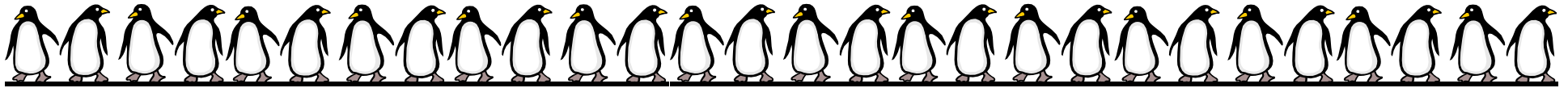


Burns Park Press - May 2009



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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.

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.

Calendar of Events

-
- Thur, Apr 30: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Check Lost & Found**
- Sun, May 3: **Burns Park Run**
- Thu, May 7: **5th Grade Original Composition Concert**
- District Library Show**
- Wed, May 13: **Incoming 6th Grade Orientation at Tappan**
- Tue, May 19: **BP Players Spring Meeting**
- Wed, May 20: **Ice Cream Social, 5:30-7:30**
- Thu, May 21: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Fri, May 22: **BP Press Articles Due**
- Mon, May 25: **No School: Memorial Day**
- Wed, May 27: **5th Grade Instrumental Music Concert, 7pm**
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon**
- Fri, May 29: **Check Lost & Found**

Burns Park Run: Sunday, May 3, 2009, 8:30am

<http://www.burnsparkrun.org>

Ice Cream Social: Wednesday May 20, 5:30-7:30

Help is still needed! Please contact Jane Wood at joeljanejack@yahoo.com if you can volunteer for a shift or two that evening. (Rain date is Thursday May 21.)

Burns Park Players Spring Meeting will be held on Tues, May 19 at 7:30 in the Burns Park media center. We will have a recap of last year's show, look at the new by-laws that our by-laws committee has been hard at work on, the election of new members to the board, discussion of next year's show, and much more!! Please plan to attend--and if you are not a member of the Players but are curious and would like more info--we'd love to see you there!

Spring Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon

As spring has arrived and people are planning the end of the school year now is our chance to show our appreciation to all who teach and take care of our children. With your help we shall celebrate this event on Wednesday, May 27. Lookout for information on how you can contribute in back pack mail. The Hospitality Committee.

Check out the **PTO websites:**

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>

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

From our Principal

Dear Families,

MEAP

Scores for individual students will be mailed home as soon as they arrive. They are expected the week of April 27. If you don't receive yours, please contact the office. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call your child's teacher or me. We'd be happy to go over the report with you. MEAP is the state assessment test given to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in October. As a staff we have looked at these results for grade level trends and individual progress. We've compared this assessment data with the assessments we do daily with children in the classroom.

The state of Michigan reports achievement data for all students as well as sub populations of students by ethnicity, disability, and English Language Learners (ELL). Understandably, the state does not report sub populations when that population is statistically too small. In order for a sub population to be reported for any individual school, there must be greater than 10 students in that specific sub population at one grade level.

Although our total ethnic diversity is greater than 10 students in each grade, we usually don't have more than 10 students from any one ethnicity, disability or ELL sub group in a grade. In some grades a sub population may be a reflection of only 1 or 2 students, while in another grade it might be 10 to 12 students. To help us better understand what is happening for all of our students, the district reports this data for us no matter how small the sub group. We then examine it to help us better understand

how to reach the academic needs of all of our students.

I'm extremely proud of the hard work that the staff does to make sure all students are meeting or exceeding the grade level benchmark standards. Specifically with these results, I'm happy to report that:

- ◆ Our 4th grade writing scores increased significantly from 66% of our students to 74% proficient.
- ◆ Overall our writing scores are significantly above the state scores.
- ◆ In all three grades, all of our students did very well in reading and math.

Our challenge will be to continue to improve writing scores for all students, but especially for our minority students. We believe we have a great writing program. With this program, our students get many opportunities to learn from the writing of other authors. We frequently discuss the writing styles of authors of children's books and picture books and we use their thoughts and words as models for our own writing. When we look at our reluctant writers, we know that we must continue to make writing fun and interesting, but also make sure they are writing more every day. Just as with anything else, improvement takes practice.

We will continue to develop individualize plans for students who are not performing "on target" for their grade level. With these plans we identify short term interventions to help children move forward

and then modifying and adjusting as we track their progress. We won't be happy until 100% of our students are proficient or above in all academic areas.

We will continue to work to broaden our bilingual student's knowledge of English vocabulary.

Lastly, we will continue to differentiate our curriculum to challenge all students to meet their potential. With so many of our students scoring so well, we know that they can exceed these standards and will expect nothing less.

Michigan Educational Assessment Program				
<i>(Values reflect the % of students who achieved at the Proficient level or higher.)</i>				
	2006	2007	2008	State - 2008
Reading				
3 rd	92	92	96	87
4 th	98	98	97	83
5 th	93	93	92	81
Writing				
3 rd	81	85	88	61
4 th	65	66	74	44
5 th	77	86	82	63
Math				
3 rd	98	96	97	91
4 th	98	96	97	88
5 th	91	96	95	77
Science	2006	2007	2008	
5 th	95	95	92	
State	82	82	83	

... more from our Principal

Should you have any questions about the MEAP test results, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Burns Park Run and Assembly

Once again, we look forward to a pre-run visit from another Olympic contender. This year the Burns Park Run will bring us Sheila Taormina and Cheryl Hayworth. We thank Jackie and Joel Dalton and Jill Hunsberger for chairing this years events and bringing these Olympians to us for a visit.

Sheila tried to visit us last year, but her Modern Pentathlon training schedule for the Olympics required her to put it off until this year. Sheila placed 19 overall (1st place in two of the five events: swimming and equestrian show jumping) in the 2008 Olympic games, Beijing. The Modern Pentathlon events are pistol shooting, epee fencing, 200 meter swim, stadium show jumping and 3 kilometer run. Prior to the 2008 Olympic Games, she earned a Gold medal for swimming in the 4x 200 meter freestyle relay in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. She will share with us how her philosophy of "call the suit – take the hand you are dealt and make your dreams come true" helped her become an Olympic champion in one sport, World champion in another and World Cup Standing leader in a third.

Cheryl Haworth will also visit us. In 1998, at age fifteen, Cheryl became the youngest lifter to hold senior American records. She has won numerous awards, including a bronze Olympic medal in 2000. She continues to train and compete in the sport of women's weight lifting.

Once again, students participating in the Walk and

Talk Club are invited to join the runners. A big thanks goes to Leslie Sapp and Courtney Simon for chairing the committee of many volunteers who have coached these children to get them ready for the run.

School Improvement Team (SIT) Members Needed

Each year we look for new member of our School Improvement Team (SIT). These positions won't begin until next fall. No experience necessary! The team is looking for parents and or community members to replace retiring members. This is a great opportunity for you to help make a difference. We look for members that represent all of the neighborhoods that attend our school.

The School Improvement Team is made up of teachers, staff, parents and the Principal working together to improve student achievement. The team meets to review student achievement data and provides valuable input to the staff as we revise and update our school improvement plan. We encourage members to serve on the team for two years. Please call me at 994-1919 or drop a note in my mailbox or the SIT's mailbox to express your interest.

Sumer School Programs

The district will once again offer the Summer Learning Institute from July 6 to through July 30. It will be held at Ann Arbor Open School at Mack, and Forsythe Middle School. The Institute will serve students that will be in 1st, 3rd, 4th and 6th grade in the fall. If your child was recommended for this program, you should have already heard from your child's teacher. Applications are due April 29.

World Language Class

The district will begin to offer Spanish to all 3rd grade students next fall through a unique partnership with the University of Michigan. We are very happy that because of your support of the Foreign Language Initiative, we will continue to offer Spanish to our 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th grade students next year. We are all very excited about this district partnership with the University of Michigan.

Class Placements

Final decisions regarding staffing or teacher assignments will not be made until August. Tentatively, we are scheduled for 3-Kindergarten and first grade classrooms, 4- second grade classes, and 3- third, fourth and fifth grade classes. All teachers have asked to remain teaching the same grade they taught this year, except Mr. Cramer. He will be teaching a fifth grade class rather than a combination. We will be adding a new fourth grade teacher to our staff. That teacher has not yet been identified.

Class configurations will not be finalized until late August when our student numbers are close to being confirmed. However, we are considering student placement now. We will thoughtfully and thoroughly consider all factors when designing a balanced classroom community. Most families feel comfortable leaving class placements of their children up to the teaching staff. However, for those that wish input, the window for parent input closes as of the end of the day Friday, May 1.

... more from our Principal

Reminders

- ◆ Please remember that there is a “no credit” policy for lunches. If your child does not have the money for lunch, s/he will be charged and receive an alternative meal. Please make sure all lunch accounts are kept up-to-date.
- ◆ Remember that your child will not be allowed to enter 6th grade unless all vaccines are up to date (Public Act 89 of 2000 and Public Act 368 of 1978).
- ◆ Please let us know if you will not be returning to Burns Park in the fall. Accurate enrollment information will help us with our planning.

Educationally yours,
Kathy Morhous

AAATAAA Show

The Ann Arbor Art Teacher and Alumni Association is having their annual Spring Show. I'd like to invite the entire Burns Park Community to a fun evening of art, music from the Community High School Jazz Band and light refreshments.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti

April 30-May 30

Opening Reception

May 2, 5:00-7:00

We'd love to see you there!

Students Survive Camp Read-a-Lot!

March may seem like a long time ago, but, during the three and a half weeks between March 4 and March 27, our students read (or others read to them) an amazing number of minutes. We tallied over 325,000 minutes and many students met their weekly reading goals! Congratulations to Teams Deer, Fox, Moose and Porcupine! Team Deer read the most minutes of all the teams. In honor of their victory, I've added a new deer stuffed animal to the library collection.

March is Reading Month Activities

At our kickoff assembly on March 4, local storyteller and librarian Laura Pershin Raynor told stories around the campfire. She wowed students with her animated tales and charmed them with her smile. We're very lucky to have her in our community.

Throughout the month, there was a Camp Read-a-Lot Trivia Game in which a question was read over the P.A. system, and classes tried to figure out the answer. From the correct responses, one or two classrooms were chosen at random to win the honor of hosting the Camp Read-a-Lot mascot bear for the day.

I saw and heard about special reading guests at Camp Read-a-Lot, including Superintendent Todd Roberts, AAEA Union President Linda Carter, AAEA Union Vice President Allan Loeb, City Councilman Christopher Taylor, Michigan Radio's Charity Nebbe and many parents and grandparents.

Our annual Read-a-thon was held on March 27. Many students came to school carrying pillows, sleeping bags or stuffed animals, and some even brought tents. Everyone snuggled down and listened to and/or read for the entire afternoon. This is always a highlight of the month.

Principal and Librarian for a day: fifth grade students were eligible for a drawing to be principal or librarian for a day by turning in three completed reading “logs”. Congratulations to Melissa Palfey in Mrs. Pryce's class and Julia Borbely in Miss Kreger's class.

Thank You, Volunteers

Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the March is Reading Month committee. Special thanks to Kelly Fennell, Kathy Cramer, KC Brown, Bob Brustman, Tamara Counts, Deb Fisch, Krista Hoffman, and all of the volunteers for the read-a-thon and trivia questions. We also thank all of our teachers for their support and the parents who helped their students with the March is Reading Month projects at home and/or read to them at school.

March is Reading Month Photo Exhibit

The bulletin board outside the library media center has been filled with photos from the month's celebration. I hope you have a chance to stop by to take a look. It always brings a smile to my face to see our students enjoying reading so much.

-- Rachel Erdstein

From our PTO Presidents

Hope everyone had a great Spring break!

We're coming up to a very busy month, starting off with our fun-filled Burns Park Run on Sunday, May 3. Even if you're not running in the event, we hope you can come to cheer on the runners and walkers of all ages! It's always a wonderful time!

The Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad is coming up on Saturday, May 16. Many of our students will be participating in a myriad of events for which they've been diligently practicing since January. Good luck, all!

And the Burns Park Ice Cream Social, a highlight of everyone's spring, is on May 20.

We are in the process of filling PTO officer and chair positions for next year. We have opportunities of all sizes and shapes and are always looking for new faces. Please contact Lynda, Helen Starman or Janice Lieberman if you are interested in volunteering. We look forward to hearing from you.

We'll be having our last PTO meeting of the year on Thursday, May 21 from 7:00-8:00 pm. Among other items, we'll be electing new PTO officers for 2009-2010. We hope to see you at the meeting!

Elizabeth DeRose, PTO President

ederose@comcast.net or 677-0882

Lynda Norton, PTO President-elect

lnorton@okno.com or 761-1478

AAPSEF Thank a Staff Member Today

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation (AAPSEF) is a non-profit organization separate from the Ann Arbor Public Schools that serves as the one true vehicle for private giving to public schools in Ann Arbor. The AAPSEF raises private funds through events and contributions from the community in order to enrich public school education through large program support and grants to teachers. We contribute to the quality of life in Ann Arbor and change lives by affecting our quality of public education.

The Foundation is promoting the Thank a Staff Member Today campaign to let teachers and staff members know we recognize and appreciate their dedication and hard work on behalf of our community's young people. Please help us recognize those that are contributing to the enrichment of our children and our community.

Purchase a certificate of formal recognition for your child's teacher (s), principal, bus driver, secretary, or other deserving staff member. The Foundation will present certificates to the staff member(s) you designate.

\$10 each, 3 for \$25 or 6 for \$50

All proceeds to benefit the Foundation's funding of District-wide initiatives and 100% of the fees are a donation. Initiatives are chosen to support innovation and excellence in our schools and to offer teachers the support they need to improve or enhance learning.

Certificates may be purchased: at www.supportannarborschools.org (online payment or downloadable mail in form), or at the AAPS Educational Foundation Spring Celebration of Innovation, Excellence and Appreciation at Scarlett Middle School, May 2, 2009.

100% of every gift stays in Ann Arbor. Every gift makes a difference. AAPSEF is an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

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!

French Camp

Theresa Deschaine, former Burns Park student, was an exchange student in France and is completing high school in Chicago at the French Lycee. She is offering a one week "Camp Francais" for students 8-12 years of age, June 15-19.

Email theresadeschaine@yahoo.com for more details.

Music Notes

Our 1st and 2nd graders presented their concerts, "Yummy, Yummy In My Tummy" and "We Believe We Can: Change the World" on April 7th to heartfelt acclaim. We heard so much applause for 1st grade that we just had to do an encore! :) The 2nd graders wrote beautiful class poems about being the leaders of tomorrow, which we wove into their wonderful collection of songs. Congratulations to all 1st & 2nd graders on their great performances.

Our last concert of the season is "2009 Original Compositions". Mr. Cramer's, Ms. Kreger's and Mrs. Pryce's classes will create and perform original compositions. Their compositions are extraordinary. If you'd like to come hear, the concert is on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Our school celebrated a multi-cultural festival of the Arab Middle East in the months of February and March. Our 3rd and 4th grade students were given the wonderful opportunity of attending the UMS youth performance of "Aswat: Celebrating the Golden Age of Arab Song" courtesy of our wonderful Ann Arbor Educational Foundation. Helen Starman and I applied for a grant to bring Arabic music alive for our students. The grant afforded us entrance to the UMS performance as well as paying for a local Arabic musician to come in and perform on the nay (a bamboo flute) and the oud (Arabic string instrument--forerunner of the guitar). The letters the students wrote to UMS speak volumes of the impact this performance had on students. Here are some commentaries: "I learned so much from this wonderful experience. It was exciting to hear the different scale." "My favorite part was when you improvised. After the concert I felt smarter." "I learned that it isn't just funk music that can catch my attention, but Arabic music, too." "It was the most fun field trip this year." Thank you,

Educational Foundation! Please thank Foundation members when you see them. The grants they give to applicants really help enrich our students.

The multi-cultural committee, Elizabeth DeRose, Helen Starman, Lynda Norton, Violet Souweidane, and I, also brought in a student group from the Dearborn Public Schools who performed Arabic drumming and song. This group, composed of 2nd through 5th graders, was absolutely riveting. The audience was mesmerized. What a wonderful presentation for our students. We used a very small portion of Education Foundation dollars to help pay for the bussing costs. The performance fee was covered by our own wonderful PTO, and we thank them.

I'd like to thank all parents who helped produce our concert series. I need help, as varied as making art to support a concept or song, to transcribing mini-DV tapes, to trying to figure out why our sound on the camera is forever erratic, to being stage crew for the intense 5th grade performance prep, etc., etc. I basically can put any talent to work! Thank you so much, everyone, for all your work and support during the year.

We say good-bye to Anne Gilbert who has for several years now received email press releases and organized them for publication. Thanks so much, Anne! You've done an awesome job.

Thank you all parents for getting your children to concerts and helping them practice their words. It is a wonder collaboration which lets these students shine in their concerts. Happy Summer to you if I don't write again!

Cynthia Page

General/Vocal Music

Yoga & Nature Summer Camp

Radiant Now Center offers Yoga and Nature Summer camp for girls at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. This summer program combines yoga, hiking, nature-based creative arts and crafts, earth care, and development of emotional intelligence skills. This fun-filled interactive educational program expands children's knowledge and appreciation of nature, encourages a life long habit of exercise (yoga, tai chi, hiking) and empowers girls to live consciously while balancing mind, body and spirit harmoniously.

Only two sessions are offered this summer. For registration call 268-6008 or visit www.radiantnow.org.

Session I, for ages 11-14 (July 20-July 24), offers the following additional activities: learning how to take care of your skin and hair, making natural face masks and moisturizers (take samples home); learning henna body decoration; and making bread from scratch.

Session II, for ages 6-10 (July 27-July 31), additionally offers storytelling, drawing nature outdoors, drying flowers and using in art projects, origami, and making butter.

Art Room News

District Library Show

The District Library Show will be held from April 24-May 28 this year. The following students will have their artwork displayed in the lower level, youth section on the 1st floor and 3rd floor of the District Library on 5th Ave. in downtown Ann Arbor. An art reception honoring students and their families will be held on Thursday, May 7th at 7-8:00 pm.

Kindergarten:

Eleanor Mills Mia Steinhauer

Sadie Freisthler

1st grade:

Stephanie McCurrach Hannah Hicks

Ruby Taylor Christopher VanAlstine

Lucy Scott Victor Nunez

Shiheim Galloway Claire Fennell

Nicole Hughes

2nd grade:

John Byers Quentavia Keene

Vishal Kolla Justin McNeil

3rd grade

Jacob Seel Tolaska Hunts Along

Emily MacInnis Brian Rago

4th grade:

Max Tanau Reiham Gundy

Tess Flanders Elisabeth Govern

Tori Hood Henry Huang

Sara Souweidane

Patrick Kollman

Charles Butz

Sophie Jones

Holland Wesley

Caroline Taub

Sarah Sherrick

Anne Boyd

5th grade:

Henry Brown

Zoe Korman

Luna Johnston

Kenzie Dalton

Zoya Gurm

Matthew Parson

Ellie Korman

Patrick Wellman

Will Demas

Madeline DeRose

Jaded Griffith

Madeleine Ward

Jacob Starman

Franz Pfanner

Melissa Palfry

Milo Tucker-Meyer

Rachel Hunsberger

Senelma Heinonen Smith

Elise Blaauw

Jonathan Thomas

Nicolas Figueroa

5th Grade Goes to the DIA

The premier art museum in the state of Michigan, the Detroit Institute of the Arts, will be the destination of the 5th grade on May 8. Parents are welcome as chaperones. Look for the permission slip that will be coming home soon.

Skateboard Design Art Show

Mr. Trevor Staples (3rd grade teacher by day, skateboarder after school and weekends) has been

instrumental in bringing Ann Arbor's Skateboard Park from dream to reality. A fund-raising effort has produced the Skateboard Design Art Show where skateboard decks designed by adults and youths will be displayed at the Midnight Vault from May 15 though the end of May. Burns Park 5th and 4/5th graders have entered the contest with three separate designs, one from each class. Students from each class voted for their favorite design from entries created by design teams from their class. All the designs were awesome! The final products will be displayed at The Vault of Midnight Store on May 15 on Main Street in downtown Ann Arbor from 7-10:00 pm. The show will then be at the Ann Arbor Art Center in June (dates to be announced). I'm happy to report that all of our students' designs will be displayed at the Art Center as well as the winning entries. All proceeds from the show will go toward the Skateboard Park fundraising efforts. We hope to see you on May 15 at the Vault of Midnight or at the Ann Arbor Art Center in June.

Artwork has been coming home slowly this year. I am sending the bulk of it home toward the end of the school year in order to conserve my dwindling supply of plastic newspaper bags. Since my supply source will be greatly diminished with the demise of the Ann Arbor News this summer, please save your news bags for me until then. I'd greatly appreciate it!

Thanks to all my wonderful art students and parent helpers for another great year in art!

- Kate Higgins

Thanks a Million!

Many, many thanks to...

- ◆ The **fourth grade teachers** and **parent volunteers** who planned for and attended fourth grade camp;
- ◆ **Steve Swaney** and **all the parent volunteers** for a fantastic Math & Science Night;
- ◆ **The Center for Middle East and North African Studies** at the University of Michigan for funding a fun and very informative field trip for fourth graders to the Arab American National Museum, and, **Elizabeth DeRose** and **Kathy Kyle** for arranging the trip;
- ◆ **Janice Lieberman** for arranging a visit from "Two of a Kind," for our younger classes to enjoy;
- ◆ **Cynthia Page** for producing the wonderful 1st and 2nd grade concerts, and all the parents who assisted with lights & sound, videotaping, artwork, and programs;
- ◆ **Kim Mass** and **Kelly Lohnes** for organizing a fun movie night and
- ◆ **All the teachers at Burns Park** for a delicious volunteer "breakfast" and lots of sweets to thank parent volunteers in addition to all they do for our children every day!

Lynda Norton, PTO President-elect

Tutor/Babysitter Available: I've been a Teacher Aide at Burns Park for the past 2 years. Most of my experience is with 1st grade, although I'm able to tutor Kdg-3rd grade confidently. I charge \$25/hour (negotiable) and available now. I also babysit for \$12/hour. If interested, contact me, Nicole Erlacher, at: 313-213-1020 or by email: nicole_erlacher@hotmail.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 June 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, May 22**. 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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