burns Park Bucks fundraiser kicked off in October - you will have an opportunity to place an order each month! You can see what we have to offer anytime by visiting our website <http://www.burnsparkpto.org/scrip/> Remember that gift cards make GREAT presents for teachers, friends and family and help your school at the same time.

Our next PTO meeting is Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 PM in the media center; free childcare is provided in the gym. Hope to see you there!

*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)

## 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) once per week.

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 Katie Chosid at [kchosid@yahoo.com](mailto:kchosid@yahoo.com). Thank you!

## Sally Foster Sale Update

Thank you to all families and friends who bought Sally Foster products and magazine subscriptions to support field trips and Golden Apple Grants. We raised over \$7000 so far and appreciate your support! Special thanks to our top sellers and top classroom sellers. Teachers and students, you did a great job! Our top five sellers were Sophie Jones, Luna Johnston, Jake Ressler, Eric Steinhauer, and Isabelle Matossian, and our top Classroom sales were Mrs. Crankshaw, Mr. Cramer, Mrs. Pryce, Ms. Dworkin and Ms. Walters.

Remember, this is an ongoing fundraiser.

Log on to <http://www.sallyfoster.com> to place on-line orders. Orders over \$60 receive free shipping! During checkout click the "Give credit" button so our PTO gets credit for the order.

Thanks, Anne Steinhauer and Jen Osterwisch

## Art Room News



It's good to be back and start on another exciting year in the art classroom. We started our art year by making Tibetan Prayer Flags. Prayer Flags are part of the Buddhist tradition in Tibet, a culture that is endangered because of political repression. Prayer flags are made using traditional symbols of good luck such as the sky dragon, snow lion, dharma wheel (wheel of life), and many others. Prayer flags are placed high on mountaintops so that the wind can spread good luck all around the world. Every student in grades 1-5 made their own flag with either a traditional symbol or a good luck symbol of their own creation. Enjoy them as you come to visit as good luck is blown all around our school

### Art Room Open House on Conference Nights

November 5 and 8 I will have an art room open house for any parents who would like to drop by to see the project(s) your child is currently working on in art. If you desire an individual conference, we can arrange that as well. Come and talk to me if you have any questions, email me at [higginsk@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:higginsk@aaps.k12.mi.us), or call and leave a message for me in the office.

### Current Projects

**5th graders** are now drawing Aboriginal designs from Australia. Thanks to Patrick Wagoner and Evan Brown's families for bringing in traditional didgeridoos to show the classes.

**NEWS FLASH!!!** 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 an

architectural piece. Students come as early as 8:20 am and work until they're done-usually about 11:00. A project of this scale could not happen without parent volunteers. No experience necessary. Times are scheduled for these Tuesday mornings (8:30-11:00 or any part of that time): Oct. 30-Kreger; Nov. 13-Cramer; and Dec.4-Pryce. Demonstration of the techniques we will be employing will be on Oct. 23 for Kreger (9-10:00), Nov. 6 for Cramer (10-11:00) and Nov. 27 for Pryce (11-12:00). Feel free to come to any demo that is convenient for you.

The **4th graders** are studying Impressionism. We have been sketching outdoors in preparation for painting an impressionist-styled landscape.

**3rd graders** are in the midst of their puppet-making adventure right now and I do want to put out an all-call for parent help during the 3rd grade art time (Mon. 8:55-9:55 for Staples, 9:55-10:55 for Everett and 12:15-1:15 for Crankshaw). Helping to thread needles and simple sewing skills would be a great help for little hands.

**2nd graders** are embarking on painting landscapes. Mixing colors is a treat. Ask your 2nd grader how many shades of green and blue they mixed in art. Clay frames have been glazed and will be home for you to admire in the next weeks.

**1st graders** have their Kandinsky abstract paintings displayed that they created while listening to music. They will dazzle the hallways with color over the next few weeks. Vincent Van Gogh sunflowers are our current project. Look for their clay leaves and pinch pots to come home soon.

Finally, **Kindergarteners** have been introduced to the Line Family (so important in drawing and making letters), have made bear hats for their teddy bear picnics and are experimenting with color mixing through the adventures of three mice they met in Mouse Paint.

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

- ◆ plastic newspaper bags
- ◆ fabric remnants
- ◆ ribbon
- ◆ buttons, beads
- ◆ yogurt/dairy containers and lids-all sizes (cleaned please!)
- ◆ gift wrap samples in Sally Foster kits
- ◆ any gift wrap scraps
- ◆ yarn

### 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.

*Kate Higgins*



## Book Fair!

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss our **Scholastic Book Fair!** The dates are **Tuesday, November 27** through **Friday, November 30**, including a special **Family Night on Thursday, November 29 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.** Book Fair Week is an exciting time at our school, and we'd love for you to join us in making it a success. The Book Fair gives you and your children the opportunity to buy carefully selected, quality books and products at affordable prices. We invite you to participate in this celebration of books which raises funds for our school library media center.

This year's book fair theme is **Book Fair Blizzard.** So, why not join in to help make this Book Fair our best yet and help our customers "chill out" with a good book? You can also get some of your holiday shopping done early!



Be sure to look for the Teacher Wish lists so you can donate a book to your classroom. And please consider contributing money for our voucher program, which helps to make sure that every child can purchase a book. Voucher contributions can be made in the Media Center.

We need volunteers to help with decorations, promotion, setting up and packing up the fair, and working during the fair (including one evening). If you can participate, please email or call Nancy Vettorello at [vettorel@umich.edu](mailto:vettorel@umich.edu) or 668-0619.

As always, our Scholastic Book Fair promises to be a great event for literacy. We encourage you to attend and look forward to seeing you there!

*Rachel Erdstein and the Friends of the Library*



## Big Chickens at Burns Park!

In October, students in first grade, fourth grade, some kindergarten and some fifth grade classes, read the book Big Chickens in the Media Center with Miss Erdstein. We laughed; we discussed; we compared; we made connections.

Big Chickens follows four timid chickens on a humorous romp through the woods, as they manage to overcome obstacles and ultimately conquer their fears. For more information about this book and author, Leslie Helakoski, visit <http://www.helakoskibooks.com>. Ask your student to tell you about the book.

Big Chickens was the focus of a state-wide Michigan Reads! Program. Students across the state all read the same book this Fall. Thanks to a generous donation from Target, the state was able to send a kit, including the book and other resources, to all K-5 schools in Michigan.

This "one book" concept — community-wide reading programs where all participants read the same book during the same time frame — originated from the Washington Center for the Book in 1998 with "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book." The project was a tremendous success, and since then, similar "one book" programs have popped up in cities, communities and states throughout the country, including several here in Michigan, including Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Michigan Reads! is unique in that it highlights the importance of family literacy by focusing on a picture book. More information about this program can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads>.

First grade students at Burns Park also created "chicken art" with Mrs. Higgins during art class. You are invited to visit our adorable "chickens" on display outside the Media Center.

Anne  
Gilbert

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

## The Good News about Volunteering for the Ice Cream Social:

Hello Burns Park Families,

It's the time of year to begin collecting volunteers for one of our BIGGEST fund raisers at Burns Park, our Ice Cream Social!

#1 - It's not until the end of the year--Date: To Be Determined

#2 - There have been many, many capable volunteers before you so your committee job begins with detailed notes about what to do!

#3 - It's a big fundraiser for Burns Park!!

#4 - Who doesn't like ice cream (hee-hee!)

#5 - Gratitude will abound from all those children/families that attend! It's a really fun event!!

TO PULL OFF THIS AMAZING EVENT, WE NEED EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU

Until then, we just wanted to say 'hi' and find out a little information.

- 1) If you were a previous Chairperson, are you willing to Chair the same event you did last year, or a different one?
- 2) If you are a new volunteer, are you interested in finding out more information about any of the volunteer positions?
- 3) Do you just have any comments, questions, concerns, about the Ice Cream Social?

Please submit your answers/questions to: [linda@jossfamily.com](mailto:linda@jossfamily.com)

Thank you for considering volunteering! We hope to make this Ice Cream Social one of the best ones yet!

Your Chair Women,

Jane Wood (Jack, 4th grader, Mrs. Spiegel's Class)

Linda Joss (Annie and Kaley, twins, 2nd graders, Ms. Walter's Class)

## Concert Schedule

Please make a note of the following concert dates :

Wednesday, **January 23**, at 7 p.m.: **4th grade** (Mrs. Spiegel and Ms. Dworkin only) performing "I'm Gonna Let it Shine (A History of the Civil Rights Movement through its Songs)"

Thursday, **March 13**, at 7 p.m.: **3rd grade concert**

Tuesday, **April 22**, : **1st grade** concert at 6:45 and **2nd grade** concert at 7:30

**May 15: 5th grade** (Mr. Cramer, Ms. Kreger and all of Mrs. Pryce's class) performing "Original Compositions 2008"

All parents and students are invited to all concerts. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you.

Cynthia Page-Bogen

Music Teacher

## Classical Guitar Lessons

With Ryan Vanderhoof

Learn classical guitar techniques, practice and repertoire in an environment accentuating personal expression, discipline and enjoyment. Ryan holds a B.F.A. in Classical Guitar Performance from Ithaca College, '01

All ages invited.

E-mail: [rvanderhoof1@gmail.com](mailto:rvanderhoof1@gmail.com)

Phone: 315.730.8765

7145 W. Liberty Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

## Thanks a Million

Thanks to ALL the teachers, staff and volunteers who have worked so hard this month!

Many, many thanks to:

**Jennifer Osterwisch & Anne Steinhauer** for chairing the Sally Foster gift wrap sale!

**All the parent volunteers** who helped collate and distribute the Sally Foster gift wrap orders.

**Andrea McNeil** for her help in the office.

The **families** who have contributed to our Costume Drive!

**All the room parents and others** who organized Halloween parties and who helped children with costumes – the kids love this day!

Helen Starman & Elizabeth DeRose

## 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 2007 issue are due no later than **Friday, November 16**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

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

## PTO Executive Board

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**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.