

From our Principal2-3
Lost and Found3
Lunches With Love3
Garden Ground Breaking3
From our PTO Presidents4
Thanks a Million!4
Media Center News5
Burns Park Players Fall Meeting5
Charipersons Needed6
Sally Foster Gift Wrap6
Walk and Talk6
Big House, Big Heart 5K and Fun Run7
Science Olympiad Team7
Penguin Care Club8
PTO Executive Board8
MEAP Dates9
Girls On The Run9

Kindergarten Corner9

Check out the **PTO websites**:

http://www.burnsparkpto.org

and Penguin Talk:

Inside this Issue:

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

Calendar of Events

Tues. Sept 8: Back to School

Tues. Sept 15: Curriculum Night

Week of the 21st: Walk & Talk starts

Tues. Sept 22: **BP Players Meeting, 7pm**

at Tappan Auditorium

Wed. Sept 23: Fall Festival

Thur. Sept 24: **PTO Meeting, 7pm**

Free childcare in gym

Fri. Sept 25: **BP Press Articles Due**

Mon. Sept 28: Sally Foster Sale Begins

Sun. Oct. 4: **Big House, Big Heart 5K**

and Fun Run

Oct 13, 15, 20, 22: **MEAP**

Thur. Oct 15: PTO Meeting, 7pm

Free childcare in gym

Fri. Oct. 16: **BP Press Articles Due**

Thur. Nov 19: PTO Meeting, 7pm

Free childcare in gym

Fri. Nov. 20: BP Press Articles Due

Fall Festival!

When: 5:30-8:00 pm on Wednesday, September 23rd

(Note: there is no rain date)

Where: Lawn in front of Burns Park School

What: Bring your own dinner and a dessert to share

Enjoy reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones!

New to Burns Park School?

Welcome!!! If you have a student who is attending Burns Park for the first time, and if you have any questions at all about our school or processes, please contact Greta Krapohl [krapohlg@umich.edu or 998-1102] or Julie Lawson Timmer [julielawsontimmer@gmail.com or 761-5214] and we'll get an answer for you!

Look for the New Family Packet in the office if you did not attend the New Family Orientation.

The Burns Park Press is published on-line each month!

By reading the Burns Park Press on-line, we save about 2600 printed sides of paper EACH MONTH!!! This saves ink, paper, copying resources and time!!!

Still want to receive a paper copy each month? Complete the "Burns Park Press Opt-IN letter" included in your First Day Packet. Or send an email requesting a paper copy to Kathy Sample at kesample@umich.edu.

From our Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to the always-exciting first day of school. Although it is a very exciting day, it can also come with some anxious feeling about new teachers, new classmates, etc. The staff understands the nervous feelings and will be there to support and encourage students the first day of school and every day thereafter. We want to make sure your children feel as special at school as they do at home. Please feel free to ask questions any time through out the school year. We look forward to meeting all of our new families and welcoming back all returning families.

Changes in the Building

We've had more exciting renovations. The smallest rooms on the 3rd floor have been expanded and are wonderful! We now have new "kid friendly" lockers everywhere. The kindergarten classrooms all have new cabinets and sinks. New cabinets have also been installed in the cafeteria. The remaining walls in the first floor bathrooms have been tiled. A fire hydrant has been added (that's what all the outside construction has been about). Lastly, when working to repair a roof leak in 103, A.Z. Schmina, Inc. discovered a problem with the ceiling over the bay window; they are working to correct it. Ms. Cramer's kindergarten classroom has been moved into another area until this repair is complete.

Welcome New Staff

We've had a change in staffing. Megan Lowe, who was transferred to BP from Angell last spring, will not be coming to Burns Park. In that position now, please welcome Ms. Lakeisha Drummer. Lakeisha is a new teacher to Ann Arbor who comes highly recommended. Lakeisha graduated from Michigan State University in 2007. She interned in a second grade classroom in Detroit, Michigan and taught 4th grade for two years at Cowan Road Elementary in Griffin, Georgia. We are very pleased to have her return to Michigan to teach 4th grade at Burns Park.

Curriculum Night

I hope to see all of you at Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 15th. Curriculum Night is a chance for you to meet your child's teacher, learn about the curriculum being taught this year and sign up for a parent/teacher conference. It is also a chance to hear about highlights of our school's Annual Report and be introduced to other teachers in the school such as the PE, Music, Art and Media teachers. Please plan on attending this very important event.

At 6:00 families of grades K, I, and 2 will meet their children's teacher in the classroom and at 7:00 they will meet in the auditorium for an explanation of our Annual Report and staff introductions.

Beginning at 6:30 families of students in grades 3-5 will meet in the auditorium for staff introductions and an explanation of the Annual Report. At 7:00, 3-5 grade parents will meet their child's teacher in their

classrooms. This evening is designed for parents only. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself to the Art, P.E., Music and Media Center teachers.

6:00 to 6:45 – Families of K-2 students meet in classroom with teachers

6:30 to 7:00 – Families of 3-5 students meet in the Auditorium

7:00 to 7:30 – Families of K-2 students meet in the Auditorium

7:00 to 7:45 – Families of 3-5 students meet in classrooms with teachers

SIT

Our "In search of excellence" Team (SIT) is looking for volunteers. The team's membership includes teachers, parents, staff, and the principal. The charge of this team is to focus on increasing students' achievement and success. The team meets quarterly and we are looking for some new members to replace retiring members. This year we will continue to spend time discussing student achievement and the work we have been doing as a school to encourage and sustain difficult conversations about race, equity, privilege, and serving children without bias and preconception. If you are interested, please call the office and let me know.

... more from our Principal

MEAP

The MEAP test is required to be given throughout the state on the following dates in October to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. This year, only the 4th graders will take a writing test. We hope that you will help us keep to this schedule by avoiding taking your child out of school on October 13, 15, 20 and 22. If you know that your child will not be in school on any of these dates, please let the office and your child's teacher know as soon as possible.

In closing, if there is ever anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to call or come in to visit with us. We strive to make sure that your child loves school and learning. We look forward to working together to make this a rewarding year for your child.

Sincerely,

Kathy Morhous, Principal

Lost and Found

The lost and found is located outside the library. It is organized weekly and cleaned out at the end of each month. Items are stored off-site for another month before being donated. The beginning of the year is a great time to label your child's belongings. When the LAST name is written in lost items, we will call you if your item is found.

Please label all outerwear, sweaters, sweatshirts, mittens, hats and lunch boxes with your last name in permanent marker. Also, we encourage you to stop by the Lost and Found periodically.

Burns Park School Garden Ground-breaking!

Students, teachers, and parents alike are excited about our new school garden, which will be located in the large area just south of the new wing of the school. We're planning on 'breaking ground' at the Fall Festival on September 23rd.

We hope to have kids planning, planting, and harvesting as soon as possible, maybe even with some cool-weather fall crops that can be used for snacks. It should prove to be a wonderful learning experience for the children, as well as a good way to provide fresh, nutritious food for the school, and maybe some fun pumpkins in the fall.

We are currently working on designing the area, possibly with some raised beds, and hope to have a hoop house, an herb garden, and a perennial garden, in addition to the vegetables.

Our new garden committee has many parents and teachers involved already, and we hope that many more of you are as excited about this new endeavor as we are! Please let us know if you'd like to be involved in any way.

Lynda Norton and Emily Hastie
Ilnorton@okno.com & emilyhastie@comcast.net



Lunches With Love

It's that time again! Lunches with Love will take place in the cafeteria every Tuesday, right after the morning. Start up for date for this year will be mid-to-late Sept.--watch the weekly e-notes for an exact start date. Please consider stopping by to help out this year. We are done by 9:30 and you can come when you can, no long-term commitment or sign up ahead of time.

Remember, the lunches that parents and children make go from our cafeteria directly to the Delonis Shelter on Huron St and provide lunch for 70 every week! See you there!

For more information contact::

Sara Meingast <u>herbandsara@sbcglobal.net</u>

From our PTO Presidents

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Welcome back to our returning families and to our new families, we are excited that you are joining the Burns Park community and we look forward to meeting you all.

Our PTO is very active, sponsoring numerous events for students and their families throughout the year and we rely on our parents to volunteer and to participate in our fundraisers to make these events possible. With over 30 committees the PTO has a volunteer job for **any** level of time commitment and talent. Additionally, classroom and special teachers also rely on parent volunteers. In your welcome back to school packet you will find descriptions of our committees as well as PTO and classroom volunteer sign up sheets. Please take a few minutes to read through them and consider what you would like to do; completed forms need to be returned to the school by September 16.

One easy way to participate in the PTO is to attend our monthly meetings normally held the third Thursday of the month. Our first meeting is September 24 at 7 PM in the media center; fun, FREE child care will be provided in the gym. We welcome all parents!

In addition to the meeting we hope to see you at the following events:

- » Curriculum Night, Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 PM meet your child's teacher and learn about the classroom curriculum
- » Fall Festival, Wednesday, September 23

bring a blanket, a picnic dinner, and a dessert to share

The start of school can be a very busy and hectic time for families, especially if you are new to the school. Please feel free to call or email either of us with any questions or concerns. We're looking forward to a great year!

Lynda Norton, President

761-1478 <u>Ilnorton@okno.com</u>

Wendy Burke, President-elect

585-5570 wendy.burke@mac.com

Thanks a Million!

Thanks to ALL of the volunteers who have worked over the summer, and especially in the last few weeks to help our school year get off to a great start! We appreciate your time and effort, and couldn't have done it without you! Many, many thanks to:

- ◆ Courtney McCreadie and Kathy Cramer, Volunteer Coordinators, for working over the summer to finalize our PTO committee chairs and for organizing our volunteer sign up.
- ♦ Helen Starman who organized the Summer Learning Program!
- ◆ Sally Pinnell, Linda Dabrowski, the Hospitality Committee and all who brought delicious goodies for our annual Welcome Back Coffee.
- ◆ Steve Norton and Sari Mills for updating and maintaining our family and volunteer database
- ◆ Greta Krapohl and Julie Lawson-Timmer for assembling folders for new families and for helping to orient new families to our school.
- ◆ Patricia Silverman, Kelly Lohnes, Elizabeth DeRose, Gretchen Spreitzer, Steve Swaney, Courtney McCreadie, Suzanne Ross and Nancy Vettorello for organizing the wonderful Back-to-School Get-Together for all of the grades.
- ♦ Kathy Kyle and Michelle Stevens, our amazing school secretaries, for helping to get all of the forms ready for the 1st day packets.
- ◆ Various friends and PTO Chairs for helping to assemble the 1st day packets.
- ◆ PTO Chairs for volunteering to help run your respective committees! You make our PTO run smoothly!
- ◆ **Deb Stern and Kathy Sample** for the first Burns Park Press of the new school year.

Media Center News

Welcome to the new school year! I hope all of our students had a wonderful summer, filled with books, stories, family and adventure. I look forward to hearing about all of the books that Burns Park students have read since I've seen them last.

This year, "library class" will take on a new look. Now referred to as "Information, Literacy and Technology" (ILT), many classes, particularly in third and fourth grade, will include technology components and projects. In addition, as part of the district-wide World Language initiative, third grade Spanish language classes will be held in the Library Media Center.

Once ILT classes begin, students will be checking out books, magazines and audiobooks in the Library Media Center. Each student has his/her own library card. Parents and community members can also sign up for library cards and check out or use the Library Media Center materials.

As we work out the final details of the schedule and get parent volunteers in to help with each class, I am really looking forward to a wonderful year. If you would like to be a volunteer during your student's library class time or during any part of the school day or for special events, please visit me in the Library Media Center or email me at erdstein@aaps.kl2.mi.us. Our special Library Media Center programs rely heavily on parent volunteers, and our students love to see their parents as helpers.

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

Please Come to the Burns Park Players Fall Meeting

When: Tuesday. September 22, 7:30 pm

Where: Tappan Cafeteria*

* Please note this change in location

What: To discuss our 2010 musical,

Guys And Dolls, to be performed the weekends of February

6th and 13th

Why: If you are interested in meeting new people in your community, having fun and livening up your winter evenings!

Who: EVERYONE! If you are interested in working behind the scenes or on stage in any capacity, do come! We welcome people to work on sets, costumes, props, make up, orchestra, childcare. . . We also have particular need for people with accounting and marketing experience. We also welcome all interested in performing in the show - auditions will be held the week of October 12th. NO experience or preparation is required.

As long as you live in the Burns Park School boundaries you can join in the fun (you don't have to have a child in BP school). Please invite your friends and neighbors!

If you can't make the meeting, but would like to be involved or want more information, please visit our website:

http://www.burnsparkplayers.org

or email the producers at producers@burnsparkplayers.org

First through fifth graders or adults participating in the show will have a small part in the production (no tryouts, practices will be held at the school during lunchtime).

PTO Committee Chairpersons Needed!

There are still two PTO committees in need of chairpersons for this school year. Volunteering in the PTO is a wonderful way to help your children, connect with other parents, and assist with projects that make a difference at our school. Please consider the following opportunities:

Information Technology Co-Chair — Steve Norton has worked tirelessly to develop our Burns Park PTO website and database. The IT co-chair will work with him and eventually take over the job once his children graduate. Flexible hours, intermittent effort throughout the year. Great job for techies who have lots of knowledge and enthusiasm for computer programming.

PTO Council – Represent our school at monthly meetings (third Monday) held by the district-wide PTO Council. Report back to the Burns Park community through written reports and/or at our monthly PTO meetings (third Thursday). Great job for people interested in district-wide discussions and connecting with AAPS administration and parents from other schools.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding these positions. Thanks!

PTO Volunteer Coordinators

Kathy Cramer

487-2185 cramer4321@gmail.com

Courtney McCreadie

929-2062 cemccreadie@yahoo.com

Sally Foster Gift Wrap

Welcome back to school! If you are looking for a way to get involved and support Burns Park school the Sally Foster Gift Wrap fundraiser is a great way to help! This annual fundraiser helps raise \$5,000 in support of field trips, grants for the teachers and extra items that are not covered by the school budget. The fundraiser will begin on September 28 and run through October 12. By setting aside a small amount of money for gift wrap and buying it through the school rather than at Target, you will be directly contributing. Look for more information to come at the end of the month on the green, recycled products Sally Foster offers! Additionally, we will be looking for volunteer assistance for one morning in November when the orders arrive. It is a 2-3 hour commitment at the most. Thanks for your support and please let us know if you have any questions.

Anne Steinhauer and Jennifer Osterwisch

Walk and Talk

Tie up those tennis shoes and come on over to the park for this fall's season of Walk and Talk. Walk and Talk is an activity where the students gather at recess to walk or run with each other around a specified loop at Burns Park. The kids earn "toe tags" for a certain number of loops around the park and really are motivated by the fresh air, their friends and the encouragement of the parent volunteers.

We are hoping to start up the week of **Sept. 21st** if we can get our parent volunteers in place by then. If you can help out on Monday, Wednesday or Friday during lunch time (approximately from 11:15 – 1:10 or any part thereof), please contact Courtney Simon (csimon1974@yahoo.com or 369-4695) or Leslie Sapp (jlsapp@comcast.net or 994-6186).

We would also like to encourage parents to come and walk and talk with the kids – enjoy each other plus the added bonus of modeling/inspiring physical fitness too!

There is a fantastic opportunity for the kids to run in the Big House Big Heart 5k on Oct. 4th (finish line is on the 50 yard line) to raise money for Burns Park School and Walk and Talk. We'll help get them ready!

Big Heart Big House Run

www.bighousebigheart.com

Sunday, October 4

Make a difference! Fight ALS!

Run or walk the Big House Big Heart Run and finish on the 50-yard line after dashing through the tunnel and onto the field to the sound of "the Victors!"

Run it for free!

All you have to do is raise \$150 in donations for A2A3. We'll give you the online tool to do it with us. You'll get a shirt and medal to boot. Interested? Go to http://www.a2a3.org/a2a3-atthe-2009-big-house-big-heart-race.

Ann Arbor Active Against ALS (www.a2a3.org) is a non-profit group that was established in the Burns Park community in 2008 in response to the diagnosis of a Burns Park parent. A2A3 aims to get kids and adults active, working together as a community, to raise awareness and funds to fight ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Please consider fundraising and participating in the race. This is a very fun family event!

Free running club! Join us for training runs and be ready to run 1 mile, 5K, or 10K! Visit www.a2a3.org to check for links to mapped routes that you can use to train on other days. We welcome runners of all ages and abilities. No need to sign up, just show up! Training runs will be held every Sunday at Jackie and Joel Dalton, chairs

6:30pm starting at Burns Park Elementary School. This is a great way to get in shape for this fall's Walk and Talk session, for fall soccer, field hockey and other sports. And it's FUN! We'll run safely on roads and trails together!

Run the BHBH with the A2A3 running team! Whether you raise funds or not, please be part of our running team to raise awareness and visibility of A2A3 and its mission. To sign up for the team, please go to http:// www.a2a3.org/a2a3-at-the-2009-big-house-bigheart-race.

Register soon...we are expecting 10,000 participants and the registration will be capped.

Be active and have fun! Run, walk, and raise money to fight ALS!

The A2A3 running team A2A3Running@A2A3.org

Burns Park Science Olympiad Team



The Science Olympiad is an exciting event held each May. It is an academic competition for 2nd through 5th graders in science and engineering events. Last year over twenty elementary schools participated in over 20 events with the Burns Park team winning quite a few medals and having lots of fun. practices start for the Science Olympiad in January and are typically once a week. We need parent volunteers as coaches for the Burns Park Science Olympiad team, particularly for the second grade events. If you think that you may be able to volunteer as a coach for one of these events, please contact Yeong Kwok at ykwok@umich.edu. You can get further information at: http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/ wesowizards.home/home

Penguin Care Club Ideas?

Penguin Care Club is not a club that takes care of abandoned baby penguins (though that would be a cool project, wouldn't it?) Penguin Care Club is a monthly club that takes on interesting projects to learn about issues or make a positive impact. We are volunteers learning about good citizenship and helping people, animals and the environment locally, nationally and globally.

We hope to be continuing this year, with some help and ideas from parents and kids. We accommodate all ages, as long as kids can work with the group themselves or in some cases with help from a parent (usually younger ones).

Projects and topics from the past few years have included:

- ♦ Food where it really comes from and why our choices matter (a turkey farmer visited us, too!)
- ♦ Trash! Understanding and reducing waste...
- ♦ Understanding ENERGY and how to use less...
- ♦ Native plant gardening...
- ♦ Trees! We used interactive web-based tools to learn and watched TED.com and Planet Earth videos on the giant redwoods...
- ♦ Service dogs we were visited by Paws with a Cause dogs and a tracking dog, who found some of our "lost" kids in and outside the school and we made care packages for puppies in training...
- ♦ Huron River Learning and float trip to clean up the river upstream of Ann Arbor... (fun!)
- Collected trick or treat money for Unicef...
- Collected eyeglasses for Lions Club and learned where they go...
- ♦ Met rescued wild raptors and other animals at our school at a visit by Howell Nature Center...
- Field trip to visit rescued pot-bellied pigs and rabbits...

We would like your ideas, participation and help for more projects to add to the following projects planned for this year:

- Native plant garden around the front entrance (flagpole side) of the school--- this fall!
- ♦ Canoeing and cleanup on the Huron River again...
- ♦ Help with the new organic food garden planning and work for the south side of the school(!)
- ♦ Bird and/or bat houses?
- ♦ Bone marrow drive for leukemia?
- ♦ More???

If you are interested in getting involved with your kids, contact

Joel Dalton (daltonjd@gmail.com) or Barbara Peitsch (bpeitsch@umich.edu)

PTO Executive Board

Principal

Kathy Morhous 994-919 morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us

President

Lynda Norton 761-1478
Ilnorton@okno.com

President-Elect

Wendy Burke 585-5570 wendy.burke@mac.com

I Treasurer

Steve Swaney 997-0898
steveswaney@gmail.com
Jenny Freisthler 327-5995

jenny@freisthler.com

Secretary

Elizabeth DeRose 677-0882 ederose@comcast.net

Volunteer Coordinators

Kathy Cramer 487-2185
 cramer4321@gmail.com
 Courtney McCreadie 929-2062
 cemccreadie@yahoo.com

I Burns Park Press

Editor

Deb Odom Stern 604-3704 deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

I Production

Kathy Sample 846-4080
kesample@earthlink.net

Burns Park Press Advertising

Display Ads: We welcome ads for companies and services of interest to our Burns Park community. I/8 page ads are \$35/ issue or 3 months for \$100. I/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 Deb Stern, BP Press Editor, deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

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 Deb at 604-3704 or deb.odom.stern@stanfordaluni.org

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 October 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, September 25**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

KIDS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS:

If you have any funny comments to share,
please send them my way

deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

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.

MEAP Dates

Tues. Oct 13th: 3rd, 4th & 5th grades

Thurs. Oct. 15th: 3rd, 4th & 5th grades

Tues. Oct. 20th: 3rd, 4th & 5th grades

Thurs. Oct 22nd: 4th grade writing

5th grade science

Make-up dates: Oct. 14, 16, 21, & 23

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.

... Girls On the Run ...

- A training program designed to focus on running along with relationship building, self-esteem and GIRL POWER!
- A program for 3rd through 5th grade girls
- ♦ Sign up through Rec & Ed
- Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays after school
- First meeting of the year: Tuesday, September 15th after school
- ♦ For more info contact: Gianna Lete gslete@yahoo.com 649-6672

Kindergarten Corner

Your Kindergarten Teacher is just as excited as can be about seeing you at Burns Park School!

Bring a nice big backpack with your name on it.

*The Burns Park Press is published on-line each month! *

By reading the Burns Park Press on-line last year, we save about <u>2800</u> printed sides of paper EACH MONTH!!! This saves ink, paper, copying resources and time!!!

<u>Still want to receive a hard copy each month?</u> Return this form to the school office or send an e-mail requesting a paper copy to Kathy Sample at kesample@umich.edu

Note in production of the control of
Any family that does not have an email address in our database will continue to receive a printed copy. You do not need to return this for
Return this form ONLY if you want to receive paper copies of the Burns Park Press.
I would like to receive a paper copy of the Burns Park Press.
Parent's/Guardian's name:
Child's name you would like the BP Press sent home with:

Please return to Burns Park School Office by September 22, 2009

Child's teacher: