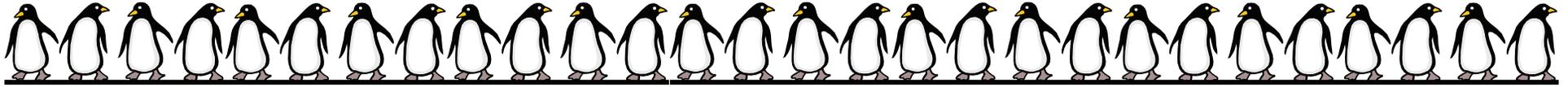


# Burns Park Press - October 2009



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Check out the **PTO websites:**

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>

and Penguin Talk :

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

## Calendar of Events

- Mon. Sept. 28 **Sally Foster Gift Wrap**  
Fundraiser Begins
- Tues. Oct. 6: **Native Plant Garden**  
Planting, 4pm
- Tues. Oct. 6: **School Vegetable**  
**Garden**  
Planning meeting, 7pm
- Sun. Oct. 4: **Big House, Big Heart 5K**  
**and Fun Run**
- Oct 13, 15, 20, 22: **MEAP**
- Wed. Oct 14: **School Pictures Day**
- Thur. Oct 15: **PTO Meeting, 7pm**  
Free childcare in gym
- Thur. Oct. 15: **Golden Apple Award**  
application deadline
- Fri. Oct. 16: **BP Press Articles Due**
- Fri. Oct 30: **Halloween Celebration**  
Parade at 2:30pm
- Tues. Nov 3: **No School**  
VOTE
- Thur. Nov 19: **PTO Meeting, 7pm**

## Football parking at Burns Park School!

Football parking as a fundraiser – it seems so easy, and it is! We're looking for a handful of volunteers for shifts of one to three hours for each of the remaining home Michigan football games. We'd also like one person to serve as coordinator for the volunteers. The remaining home games are on October 17 and 24, and November 7 and 21.

We plan to **charge \$10 per car**. Just twenty cars would give us \$200 for our budget, which could really use more funds. And the more the better.

The lot has been filling up on football Saturdays, and we're hoping to take advantage of this opportunity. Please let me know if you're able to help out for all or part of that time.

Thanks! Lynda Norton 761-1478 [lnorton@okno.com](mailto:lnorton@okno.com)

## Burn\$ Park Buck\$

Order on line and pay by credit card

[www.burnsparkpto.org](http://www.burnsparkpto.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.

## From our Principal

---

Dear Families,

We are off to a wonderful start! I enjoyed seeing so many of you at Curriculum Night and the PTO Fall Festival. The parent/teacher/child relationship is a critical component of school success and we greatly appreciate your role. A special thanks goes to the efforts of the our talented, hardworking staff and families that contributed to making sure our opening days went smoothly. Your fabulous children have settled in and are working hard to do their personal best!

### **Don't forget school Pictures**

School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, Oct. 14th. All picture packages include composite picture of the whole class for each child. The package does not include a yearbook. We will begin to take order for the yearbook in January. Year books are not delivered until the end of the school year.

### **Halloween Celebrations-- Friday Oct. 30**

Fall is here and before you know it, it will be time for our annual Halloween Costume Parade. It is a much-awaited event in the neighborhood. The parade will begin at 2:30 on Friday, October 30. 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 kindergartner, don't wear it.*

### **Washtenaw Schools Millage**

On November 3rd, parents will be asked to vote on a countywide millage to support our schools. It is a 2-mill increase that will benefit Ann Arbor schools as well as the other nine school districts in Washtenaw County.

The districts know it's not a great time to ask for a tax increase. But the poor economy puts our schools at even greater risk. The state system of school funding is not working -- as a result, the amount of money each district gets from the state hasn't kept up with inflation and now is taking a huge dive.

This means Ann Arbor faces a \$7 million shortfall this school year and a projected \$15 million deficit for 2010-2011. That's equivalent to about 200 staff and we would likely see other changes, such as an increase in class size, program cuts and very limited transportation.

As a principal, I can tell you that schools aren't in trouble because we are overspending. Ann Arbor has already cut \$16 million in the past 4 years due to decreased funding from the state. The district has tried to avoid impacting the classroom but this will no longer be possible with the magnitude of the deficits on the horizon.

We can't wait for the state to fix the school funding system. While this isn't a great time for a tax increase, it's an even worse time to have our kids' education suffer. The teachers are doing their part to help with the budget crisis. For the first time ever, they approved a pay freeze for the coming year.

But this isn't enough to get us out of the crisis. The proposed millage will impact every student and every parent in Ann Arbor. The millage will help our kids get the education they need. By keeping our schools strong, it will help our city to attract jobs and employers. And it gives us local control since all the money stays right here in our community.

Chris Burke ([cjfburke@mac.com](mailto:cjfburke@mac.com), Phone # 585-5570) is our building coordinator for the millage. If you'd like more information, please contact Chris or ask me. You can also click on the link on our school's website or visit [www.a2cmc.org](http://www.a2cmc.org).

### **Cards at School**

I've gotten some questions about what cards the students are allowed to play with at school. We don't allow items of any kind that are of value such as games, iPods, etc. We've found that cards that students trade or win from each

## ... more from our Principal

other in card games have value too. When there is a dispute about what card belong to whom, it is next to impossible to sort it out. For that reason we ask students to leave these types of cards at home. They are more than welcome to bring a traditional deck of cards to school to play non-trading card games at recess. We even have some of these decks available for the asking. Thanks for supporting us in this request.

### 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.

### Sad News

Mrs. Kim former Burns Park teacher died on Sunday September 20, 2009. Alice was a third grade teacher at Burns Park Elementary School for many years. She retired 3 years ago. She dedicated her life to her profession and the families of the Burns Park community, because she loved children and teaching. She is survived by her daughters and husband. A small family funeral is planned for the future. In lieu of flowers, a donation to one of the following charities would be favored: The National Kidney Foundation, The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, or The

Breast Cancer Site Endowed Fund for Breast Cancer Research at Mayo Clinic.

Mr. David Aberdeen was the principal of Burns Park many years ago. At one point the cafeteria was named after him. It was called the Aberdeen Cafe. I had the privilege of getting to know Dave these past few years and decided that if you knew him you might want to know that he died Wednesday, Sept 23, 2009.

They will both be missed.

We have a year of learning and growing ahead of us. Thanks for supporting us along the way. If you have any questions or concerns, please call.

Educationally yours,

Kathy

## Lunches With Love

Beginning Tuesday, September 29th, Lunches with Love will take place in the cafeteria every Tuesday, right after the morning bell. 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::

## Burns Park Players Auditions

Auditions for the Burns Park Players musical, GUYS AND DOLLS, will be held on Mon and Tues, Oct 12th and 13th with callbacks Thurs, Oct 15th and possibly Fri, Oct 16th. Auditions and callbacks will be held at the Tappan Auditorium and all times are 7:00-10:00 p.m. For further information about auditions and the Burns Park Players please visit our website at [burnsparkplayers.org](http://burnsparkplayers.org). No previous experience necessary and all within the BP School boundaries are welcome -- come see what we're all about!

## Graphic Artist Needed

We are also looking for an individual in the community to do our poster and t-shirt design. Ideally, you are an artist in the neighborhood with or without a child in the school who is looking for a way to help out your neighborhood non-profit. The added bonus is that your handiwork would be displayed around town for all to see! If you are interested or know someone who might be please contact:

[producers@burnsparkplayers.org](mailto:producers@burnsparkplayers.org)



## From our PTO Presidents

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. It's been a busy few weeks with Curriculum Night and the fun Fall Festival and all!

At our first PTO meeting on September 24, we discussed ideas for new fundraisers, including a movie night and football parking at the school. It was also good to hear from Kathy Morhous about the results of the (never-ending) construction: along with the new addition and expanded class room sizes, there is a new door to the storage area, new wireless throughout the school, new stage curtains (coming soon), and new white boards in classrooms (this last item funded by the PTO). Our next PTO meeting is Thursday, October 15 at 7 PM. We'll be discussing and voting on the 2009-2010 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 first major fundraisers of the year kick off this month! On September 28<sup>th</sup> 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 55% of the proceeds from every gift wrap purchase. This is a great time to stock up on gift wrap 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 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.

Lynda Norton, President

761-1478

[lnorton@okno.com](mailto:lnorton@okno.com)

Wendy Burke, President-elect

585-5570

[wendy.burke@mac.com](mailto:wendy.burke@mac.com)

## Thanks a Million!

### Thanks a Million!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the students feel comfortable during the first week of school.

Many thanks also go to the following people:

- ♦ **Sari Mills** for inputting all of the information from the Family Contact Information Forms into the database.
- ♦ **Kathy Cramer** and **Courtney McCreadie** for organizing all of the volunteers for our PTO committees and classrooms.
- ♦ **Steve Swaney** and **Jenny Freisthler** for engaging a new accounting program and tirelessly entering information to track receipts and expenditures – it's already making a difference.
- ♦ **Katie Chosid** and **Marla Williams** for organizing the Fall Festival, and the wonderful weather to go with it!
- ♦ **Vince Wellman** and **Peggy Walsh** for running the 5th Grade drink sales at the Fall Festival.
- ♦ **Leslie Sapp** and **Courtney Simon**, for starting our Walk and Talk program.
- ♦ **Helen Starman** for collecting and sorting through all of the Summer Learning Workbooks.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Emily Hastie, Chris Burke, and many others** for working tirelessly to get the new school vegetable garden off the ground.

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers!



## PTO Volunteers

Thank you to the many parents who returned forms indicating interest in classroom and PTO committee volunteer jobs. We're in the process of contacting you about the jobs you've signed up for. If you filled out the form but haven't heard from anyone yet, it's possible that your form got lost or that the information didn't get entered properly into our database. It is important to us that your volunteer interests are recognized! If you'd like to check on this, please contact our Volunteer Coordinators

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

*PTO Volunteer Coordinators*

**Kathy Cramer**

487-2185 [cramer4321@gmail.com](mailto:cramer4321@gmail.com)

**Courtney McCreadie**

929-2062 [cemccreadie@yahoo.com](mailto:cemccreadie@yahoo.com)

## Golden Apple Awards: Call for Applications

Golden Apple grants are awarded by the PTO to parents and staff who seek funding for enrichment activities. There is generally a \$500 maximum per application, but exceptions are occasionally made when applicants have no other funding sources. Golden Apple grants are awarded on a "rolling basis" meaning they are considered for approval as they are received. However, priority consideration will be given to those applications received prior to October 15.

Applications are available in the school office, or you can request a pdf form by email ([lnorton@okno.com](mailto:lnorton@okno.com)); updated forms will also be added to the PTO website as soon as possible ([www.burnsparkpto.org](http://www.burnsparkpto.org)).

## **Sally Foster Gift Wrap**

Thank you for all of your support with the Sally Foster Fundraiser! Catalogs came home with the children on September 28th and orders are due back on October 12th. **Burns Park School earns 55% on every order!** This money is used to fund your child's field trips; subsidize art, computer and foreign language initiatives; and award grants to teachers to further their curriculum.

Here are a few important tips to remember:

- ◆ **Sally Foster gift wrap is made from recyclable material!**
- ◆ Sally Foster gift wrap is top quality!
- ◆ **All checks should be made out to Burns Park PTO; no tax is necessary**
- ◆ Remember you can ask friends, families and co-workers to order, but please do not have children approach strangers.
- ◆ **Please remember to fill out the order form completely, especially including the child's name.**
- ◆ Online ordering is easy, simply enter account number **253598**

[www.fundraising.entertainment.com](http://www.fundraising.entertainment.com)

With your help, we're looking forward to our best fundraiser ever!

Anne Steinhauer      and      Jennifer Osterwisch

734-476-6499

734-995-9222

*\* Students receive prize credit for purchases made up to our school's sale end date. See program flyer in the Sally Foster sale envelope for details.*

# 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 seventh 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, Hiller's, Whole Foods, The Produce Station, Gratz, Real Seafood Company, 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.

Busch's and Hiller's offer rechargeable gift cards that allow you to initially purchase one card at the dollar value of your choice. 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.

Kroger has simplified their process of donating to Burns Park PTO. Instead of purchasing and recharging gift cards, they allow us to link our Kroger Plus cards—the one you swipe to get the discount prices—to Burns Park PTO, so that anytime you shop a percentage will automatically get credited to our account. To register your card you'll need to set up an account first at this website:  
[www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)

Create a new customer account by clicking on **Sign in/ Register** link on the upper right side of the page.. This will generate a verification email to you requiring you to **activate your Kroger account by clicking the link** and signing in to your new account.

Click on **Edit Kroger Plus Card Info**. Enter the 12 digit number on the back of your Kroger Plus card. (Or, if you don't have a Kroger Plus card there's an option noted allowing you to print a form and take it to the store's service desk.)

Click on **Community Rewards Information**. Use organization # 82907. Select Burns Park Elementary School.

Total activation time is estimated at 7-10 days, once you do the on-line part above.

You'll know that the card is registered by looking at the bottom of the Kroger's receipt which should say "At your request, Kroger is donating to Burns Park Elementary School"

Plum Market also has a similar program to Kroger; visit their Service Desk to complete the form and link your rewards card to Burns Park School PTO.

**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](http://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. Burns Park PTO does pay a percentage for the service of using the on-line services, so if you would like to maximize your contribution, feel free to write a check. Payments may be placed in the Burns Park Bucks box in the office or mailed 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 28 with **orders due by Wednesday, September 30**. If you would like to plan ahead, the order deadlines for 2009-10 will be: Oct 28, Dec 9, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, Apr 28, May 26.

Any questions? Feel free to contact Cindy Middleton at [cynthia.middleton@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.middleton@gmail.com) or 623-1704

## Interested in a Burns Park Movie Night?

Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy a Friday night dinner out on the town while your children are entertained at Burns Park with a movie in the auditorium? It is a win-win scenario for parents, kids and the school! The PTO is hoping to kick off monthly *Movie Nights* for our Burns Park students. For a small donation (much less than a babysitter), students can hang out with their friends, watch a kid-friendly movie, and enjoy a snack — all under the watchful eyes of parent volunteers. All money raised will help support our excellent PTO programs.

This new program will require a chairperson and committee (committee members would not be required to attend all movie nights). If you are interested please contact PTO Volunteer Coordinators Courtney McCreddie ([cemccreadie@yahoo.com](mailto:cemccreadie@yahoo.com)) or Kathy Cramer ([cramer4321@gmail.com](mailto:cramer4321@gmail.com)) for more information.

Thanks

## ... 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, 4:00 - 5:30
- ◆ First meeting of the year: Tuesday, September 15th after school
- ◆ For more info contact: Gianna Lete - [gslete@yahoo.com](mailto:gslete@yahoo.com) - 649-6672

## 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!



## 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

## PTO Executive Board

### Principal

Kathy Morhous 994-919  
[morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us)

### President

Lynda Norton 761-1478  
[lnorton@okno.com](mailto:lnorton@okno.com)

### President-Elect

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[wendy.burke@mac.com](mailto:wendy.burke@mac.com)

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[jenny@freisthler.com](mailto:jenny@freisthler.com)

### Secretary

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

### Volunteer Coordinators

Kathy Cramer 487-2185  
[cramer4321@gmail.com](mailto:cramer4321@gmail.com)

Courtney McCreddie 929-2062  
[cemccreadie@yahoo.com](mailto:cemccreadie@yahoo.com)

### Burns Park Press

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#### Production

Kathy Sample 846-4080  
[kesample@earthlink.net](mailto:kesample@earthlink.net)

## 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 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

## 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.

## 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 2009 issue are due no later than **Friday, October 16**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

## 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.

## 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.

## Kindergarten Corner

Many thanks from Ms. Ambrosino, Cramer, Stein and Weinmann for parent's enthusiasm in getting Kindergarten started! Curriculum night was well attended and we hope all families marked their calendars for upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences. Reminders will be sent home in back pack mail.

### We love those roomy packs!

Special activities coming up in October for all four groups of Kindergarten children include; a trip to Jenny's Farm Market (Dexter area) and "growing" our own pumpkin patch right here in school! We'll explore our schoolyard and surrounds for signs of autumn...animal and plant life changing. We're changing too!