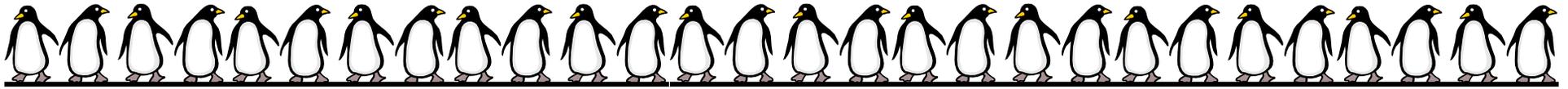


Burns Park Press - October 2008



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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.

Check out the PTO websites:

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>

and Penguin Talk :

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

Calendar of Events

-
- Mon, Sept 29: **Sally Foster Sale Begins**
- Wed, Oct 1: **BP Buck\$ Orders Due**
- Tue, Oct 7: **Picture Day**
- Wed, Oct 8: **Walk to School Day**
- Oct 14,16,21,23: **MEAP**
- Thur, Oct 16: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Fri, Oct 17: **BP Press Articles Due**
- Sat, Oct 18: **BP Used Book Sale**
- Oct 20,20,21: **BP Players Auditions**
- Thu, Oct 31: **Halloween Parade**
- Mon, Nov 3: **Parent Conferences**
- Tues, Nov 4: **No School: Election Day**
- Thu, Nov 13: **Parent Conferences**
- Thur, Nov 20: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Wed - Fri: **No School:**
Nov 26-28 **Thanksgiving**
- Fri, Dec 19: **Winter vacation begins**

Sally Foster Gift Wrap Fundraiser: You should receive your kits for the Sally Foster Gift Wrap Fundraiser on September 29. We hope you find many choices! With every gift wrap purchase, 50% of the proceeds go to Burns Park School. This is a great time of year to stock up on gift wrap (great quality paper), holiday items and magazine subscriptions. There is online ordering as well to provide easy access for extended family members. The sale will last through October 13. Please help us raise money to fund Golden Apple grants and field trips for the kids! Last year we raised over \$7,000 and hope to match that again! Any questions, please contact Anne Steinhauer (acws1012hotmail.com) or Jennifer Osterwisch (josterwi@gmail.com).

Pumpkin Patch, Kindergarten Style: Once again all Kindergarten classes will be putting a "pumpkin in the patch" in late October. This tradition celebrates the harvest, Writers Workshop and of course – Halloween! Parents and children are most welcome to visit on their own, but please leave those pumpkins and vines there for all to enjoy!

Happy Harvest, Susan Cramer, Elaine Stein, & Kathie Weinmann

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.

From our Principal

Dear Families,

Thanks to all of you who helped get our school year off to such a positive start! We have more new families this year than we have had in several years and I'm sure they appreciate all of your help getting acquainted with our school.

It was wonderful to see such excellent attendance at Curriculum Night. I hope everyone remembered to sign up for a Parent/Teacher conference. If you missed making an appointment, please call the office or your child's teacher. November is a time for you to meet with your child's teacher, for one-to-one sharing and planning for your child. Teachers have various Parent Conference Nights arranged; all teachers schedule conferences on the evening of Nov. 3 and 13. Our goal is 100% attendance.

Professional Development Activities / School Improvement

I am extremely proud to share with you the work we have been doing as a school to encourage and sustain difficult conversations about race, privilege and serving children without bias and preconception. All of us have participated in training with the *Pacific Educational Group*. Under the leadership of professionals like Glenn Singleton, Jamie Almanzan, Courtlandt Butts and Cyndie Hays, we are learning how to raise the achievement of all students while narrowing the gaps between the highest and lowest performing students and eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality of which student groups occupy the highest and lowest achievement categories.

We've met regularly over the past two years to analyze achievement data, practice courageous conversations, and develop personalized achievement plans for all students not yet meeting grade level expectations. We've read and discussed many articles, and several excerpts from **Glenn Singleton's book *Courageous Conversations About Race – A field guide for achieving equity in schools***. We've engaged in lively conversations during a book study of the book ***White Like Me*** by Tim Wise. Tim helped us better understand why the achievement gap persists and what we can do to eliminate it? It's a powerful book about racial privilege and its costs to all of us. I highly recommend it.

Last year our school Equity team attended three days of training with other Ann Arbor schools and brought back the information gained to the rest of the staff. Members of our Equity Team are: Kate Higgins, Jewel Walters, Carrie Dworkin, Jeanne Monts and me.

In August, our entire building had the privilege of working with Jamie Almanzan. Jamie's presentation focused on culturally relevant teaching methods and what it means to be a culturally relevant school. I believe that this work is in the best interest of all of our children and our community. As Glen Singleton wrote: *Listening requires not only opening our eyes and ears, but opening hearts and minds. We do not really see through our eyes and hear through our ears, but through our beliefs. It is not easy, but it is the only way to learn what it might feel like to be someone else and the only*

way to start the dialogue.

We will continue our work in this area as we identify a school CARE team. The CARE team will serve as the school's curriculum, instruction and assessment innovation hub. They will investigate, hypothesize, act, assess and reflect together to improve learning for underachieving students of color as a means to increase school-wide achievement over time. The team will be learning to sharpen their action research skills, collaborate around implementation of promising practices and develop cultural competency through a focus on learning and teaching.

We are so fortunate to have a staff dedicated to personal and professional growth with the end goal being to benefit ALL of our students and their achievement. We believe that through this work we are learning to address the needs of our students of color who are not meeting grade level expectations in reading, writing and math. We are also discovering strategies that kindle the curiosity for learning in ALL of our students.

Safety Plan

You have seen our safety plan, which helps ensure the safety of all our students as they enter and exit the building each day. Staff members greet students at the doors and buses every morning. We have identified a "trouble spot". Four classes line up at the parking lot door and we appreciate the number of parents that help supervise these students as they wait for the bell to ring. However, when the students who ride the bus try to walk along the sidewalk, strollers, bikes and adults often block their path. To

... more from our Principal

walk around these obstacles, they are forced to walk into the parking lot. This is an unsafe routine. Please help us by stepping into the parking lot or off on the grass so that the sidewalk is left open for students. Thanks for helping us assure the safety of all of our students.

SIT Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for parents/community members to serve on our **School's In Search of Excellence Team**. We will meet every other month at 5:00 just before the PTO meeting. If you are interested, please call the office or email me at morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us.

Picture Day - Tuesday Oct. 7

Professional photographers from SchoolPictures.com will photograph our students this year. This is a new company. Please let us know what you think of this new company to help us decide whether or not to stay with them. You will receive an order form prior to pictures as usual. However, you may order over the Internet. Regardless of whether you order photos of your child, your child's photo will be taken and will be included in the yearbook. The cost of the yearbook will be separate from the cost of the photo package. You must order a yearbook if you would like one. They will no longer come automatically as part of the picture package.

International Walk To School Day

Burns Park will participate in International Walk to School Day on **Wednesday, Oct. 8**. This is an international event! We will be joining school children

across the world as we walk or ride bikes to school on this day. Walking to school is a great way to start the day. Exercise gets the blood pumping and the brain working. If you live within walking or bike riding distance from school, please join us! Please plan to lock your bike in the bike rack.

Community Circles

This year, with the support of our PTO, we kicked off the school year with an assembly and some workshops from **Bucketfillers**. We will carry the theme of filling another person's emotional bucket with us into Community Circles, which will begin later in October. Over the past few weeks, teachers have been engaging students in age appropriate discussions and activities to help them gain a better understanding of what bullying looks and feels like. They are learning strategies that can be used when confronted by someone who is acting in a bullying way. Every family should have received a booklet called **Take a Stand**. Please review it with your child/ren. Our goal is to have students feel safe at school and on the bus at all times. Please let your child's teacher know if there are any issues with your child feeling safe at school. Thanks again for your support.

MEAP

The Michigan Educational Assessment program (MEAP) will begin Oct 14. Parents of third, fourth and fifth graders will receive more information from their child's classroom teacher about the testing schedule. The third, and fourth graders are tested in English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) and Math. Fifth graders will take the ELA and Math as well as a

Science test. All testing will be completed by October 23rd. Please help us avoid unnecessary makeup testing by making sure your child is in school on **Tuesday Oct 14, Thursday Oct. 16, and Tuesday Oct. 21**. In addition, on Thursday, Oct 23 the science sub test will be given to 5th graders only.

The MEAP test is quite comprehensive and can be a challenge for most children. If you would like to see items from previous tests, you can do so by going to www.michigan.gov/mde. This website has "released items" available to look at and even try. Feel free to use some of these items to help you and your child get comfortable with the format of the test.

Specifically, you can help your child do his/her best on the test by:

1. assuring that your child arrives on time to school on the days of testing
2. making sure your child gets a good night's sleep before testing and eats a healthy breakfast
3. reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if she/he does not understand the test directions
4. encouraging your child to do his/her best on the tests because the results will help him/her get a better education
5. letting your child know that you are confident in his/her ability to do his/her best

Please call your child's teacher or me if you want additional information or have further questions or concerns about the test.

... more from our Principal

Halloween – Friday Oct. 31

Our annual Halloween Costume Parade is a much-awaited event in the neighborhood. The parade will begin at 2:15 on Friday, October 31. Weather permitting, we will parade into the park and around the block. Students bring costumes to change into at the end of the day for the parade. We encourage you to come and enjoy. Classroom teachers decide exactly what their class will do after the parade. Some have small parties while others have special activities. Your child's teacher will let you know what is happening. For anyone bringing a costume to school, please follow these rules.

- ◆ Costumes may not be worn to school. Please bring your costume to school in a bag.
- ◆ Face makeup, hairspray, etc. must be applied at home.
- ◆ No fake weapons of any kind are allowed at school!
- ◆ No fake blood, no scary costumes. We encourage students to dress like a storybook or historical character or something else fun and positive! If it might scare a kindergartener, don't wear it.

Reminders

Students may not charge the payment of hot lunches or milk. Every child will be provided with a lunch. If they do not have available credit in their account, their lunch may be different from the lunch indicated on the menu. You MUST fill out and return the Free and Reduced breakfast/lunch application every year to see if you qualify. Even if you qualified last year, you must apply again before the end of September or you will be charged full fees.

We have a year of learning and growing ahead of us. Thanks for supporting us along the way.

Kathy

From our PTO Presidents

It's hard to believe that school has been in session for 4 weeks! We hope everyone has had a great first month of school, and that all of the students have settled in to their new classes and routines.

At our first PTO meeting on September 18, the 2008-2009 budget was approved. This year the PTO will have an operating budget of approximately \$40,000 with increased funding going to field trips and the following committees: Math & Science Night, Middle School Transition (a new committee) and Family-to-Family Giving. Thanks so much to those who attended the meeting and voted on the budget. Please note that these meetings are open to all parents in the school community and those in attendance are directly involved in the discussions and voting. Meeting length will continue to be one hour and free childcare is provided – please join us! Our next PTO meeting is Thursday, October 16 at 7 PM.

Our first major fundraiser of the year kicks off this month! On September 29th Sally Foster Gift Wrap catalogues and order forms will be sent home. Please take time to look them over and make your choices from the wide selection of items available. Our school earns 50% of the proceeds from every giftwrap purchase. This is a great time to stock up on giftwrap and more before the holiday season!

Our monthly scrip fundraiser, *Burns Park Bucks*, will also start this month. The first order will be due Wednesday, October 1 and orders will be ready for pick up on Wednesday, October 8. This is a great fundraiser because it costs you NOTHING, yet it earns lots of money for our school!

Finally, we have had many new families join our school community this year (including several international families!), so please be sure to say hello when you notice a new face!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact either of us.

Elizabeth DeRose, President

677-0882 or ederose@comcast.net

Lynda Norton, President-elect

761-1478 or lnorton@okno.com

Thanks a Million!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the students feel comfortable during the first week of school...we especially appreciate the volunteers who came to help in the cafeteria during the 1st grade lunch period.

Many thanks also go to the following people:

- ♦ **Ginny Rogers** for inputting all of the information from the Family Contact Information Forms into the database.
- ♦ **Steve Norton** for taking all of the new information from the forms and updating our database to create the school directory and class email lists.
- ♦ **Barbara Peitsch** for helping with the production of the school directory.
- ♦ **Helen Starman** for collecting and sorting through all of the Summer Learning Workbooks.
- ♦ **David Lowenschuss** for all of his work on the budget
- ♦ **Janice Lieberman** and **Helen Starman** for organizing all of the volunteers for our PTO committees and classrooms.
- ♦ **Katie Chosid** and **Marla Williams** for organizing the Fall Festival.
- ♦ **Kim Mass** and **Kelly Lohnes** for running the 5th Grade drink sales at the Fall Festival.
- ♦ **Leslie Sapp** and **Courtney Simon**, for starting our Walk and Talk program.
- ♦ **Jackie** and **Joel Dalton** for TWO things: starting our Native Plant Garden AND organizing participants for the Big House, Big Heart Run!

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers!

Elizabeth DeRose, PTO President
and Lynda Norton, President-elect

Burns Park Used Book Sale

Saturday, October 18, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

We need **YOU** to:

Donate: Gently used books, all kinds accepted. Bring to the school auditorium starting the week of September 15. If possible, please pre-sort books into the following categories: (1) children's, (2) adult fiction, (3) adult non-fiction. If this is too much trouble, no problem, just bring us your books.

Volunteer: We need parents to help with sorting, pricing and set-up on Friday, October 17. We will start right after the bell. We also need volunteers (both parents and students) to help with sales Saturday, October 18 starting at 8. We will be organizing two-hour shifts, so you don't have to stay the whole time. To volunteer, contact Helen Starman (hstarman@comcast.net).

Buy: We expect to have a wide variety of interesting books for young and old at very reasonable prices. In particular, there will be a marvelous assortment of picture books, alphabet books, Christmas and Hanukah stories, early readers, and many vintage children's books dating from the 1950s and 1960s. There will also be lots of books for adults – novels, cook books, history, travel, self-help, coffee table, you name it!

Snack: Ms. Kreger's fifth grade class will sponsor a bake sale to benefit a literacy- oriented charity of the children's choosing. (Thank you, Sandy!)

Bid: Looking for a great gift for the book lover on your holiday list? Check out the silent auction of rare books, including first editions by Dr. Seuss, Roald Dahl, Maurice Sendak, John Steinbeck, P. G. Wodehouse, Rachel Carson and Truman Capote, to name just a few. Also, lots of fun items, including set of 1950s-era "Dick and Jane" readers. See the attached summary of silent auction items, or visit our web site for a complete description.

Support Literacy: All proceeds from the book sale and silent auction will be earmarked for the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund (through the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation) and the Burns Park media center. **We will also accept cash donations, and hope to have one or more "matching funds" sponsors to make your contributions go farther!**

For more information contact Andy Thomas (athomas@med.wayne.edu).

The Karen Thomas Memorial Fund will honor Karen's profound love of reading, and her belief that literacy is essential to a successful and fulfilling life. The Fund will sponsor literacy programs for underprivileged children at the elementary level.

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 sixth 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, Kroger, Hiller's, Plum Market, Whole Foods, The Produce Station, Amazon, 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.

Kroger, Busch's and Hiller's sell rechargeable gift cards that allow you to initially purchase one card at the dollar value of your choice (as low as \$5.00; Hiller's starts with a zero balance). Plum Market cards linked to Burns Park are available at the service desk. 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.

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 [please send payment for your confirmed total order to school (with your child or placed in the BP Bucks box in the office) or mail it 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 29 with orders due by Wednesday, October 1.

If you would like to plan ahead, the order deadlines will be: Oct 29, Dec 7, Jan 3, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, Apr 29, May 27.

Any questions? Contact Cindy Middleton at cynthia.middleton@gmail.com or 623-1704.

Order On-line and Pay by Credit Card at www.burnsparkpto.org

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!

- Rachel Erdstein

Burns Park Players Auditions

Mark your calendars! Burns Park Players production of Annie Get Your Gun on February 5, 6, 7, 13 and 14!

Interested in getting involved? Email producers@burnsparkplayers.org as soon as possible to find out more about cast and crew opportunities.

Cast tryouts October 20 and 21, callbacks October 23! Please visit our website for more information, www.burnsparkplayers.org.

Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation Grants \$130,000 in Four Key Areas to Help Students Throughout the Ann Arbor Public School District

The Educational Foundation is pleased to announce our Initiatives for Excellence grants for the 2008-2009 school year. These grants support specific initiatives within the school system that would not otherwise receive funding and would likely not happen.

The AAPSEF is excited to continue funding for the My Access! program. My Access! is an award winning, web based writing program that builds better writers by instantly scoring student essays and by providing immediate instruction that engages and motivates students. This year students in grades 5 – 10 will use My Access!

New for this school year are three additional grants:

COMP Tutor Program: The Cooperative Outreach Music Program (COMP) provides music tutors to talented, low-income, middle school students who cannot afford private instruction on their instrument. The program provides one, thirty minute, tutor assisted lesson weekly for students currently enrolled in our school's band and orchestra classes, in grades 6 – 8.

Enrichment Coordinators: This grant awarded for elementary school enrichment coordinators will provide funding to secure the staffing infrastructure necessary for development and implementation of enrichment programming across all elementary schools. The new district-wide initiative is modeled after the successful Angell Elementary enrichment program.

ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN Assessments: In 2006 Governor Granholm signed into law, new graduation requirements called the Michigan Merit Curriculum. As part of this new law, the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) now includes an ACT component; and the MME is now a graduation requirement for Ann Arbor Students.

The ACT's Educational Planning and Assessment System is an integrated series of assessment and career planning programs designed to help students increase their academic readiness for college. The following are benefits from using ACT's system: increased educational achievement; students take more college preparatory courses in high school; increases students' college readiness; promotes educational and career planning; promotes college readiness of underrepresented minority students; and, promotes educational achievement in college, college enrollments, and retention in college. The EXPLORE assessment will be administered to all eighth graders and the PLAN assessment will be administered to all tenth graders. Guidance counselors will coordinate parent meetings to assist in interpretation of results.

"Each of these grants help us to directly support the Ann Arbor Public schools in areas that might not happen without the AAPSEF," said Wendy Correll. The Champions behind each initiative should be commended.

Initiatives for Excellence is the major grant program within the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation. The Initiatives for Excellence committee, composed of Educational Foundation board members and qualified community members, reviews and researches grant applications from the District superintendent and makes recommendations to the Educational Foundation Board for funding. The committee works in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Public Schools to assure that major grants are in coordination with the district strategic plan. The committee also provides ongoing oversight of funded grants to assure the success of the programs and responsible stewardship of the awarded funds.

Over recent years, with increased community support and contributions, the AAPSEF has grown from distributing \$35,000 annually to distributing more than \$100,000 annually. The Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation was founded in 1990 by a group of concerned citizens to enhance the quality of education in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. The AAPSEF, an autonomous not-for-profit corporation with its own bylaws and a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, is separate and distinct from the Ann Arbor Public Schools. To learn more about the AAPSEF or to donate please visit our website www.aapsef.org.

Contact: Wendy Correll, Executive Director
734-994-1969 or correllw@aaps.k12.mi.us

Ads:

1314 Minerva Road

Beautiful Burns Park family home with garage, available for rent. Walk to campus or Burns Park Elementary School.

Well maintained, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths plus finished attic and basement.
\$2,300 / month.

Call Chuck at **248-866-5173**.



Burns Park real estate
expert and parent.

734 657 7121

AGilbert@Surovell.com

Neighborhood sales
information at:

Associate Broker

Edward Surovell Realtors
1898 West Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

www.AnneGilbert.com

Babysitters! Two UM students available to care for your children. Live half block from Burns Park. Fun and experienced with all ages. References available. Own car. Weekdays and weekends. Call Jessie and Lisa. 313.701.9392 or 313.310.0273.

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 November 2008 issue are due no later than **Friday, October 17**. 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.

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