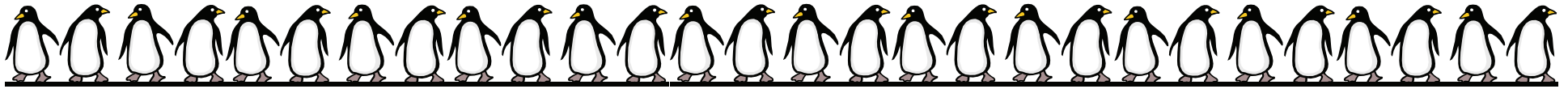


Burns Park Press - January 2010



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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. Jan 4: **School resumes**
- Mon. Jan 18: **No School: MLK Day**
- Thur. Jan 21: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Fri. Jan 22: **Movie Night "UP"**
- Fri. Jan 22: **BP Press Submissions Due**
- Mon. Feb 8: **NAAPID**
- Mon, Feb 15: **No School**
- Fri. Feb 19: **Mid-winter vacation begins at end of day**
- Mon, Mar 1: **School resumes**
- Tues. Mar 2: **Kindergarten Round-up**
- Mon. Mar 8: **No School**
- Tues. Mar 16: **Special Interest Fair**
- Thur. Mar 18: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Thur. Apr 1: **Spring vacation begins at end of day**
- Mon, Apr 12: **School resumes**

AAPS Budget Information Sessions

Ann Arbor school officials will host information sessions in January, where proposed budget cuts will be discussed and suggestions from the public will be encouraged.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be at the following dates and locations:

- ◆ Thursday, **Jan. 7** at Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Road.
- ◆ Tuesday, **Jan. 12** at Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple Road.
- ◆ Thursday, **Jan. 14** at Scarlett Middle School, 3300 Lorraine.
- ◆ Tuesday, **Jan. 19** at Pioneer High School, 61 W. Stadium Blvd.

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,
Happy New Year! It is great to be back and see all of your children refreshed and ready to learn.

THANKS PTO

Yum! Thank you for the great food and hospitality at the appreciation luncheon you provided! The staff and I truly enjoyed the great food and relaxing atmosphere. Being surrounded by busy children every day makes it hard to find the time to eat a delicious and relaxing lunch. Thanks for making this possible. You make us feel so appreciated!

Reader's Workshop in Grade 3-5

I'm sometimes asked how come my child spends so much time reading independently? In 3rd, 4th and 5th grade reading instruction moves from learning to read to reading to learn.

Children who are strong independent readers may only need to meet for a guided reading group with their teacher once/week, but that doesn't mean that the teacher doesn't influence their independent reading practice. When children have completed the assignment set forth during their guided reading group, they are expected to read "just right" books of their choice for the remainder of the Reading Workshop. The teacher guides their independent reading by expecting them to read different types of books and asking them

to think about what they are reading and respond to it orally and in writing.

To focus independent reading, the whole class receives what we call a "mini lesson" daily. The mini lesson serves to guide their thinking while reading their "just right" books. Mini lessons focus on topics like inference, character development, etc. While students read independently, they are asked to look for examples of these comprehension elements. Students put a sticky note on a part of the book, or briefly jot down what they found and want to share.

Teachers are cautious about asking students to write too much of this information down during reading time as this takes time away from reading. It is recommended that students participate in Readers Workshop for 60 to 90 minutes daily. This allows for extended time to read. (Research supports the fact that reading for extended periods of time is necessary to increase comprehension and fluency.)

The sharing that concludes the Readers Workshop session is brief with 2 or 3 students sharing what they discovered. This strategy helps students take the comprehension strategies they are learning in mini lessons and their guided reading group and apply them as they read independently.

Students are also required to write a response to what they are reading each week. Students are expected to make connections

between the text they are reading and their own life experiences as they write these responses. Connections can be between the readers personal life experiences and those of the characters in the book, between the text they are reading and other stories they have read, or between the text they are reading and information they have learned from other books, lessons, etc.

Although some children will spend less time meeting in a small group with their teacher, they are still under the gentle guiding hand of their teacher daily. Mini Lessons, Reading Response letters and classroom sharing discussions help teachers know what their students are learning and what they need to learn as students take more control over what they are reading.

MLK DAY HONORED AT BURNS PARK

We will honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all that he stood for in our classrooms and during Community Circles. In addition, on NAPPID day, we will have an assembly by the group Gemini. The Title of their program is "**The Best in Each of Us**" This concert features Gemini's original songs about tolerance, self-esteem, building character, and celebrating diversity. San and Laz's music speaks to children about friendship, teamwork, caring, peace, respect, and the value of connecting on a deep level to nature, to our own selves, and to each other.

... more from our Principal

PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

Mark your calendars now for NAAPID Day (National African American Parent Involvement Day). It is scheduled for Monday, February 8th. On this day, **ALL** parents are invited and encouraged to come to school for some part or all day to experience the learning environment first hand. Look for additional information soon, but please plan on coming to school that day.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Kindergarten Round Up is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd. That evening there will be a parent information meeting and then on Thursday, March 4th, children are invited for an afternoon visit. Kindergarten students for the 2009-10 school year need to be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2009. Please help us spread the word by telling your neighbors of school-age children. New families can call of office at 994-1919 with any question regarding kindergarten Round Up.

RECESS AND COLD WEATHER

Now that the really cold weather is finally with us, we encourage you to remind your children to come to school every day dressed warmly and expecting to play outside. It is essential for everyone to have boots, a hat, gloves, snow pants and a coat everyday. There are days in which the morning forecast justifies making plans for staying in for recess, but by the time noon rolls around the wind has died down,

the sun has come out and we are ready to go outside for at least few short minutes of fresh air. Rest assured that if it is too cold to be out for even a few minutes we will keep your children inside. If all students come to school dressed to go out, then we will be ready to enjoy the sun and snow whenever we can. A few minutes of fresh air can make a world of difference in a child's ability to return to studying in the afternoon.

SNOW RULES

It would greatly help us if you could reinforce one simple rule we have here at school. "snow stays on the ground". There should be no snowballs thrown at school or going to and coming from school. That includes no throwing or kicking snow at each other. As much fun as a friendly snowball fight can be, it can also be dangerous. Snowballs have been known to become more ice than snow or contain foreign matter in addition to snow. In those cases, serious injuries can result. Rather than take the risk, we just don't allow throwing of snow at all.

We also remind children that snow structures that are built at school don't belong to anyone. They are likely to be modified by others. On the other hand, wantonly destroying what others have built – just to destroy it or take it to make their own structure – is unkind and will not be allowed. We appreciate your reinforcing these ideas at home.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2010!



Science Olympiad is Coming

The Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO) is an annual science and engineering competition for 2nd through 5th graders. Practices are held once a week, mostly on Sunday afternoons. We will be starting sign up and practices soon. Here are some key dates:

Jan 11-15: flyers for team sign ups will come home

Feb 14: practices begin

March 8: team field trip to the River Rouge Plant

June 5: Science Olympiad competition at Skyline

Please contact Yeong Kwok with any questions. We especially need 2nd grade parents who are interested in coaching an event. ykwok@umich.edu

Reinhart Winter Coat Drive Thank You!!

A HUGE Thank You to everyone who donated coats. Reinhart distributed over 1100 coats to 21 area agencies in need. More than 50 of those coats came from the Burns Park community!

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TIPS FOR PARENTS

Eating well and being physically active are key to your child's well being. Eating too much and exercising too little can lead to weight gain and related health problems that can follow children into their adult years. You can take an active role in helping your child – and your whole family – learn healthy eating and physical activity habits.

All children benefit from healthy eating and physical activity. A balanced diet and being physically active help children grow, learn, build strong bones and muscles, have energy, maintain a healthy weight, avoid obesity-related health concerns, and feel good about themselves.

Here are some tips to help your child develop healthy eating and physical activity habits:

- ◆ Make sure your child eats breakfast. Breakfast provides children with the energy they need to listen and learn in school.
- ◆ Offer your child a wide variety of foods, such as whole grains, vegetables and fruits, low-fat dairy products, and lean meats or beans.
- ◆ Talk with your child's health care provider if you are concerned about your child's eating habits or weight.
- ◆ Cook with less fat – bake, roast, or poach foods instead of frying.
- ◆ Limit the amount of added sugar in your child's diet. Avoid sugar-sweetened sodas and fruit-flavored drinks.
- ◆ Encourage water consumption.
- ◆ Involve your child in planning, shopping for, and preparing meals. Children may be willing to eat the dishes that they help create.
- ◆ Be a role model for your children. If they see you being physically active and having fun, they are more likely to be active and stay active throughout their lives.
- ◆ Encourage your child to be physically active for at least 60 minutes every day.
- ◆ Involve the whole family in activities like biking, dancing, soccer, basketball, taking the dog for a walk, playing at the park, walking around the neighborhood, playing active video games, etc.
- ◆ Limit your child's TV and computer time.

Debita Graham, RN, School Nurse

The Special Interest Fair is Coming Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mark your calendars! For those of you not familiar with the fair, it is similar to a science fair, but almost anything goes. The purpose of the fair is to encourage students to pursue a topic of their interest and provide a showcase for their efforts (examples of last years' projects include "The Mysterious Stonehenge," "Spices from the Middle East," "Big Cats," and "My Favorite Quarterback: Tom Brady") .

All students from kindergarten through 5th grade are encouraged to submit a project! The fair is non-competitive and children may work alone or in a group. Watch for details after winter break. We look forward to all of the great projects!

Questions? Contact fair co-chairs

Carol Durgy (carole@durgy.com) or

Jenny Jalet (sutton@umich.edu)

Experienced Babysitter

- ◆ Very dependable & responsible
- ◆ Looking for part/full time position(s)
- ◆ 8 yrs. experience with kids of all ages
- ◆ Swim Lessons if pool is available
- ◆ First Aid & CPR certified through the Red Cross
- ◆ Resume & references available upon request

Chelsea Meyer ■ 419-591-6603 ■ meyerc1@yahoo.com

Burns Park Movie Night

Friday, January 22nd

Presenting "UP"

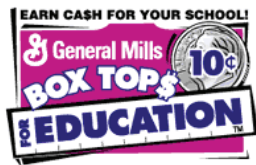
Join us for some movie fun!

Enjoy a night out and help raise money for our PTO at the same time. Student drop off is at 6:30. Pick up at 8:30. \$5 ticket donation includes popcorn. Hope to see you there!

To volunteer, contact Courtney McCreadie
cemccreadie@yahoo.com or 751-0793

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!



Wild Swan Theatre is coming to Burns Park

Our P.T.O. generously approved a Golden Apple award to bring wonderful theater company Wild Swan Theater to Burns Park again this year! All children in grades K-2nd will be treated to the play, "American Short and Tall Tales". This will be presented in our auditorium January 28th, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to join their child's class for this event. If you are bringing along younger siblings, proper theater behavior is expected so all may enjoy the performance.

The Play

American Short and Tall Tales is a compilation of three stories: "Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett Meets Mike Fink, Snappin' Turtle," "Tía Misería," and "Why Lapin's Ears Are Long." In addition to the stories, popular 19th century songs including "Oh, Susanna," "Turkey in the Straw," and "My Aunt Came Back" will be interspersed throughout the play. The songs will be accompanied by guitar, fiddle, banjo, and mandolin which were popular during the 19th century as well.

Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett Meets Mike Fink, Snappin' Turtle

Although a classic tall tale, this story, is a little unlike most tall tales as the main character is a woman. Sally Ann is the wife of Davy Crockett, the famous tall tale hero. Unlike her husband, however, Sally Ann is willing to fight the boasting, lying bad Mike Fink. She outsmarts him, out-wits him, and out-frightens him, and wins her husband a dozen wildcats, not to mention loosening all the teeth in Mike Fink's mouth.

Tía Misería

This story is about an old Hispanic woman. The tales mixes the Spanish and English languages to create an experience that reflects American traditions while being true to its Spanish roots.

Tía Misería lives alone with her chickens and her loved pear tree. However, the boys in the village taunt her and eat her delicious pears. One day a magician comes to Tía's house and grants her one wish. Tía is granted the power to keep anyone who climbs up the tree from getting down until she says some special words. The boys get caught in the tree and are finally freed once they

promise never again to taunt her nor eat her pears. A short while later Death comes to her door. Tía tricks Death into climbing her pear tree, and then refuses to let him come down, until he promises never to come back.

... Continued on page 9

From our PTO Presidents

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a healthy and happy time over the break.

With our new year come new ventures at Burns Park. Lunchtime choices will be starting soon, with many parent volunteers giving students opportunities to during lunch recess to try different activities. The Science Olympiad team will be forming soon as well, for which any interested 2nd-5th grader is welcome to participate.

Our next PTO meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21 from 7-8 pm (there will be no February meeting because of winter break). As always, fun and free childcare will be provided in the gym.

We would like to take a moment at this time of year to thank everyone who has helped with our Family to Family Giving program and the Holiday Food Drive. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive and caring school community, and so appreciate the efforts that everyone has made.

Lynda Norton, PTO president

Wendy Burke, PTO president-elect

Lynda Norton, President 761-1478 lnorton@okno.com
Wendy Burke, President-elect 585-5570 wendy.burke@mac.com

Thanks a Million!

- ◆ **Sally Pinnell, Linda Dabrowski** and everyone who contributed to the Holiday Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. The food was delicious and the setting looked so wonderful!
- ◆ **Sara Figueroa** for organizing and running our Family to Family Giving program.

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers!



Media Center News:

Did you Know....?

You can view the Library Media Center collection from any computer with Internet access. With our new, upgraded circulation system, our library catalog (E-CAT to the students) can be searched via the Internet. This may be a great way for you and your student to search together for his/her next library choice, find books on a particular topic, or locate a favorite.

To access the E-CAT, just

1. go to the Media Center website: http://burnspark.a2schools.org/burnspark.home/media_center

2. click on the "research links" link

3. click on the "E-CAT" link

view and search the catalog

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

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 (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 or 623-1704

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@stanfordalumni.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 February 2010 issue are due no later than **Friday, January 22nd**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

GIVE
OPPORTUNITY
A PLACE
TO KNOCK



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Why Lapin's Ears Are Long

This exciting adventure story takes place in the bayous of Louisiana. In the authentic Louisiana tradition, the French language is blended with English. From the Introduction to the story written by Sharon Arms Doucet:

The trickster Lapin was born long ago in western Africa, probably among the Wolof tribe in Senegal and Gambia. In the 1700s and 1800s, he was captured along with his fellow tribesmen and brought to Louisiana in the holds of slave ships. There his stories were translated into French and mingled with elements of European folktales. Compere Lapin liked his Louisiana home, where he practised his tricks among both the Creoles, or French-speaking Blacks, and the Cajuns, descendants of the French Acadians who had been exiled by the British from their Canadian homeland. L

Later, he hopped off other slave ships along the English-speaking eastern coast of the United States, where he was made famous by Joel Chandler Harris as "Br'er Rabbit." Compere Lapin is indebted to the folklorists who collected his stories in various regions of south Louisiana while they were still ripe for the picking. These include Alcee Fortier, who published his first tales in 1888, and such twentieth-century collectors as Calvin Claudel, Corinne Saucier, Elizabeth Brandon, and Barry Ancelet.

While the storyteller's art has embellished and embroidered the adaptations presented here, the stories remain true to the spirit of the early tales. Lapin wouldn't have it any other way. Lapin, a rabbit, dreaming to be as large as a grizzly, seeks the help of his friend, Madame Tortue, a turtle with the ability to cast magic spells. This tale recounts Lapin's clever and sly tactics to gather the ingredients needed to make him larger: the whisker of a wildcat (Madame La Chatte), the egg of an alligator (Madame Alligator), and a tooth of the grizzly bear (Compère Grizzly).

Despite having all the magic ingredients and saying the magic words, Madame Tortue is unable to make Lapin as large as a grizzly - but the ensuing result is just as surprising and clever as the rest of this tale.

Classroom/Home Activities

-Try writing your own tall tale or riddle and then trade with a friend. Or maybe use your

tall tale or riddle and begin a yarn-spinning, riddling contest!

*- Creole and Cajun recipes are popular not only in New Orleans but all throughout the United States. Why don't you try cooking some original **New Orleans Gumbo** at home with the help of an adult:*

What you'll need (for shrimp and okra gumbo):

- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 large chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 5 or 6 cloves chopped garlic
- 1 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 can tomatoes ("Rotel" tomatoes for a spicier taste)
- 1 pound, fresh slice okra (or 2 boxes frozen sliced okra)
- 2 pounds fresh shrimp
- 2-3 cups water
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1 bay leaf

For seafood gumbo, add the following:

- 1 small can crabmeat or 3 fresh gumbo crabs
- 1 jar oysters

What to do:

1. *Slowly* stir the flour into heated oil in a heavy cast iron skillet. Continue to stir until the flour is dark brown. Add the next 4 ingredients; stir until onions are clear.
2. Add tomato sauce. Stir until it gets crumbly or dry. Fry okra in another skillet until it is no longer sticky or stringy. Add tomatoes and fried okra.
3. Cook slowly, adding 2 to 3 cups of water - a little at a time. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir in one teaspoon of sugar.
4. Cook for about an hour on a low fire, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking to the bottom of pot; adding water if necessary. Add the shrimp and the bay leaf (and if desired, the oysters and crabmeat).

5. Cook another 30 minutes to an hour, adding seasoning to taste.

6. Serve over boiled or steamed rice.

(visit <http://www.neworleansweb.org> for more Cajun and Creole recipes)

Try a few different jump-roping tricks and styles. Before you can do tricks, though, here are a few pointers on the basic jump:

- ◆ Hold the ends of the rope in both hands with your elbows close to your body and your arms bent.
- ◆ Your thumbs should be on top of the handles
- ◆ Start with the rope behind your heels and swing it over your head.
- ◆ When it comes to your feet, jump just high enough to get over it
- ◆ Jump on the balls of your feet, with your feet together and your knees slightly bent

Now you're ready to try this trick:

The Criss-Cross

1. Start with a few basic jumps
2. Bring the rope forward and cross your arms. Make sure to bring your hands all the way across the front of your body, as if you were giving yourself a hug. Your elbows should almost touch.
3. Swing the rope and jump. Then uncross your arms and jump again.

To learn more about jump-roping tricks, or how to jump-rope with some of your friends, the book *Red Hot Peppers: The Skookum JumpRope Book of Games, Rhymes, and Fancy Footwork* by Bob and Diane