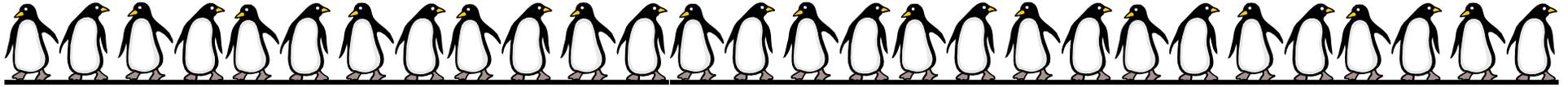


# Burns Park Press - February 2009



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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

Fri, Jan 30:	<b>Check Lost &amp; Found</b>
Thu, Feb 5:	<b>Kreger Class Blood Drive</b>
Thu, Feb 5,	<b>Burn Park Players:</b>
Fri, Feb 6,	<b>Annie Get Your Gun,</b>
Sat, Feb 7	<b>Tappan Auditorium</b>
Mon, Feb 9:	<b>NAAPID Day</b>
Tue, Feb 10:	<b>100th Day of School</b>
Fri, Feb 13,	<b>Annie Get Your Gun,</b>
Sat, Feb 14	<b>Tappan Auditorium</b>
Mon, Feb 16:	<b>No School</b>
Tue, Feb 17	<b>Kindergarten Roundup 7:00 PM (parents only)</b>
Wed, Feb 18	<b>Multicultural focus kick-off</b>
Thu, Feb 19	<b>Kindergarten Roundup (Children's Visit)</b>
Fri, Feb 20:	<b>BP Press Articles Due</b>
Fri, Feb 20:	<b>Check Lost &amp; Found</b>
Fri, Feb 20:	<b>Mid-winter vacation begins at end of day</b>
Mon, Mar 2:	<b>School resumes</b>

## Sandy Kreger's class blood drive...

Thursday February 5, anytime between 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the Burns Park Auditorium and Gym.

You can expect: A hand written thank you note, a goody bag with local coupons and treats, home made yummy baked goods, a personal chaperone, to be treated like royalty, and live entertainment!

To sign up:

1. Go to [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org)
2. Type in bpe for the source code (stands for Burns Park Elementary)
3. Fill out a profile
4. Schedule an appointment time

**Kindergarten classes will be celebrating the 100th day of school on February 10!** It's a special number and a great reason to celebrate math!

This happy occasion is a tradition at Burns Park, with collections of 100 things and special activities. (Kindergarten Families: Please help your child to begin a collection of 100 things. Great choices include buttons, paper snowflakes, pennies, little figures, tiny cars, bottle caps, yogurt containers: counting is what's important!)

Collections will be on display in Kindergarten halls. Check with Ms. Cramer, Mrs. Stein or Mrs. Weinmann for more information!

## From our Principal

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Dear Families,

Inauguration Day! It was truly a remarkable day. As a school we honored this historical day in many ways. We connected this moment in history to our country's "core democratic values" and to Dr. Martin Luther King's *I Have A Dream* speech. We watched the film *Our Friend Martin* together and discussed the connection between this historical inauguration and Dr. King's dream.

In addition to a variety of opportunities to learn in the classroom, our Community Circle discussions were inspiring as we spoke across grade levels of our dreams and how they are "deeply rooted in the American dream." We shared and talked about other books, lessons, and experience that have helped us better understand that it is everyone's responsibility to make the world a better place and all it takes is a dream and the courage to make it happen.

We plan to share with you some of our reflections during NAAPID day on February. 9. As President Obama encourages, we will continue to reach out to each other in school everyday and to others with our Lunches with Love program, a blood drive sponsored by the students of Ms. Kreger's class, and the Kid's Care Club collection of used eye glasses to send to those in need in Arab countries. We are looking forward to sharing with you during Parent Involvement Day, February. 9.

### Disability Workshop

Our 4th graders had the opportunity to learn first hand what it might be like to be disabled with the Disability Workshop that Helen Starman and her committee of volunteers organized for us. We can't thank you enough for making this opportunity available for all of our 4th graders.

### Break-a-leg Burns Park Players!

Don't forget to get your tickets for **Annie Get Your Gun** the weekends of February 6 and 13. Once again, the Burns Park Players will highlight many of our students as members of the chorus. And, of course, it is always a delight to see the parents of these children in the cast of the show. As usual, it promises to be a great show.

### Treasures and Wonders of the Arab World

Our Multi-cultural celebration kicks off on February 18. The theme this year is "Treasures and Wonders of the Arab World". The program will focus on the music, art, dance and language of Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Syria. The committee has put together several wonderful learning opportunities for our students during the months of February and March.

### Parent Involvement Day

**National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)** originated right here in Ann Arbor with our own Joe Dulin, principal at Roberto Clemente High School. The mission of NAAPID is to promote programs and activities that encourage the ongoing participation of parents in the educational lives of their children and to promote partnerships within the community. All parents are invited and encouraged to come to school for part or all of the day to experience the learning environment first hand.

Teachers will send home copies of their schedules to help families make plans for the day. We are planning to kick off the day with an all-school assembly. A Quartet from Detroit will perform a repertoire of African American spiritual and jazz music for us. Then we'll conclude the assembly with our 2nd graders leading us in the song Martin Luther King. We hope that you will join us for all or part of the day. Refreshments will be served in the auditorium through out the day.

**Calling All New Families:** If you have a child who will be eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall (five years old on or before December 1, 2009), please call the school office so that we can answer your questions about enrollment for kindergarten and add your child's name to our list.

## ... more from our Principal

### Kindergarten Round-Up & Visit

**Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 PM (parents only)**

**Thursday, February 19 in the afternoon (Children's Visit)**

Kindergarten Parent Orientation is the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 7:00. During this meeting we'll talk about our kindergarten program and answer any questions you may have. You will have a chance to visit the kindergarten classrooms and to see some slides of children in action during the regular kindergarten day. We will also distribute all the necessary enrollment forms. Since this meeting is designed for parents, the PTO will provide childcare as they do for PTO meetings. Pre-registration is required, so if you will need childcare that evening please call the school office.

The following Thursday on the 19th, 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 about an hour with one of the kindergarten teachers doing kindergarten activities.

If you know of any families with children to enroll in kindergarten for the fall, please let them know about these two dates for Kindergarten Round-Up and encourage them to call the school office at 994-1919.

**School will be closed for mid-winter break** the week of Feb 23. School resumes on Monday morning March 2. We'll kick off our celebration of March is Reading Month as soon as we return from break. I hope everyone has a safe and pleasant break.

Fondly,  
Kathy

## From our PTO Presidents

Prior to January's PTO meeting, we had an informative and interesting presentation by Stacey Lundgren from the Bucket Fillers for Life program. She shared how the program started, what it means to be a "bucket filler" and ways to bring this wonderful concept in to our everyday family life. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who braved the arctic temperatures to attend!

This month almost 100 Burns Park students will be performing in the Burns Park Players production of "Annie Get Your Gun!" on the weekends of February 6 and 13. Please show your support for these students and the Burns Park Players by attending this fun family show! The Burns Park Players are very generous in their support of our school – in the past few years they have paid for microphones in the auditorium, a new piano and many, many field trips. For more information about ticket sales and the Burns Park Players please visit their website [www.burnsparkplayers.org](http://www.burnsparkplayers.org).

There will be no PTO meeting in February, but we look forward to seeing you at our March 19 meeting; as always, free childcare is provided in the gym.

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

Lynda Norton, PTO President-elect  
[lnorton@okno.com](mailto:lnorton@okno.com) or 761-1478

## Burns Park Science Olympiad Team

The Science Olympiad Team is just getting started. If your child has interest in participating, please contact Sue Cutler ([secutler@umich.edu](mailto:secutler@umich.edu)), Head Coach. Our Team will be practicing regularly between now and WESO on Saturday, May 16th. Many practices are Sunday afternoons; some practices will be on other days: check with the Head Coach to get specific information. If you'd like to see a list of events, go to [www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards.home](http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards.home)

We are truly lucky to have so many parent volunteers to support this program! Special thanks go to our new Event Supervisors, Meg Wallace, Abigail Hohner and Mary Anne Purtill. These people will run events at WESO, and so they support this effort at a very high level! Our coaches, new and continuing, honor us all by their outstanding efforts and enthusiasm! Please thank them! They are: Pat Gibson, Roopa Gurm, Jeff Fessler, Abigail Hohner, Emma Huntley, Isabelle Davignon, Yeong Kwok, Cathy Kim, Nancy Vettorello, Caren Goldberg, Ed Huang, Dave Burke, Monica Valluri, Cindy Middleton, Steven Norton, Valerie Tesmer, and John Tesmer.

## Burns Park Community Raises \$20,000 For Literacy Programs

Thanks to many members of the Burns Park Community, the used book sale was a huge success! Altogether, the book sale, bake sale and silent auction generated \$1,180 for the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund and \$1,000 for the Burns Park PTO. After expenses, the PTO will contribute \$800 to the media center.

The Karen Thomas Memorial Fund also received over \$9,000 in direct donations, which generated another \$9,000 in matching funds. All together, we raised over \$20,000 to support literacy programs in Ann Arbor! The total endowment of the Karen Thomas Memorial Fund now stands at just over \$33,000.

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation will administer the Fund, which will promote reading and literacy among disadvantaged elementary school children in the Ann Arbor District. Specific plans for use of the Fund are being developed.

Here's a big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this project, whether by buying a book, bidding at the silent auction, volunteering for the sale, or making a direct donation. In particular, I would like to thank Steve Norton for developing the on-line auction site, Helen Starman for coordinating all the volunteers, and Sandy Kreger for volunteering her fifth grade class to take charge of the bake sale.

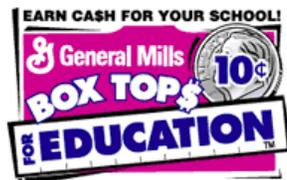
Andy Thomas

## 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



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**Call for details, references**

## Burns Park Players Hits the Mark with “Annie Get Your Gun”

The Burns Park Players takes aim this season with Irving Berlin’s classic musical Annie Get Your Gun. The musical presents a fictional version of the life of sharpshooter Annie Oakley and her husband Frank Butler. Delightful and whip-smart, it is entertaining and enjoyable for all ages.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 6, Sat., Feb. 7 and Fri., Feb. 13, and at 4 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 14. All shows are at the Tappan Middle School Auditorium, 2251 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. The final dress rehearsal is also open to the public on Thurs, February 5. Rehearsal performance 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 Ken Kollman by calling 734-478-0449.
- ◆ Tickets for the dress rehearsal are \$5 and available at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m.

Ticket sales begin January 26.

Originally produced on Broadway in 1946, Annie Get Your Gun’s revivals have won multiple Tony Awards. Its songs, with music and lyrics written by Irving Berlin, include such hits as “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” “Anything You Can Do,” and “Doin’ What Comes Naturally.”

The show follows brilliant riflewoman Annie Oakley as she is persuaded to join Buffalo Bill’s traveling Wild West

Show. Annie quickly falls in love with its main attraction: Frank Butler. When Annie eclipses Frank as the show’s main draw, Frank runs off, leaving Annie heartbroken. When they meet again, love is victorious as Annie and Frank, sharpshooting partners, learn to live together.

The 170-member cast and crew of Burns Park School area community members ranges in age from 6 to 88. Featured performers include Eva Rosenwald, Jeffrey Post, Dawn Korman, Hannah Pearlman, Neal Kelley, Bob Galardi, Jud Hoffman, Tom Bourque, Eric Middleton, and Chip Letts. In keeping with Burns Park Players tradition, more than 90 students from Burns Park Elementary School also are featured in the cast.

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 \$270,000 to AAPS students all over the district.

Director is Courtney Burkett, music director is Eric Lofstrom and choreographer is Mary Michael Patterson. The musical is produced by Sara Meingast, Kathy Koehler and Helen Starman.

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 [www.burnsparkplayers.org](http://www.burnsparkplayers.org).

## Burns Park Players Concession Sales Benefit 5th Grade Graduation

Burns Park 5th grade students and their families look forward to serving you with a smile at the two concession stands open during intermission of this year’s performances of Annie Get Your Gun. We’ll also have one stand open both before and after the show. We’ll have everything you expect at a first-rate evening of the theater: drinks, snacks, and, of course, flowers for your favorite performer.

Money raised through concession sales goes directly to fund the activities of 5th grade graduation, making it possible for every one of our 5th graders to enjoy a week they’ll always remember.

We look forward to seeing you during the play, and thanks for your support!

Kim Mass and Kelly Lohnes, 5th grade graduation co-chairs and the Burns Park class of 2009

## Second-Hand Smoke

Everyone knows that smoking is bad for smokers, but those around smokers can also sustain serious health affects from being around second-hand smoke. Now research has also shown that being around third-hand smoke can transfer the dangerous toxins.

Second-hand smoke is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar, and the smoke that is exhaled from the lungs of the smoker. Third-hand smoke is the contamination that lingers even after the tobacco product has been extinguished – the tobacco residue in the smoke that settles on hair, skin, clothing, furniture, carpeting, and other surfaces.

Why should parents be concerned about second-hand and third-hand smoke?

- ◆ The second-hand smoke and the third-hand smoke residue left behind include heavy metals, carcinogens, and other toxic substances.
- ◆ Children who breathe second-hand smoke are more likely to develop pneumonia, bronchitis, ear infections, and asthma.
- ◆ Second-hand smoke is linked to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
- ◆ Babies whose mothers smoke while pregnant or who are exposed to second-hand smoke after birth have weaker lungs than other babies. Exposure to second-hand smoke slows lung growth in children.
- ◆ Babies are 20 percent more likely to be born low-birth weight if their mother was exposed to second-hand smoke during the pregnancy.

- ◆ Small children can inhale, crawl on, play on, touch, and mouth surfaces contaminated with the toxic particulate matter from tobacco smoke.
- ◆ Low levels of tobacco residue from third-hand smoke have been associated with cognitive deficits among children with the higher the exposure level, the lower the reading score.
- ◆ Second-hand smoke immediately affects the heart and blood circulation in a harmful way. Over a longer time it also causes heart disease and lung cancer.

The Surgeon General has stated that there is no risk-free level of second-hand smoke.

- ◆ Any exposure to second-hand or third-hand smoke has been found to have ill effects.
- ◆ Here are some things that you can do to reduce your child's exposure to second-hand and third-hand smoke:
  - ◆ Quit smoking and/or help those around your child to quit smoking.
  - ◆ Go online to [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org) , [www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov) , [www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco) for resources for quitting.
  - ◆ Talk to your doctor about the different over-the-counter and prescription medications available to help you quit smoking.
  - ◆ If you do not have internet access, call 1-800-QUITNOW (1-800-784-8669), or the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345, or the American Lung Association at 1-800-586-4872

- ◆ Choose not to smoke in your home and don't permit others to do so.
- ◆ If you smoke, smoke outside only.
- ◆ Choose not to smoke if children are present, especially infants and toddlers.
- ◆ Don't allow baby-sitters or others who work in your home to smoke in the house or near your children.
- ◆ Choose not to smoke in your car and do not let others smoke in your car.
- ◆ When you go to restaurants, choose smoke-free restaurants or at the very least sit in the no-smoking section.

Quitting smoking and keeping a smoke-free home and car can help improve your health, your children's health, and the health of your community.

Debita Graham

## Thanks a Million!

### Thanks to:

**Patricia Silverman**, for baking cookies for our January PTO meeting and Bucketfillers presentation.

**Katie Chosid** and **Helen Starman** and the many parent volunteers, for organizing and running our Lunchtime Choices program.

**Kathy Sample**, for helping to take pictures during Community Circle time.

Elizabeth DeRose and Lynda Norton

## 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 March 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, February 20**. 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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