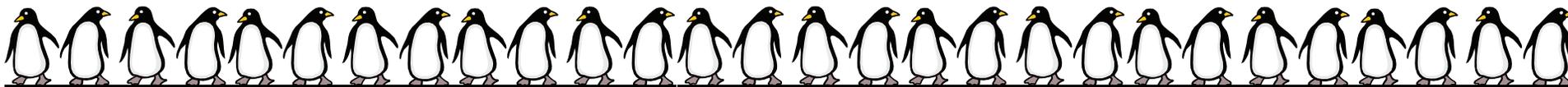


# Burns Park Press - March 2010



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## Calendar of Events

- Tues. Mar 2: **Kindergarten Round-up**  
**Reading Month Kick-Off**
- Thurs. Mar 4: **Kindergarten Visit**
- Mon. Mar 8: **No School**
- Thurs. Mar 11: **Disability Workshop**
- Mon. Mar 5: **Love Our Library, 8:50-9:25a**
- Tues. Mar 16: **Special Interest Fair**
- Thur. Mar 18: **PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm**  
Free childcare in gym
- Fri. Mar. 19: **Movie Night**  
**BP Press Submissions Due**
- Thur. Apr 1: **Spring vacation begins**
- Sun. Apr 11: **Festfools Parade** (see page 6)
- Mon. Apr 12: **School resumes**
- Mon. Apr 19: **1st & 2nd grade Concerts**
- Thur. Apr 22: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**  
Free childcare in gym
- Fri. Apr 23: **BP Press Submissions Due**
- Wed. Apr 28: **3rd grade Concert**

## March is Reading Month

March is Reading Month at Burns Park and across the country. On March 3, this year's theme will be announced at our kick-off assembly. Back by popular demand, some of the other events in March will include a read-at-home program and a school-wide read-a-thon. There is also a daily calendar of activities for students, parents and teachers. Check your student's backpack on the 3<sup>th</sup> to learn more. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading both at school and at home.

*-Rachel Erdstein*

## 'Recycle' Your Cell Phones

'Safe House, the shelter for victims of domestic violence in Washtenaw County, collects used cell phones. The phones are either refurbished for use by victims, sold for scrap or responsibly recycled. Drop off your old phone & parts at Deb Stern's house: 1237 Olivia between Granger & Wells. Or call for a pick-up: 604-3704. If you want a tax receipt, leave a note with your name and address.

**Recycle Your Cell Phones for a good cause.**

## From our Principal

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Dear Families,

It was great to see so many of you on Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). You are welcome at Burns Park every day of the year! Whenever you come to visit, just sign in at the office and get a visitor's pass.

A special thanks goes to the PTO for providing coffee and snacks and sponsoring the assembly by Gemini. We hope that during your visit you all were able to see the terrific focus and effort shown by our children. We are so proud of them all.

### **University Musical Society - School of the Year Award**

UMS is honoring Burns Park with the 2010 UMS "School of the Year" award! They give this award each year to a school that has not only demonstrated a commitment to UMS K-12 programs, but to making arts education a priority for all children that come through its doors. This award recognizes that Burns Park demonstrates this commitment, through not only its participation in UMS programs (with special thanks to Cynthia Page-Bogen for her long standing participation and advocacy), but the entire school's commitment to celebrating the arts and cultures of the world throughout curricular and extracurricular efforts ... valuing the impact that the arts has on the holistic development of our students.

The award will be formally announced at the Ann Arbor Board of Education Meeting on March 10th, where UMS will thank the students, staff, admin and parents of Burns Park for their commitment to Arts Education. You are welcome to join me. The board meets in the downtown library. The formal presentation of the UMS School of the Year Award will be held at the Ford Honors Program on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at the Michigan League.

### **March Is Reading Month**

"March Is Reading Month" is in progress. Ms. Erdstein and the Friends of the Library volunteers kicked it off with a great program that introduced our students to this year's theme "*Reading is Magic*".

### **School Messenger**

I'm excited to tell you about School Messenger. The district is rolling out **School Messenger** as I write. We still have much to learn about it, but it is a system that allows the school to communicate with each of you via, phone, text and/or email. We've been fortunate that our PTO has provided a way to communicate by email, but this technology will make even that effort much easier to get up and running. It is a computerized program that links our school's database of students phone numbers and emails to a mass communication system. In order to make sure you receive the communication that comes from this tool, you'll need to make sure that your contact information on your child's emergency card is always kept up-to-date. Just call the office when ever you need to up-date this information.

### **Lice**

Anytime children come together cases of head lice can occur. Our school has not seen any more cases of head lice this year than it has in the previous five years. Yet, I know when it happens to your family it feels like it. Debita Graham our school nurse has included some information about head lice in this newsletter. I encourage you to read it. Although we can't eliminate lice infestations anymore than we can wipe out the mosquito population, if we work together we can reduce the occurrence. Thanks for keeping a close eye on your child.

### **SIT**

Our School Improvement team and the staff have completed the Ed Yes and School Improvement Framework Action Portfolio. A copy is available in the office if you would like to view it.

### **No School Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Remember that Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> there will be no school for students. Teachers will be busy writing student report letters on that day.

### **Report Letters**

Report Letters will be sent home with students on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Although we do not automatically schedule Parent/Teacher conferences with this reporting period, we welcome hearing from you. If you have any questions or would like to meet with your child's teacher, please call. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

### **Not planning to return to Burns Park in the fall?**

If you know that your child(ren) will not be attending Burns Park next fall, please let the office know as soon as possible. This information will be very useful as we project our enrollment for the fall.

### **Class Placements for 2010-2011**

It is once again the time of year that we begin to determine class placements for students returning in the fall. Our goal is to bring staff and students together in such a way that student achievement can be the focus of every classroom.

The staff spends considerable time building classrooms that reflect a variety of abilities and personalities. As we place students, we take the

## ... more from our Principal

following factors into consideration: gender, race/ethnicity, academic achievement strengths, group dynamics, social/emotional issues, and learning styles.

Most parents feel comfortable leaving the class placement of their children up to the judgment of the Burns Park staff. Parents with specific concerns regarding placement should put them in writing and get them to me by Monday, May 3rd. We carefully consider all information parents share, including interests, friendships, energy, learning styles, etc. We will use this information, along with what we already know, to help us develop well-rounded classrooms for all students. It is our goal to make good placements for all of the children and to include parental input in the process. Please understand that parental requests for a specific teacher cannot be guaranteed but will be carefully considered as part of the process that builds an optimal learning environment for every child.

### Sorry, No Space Available Transfers

Our school enrollment is again at its maximum so, Burns Park will not be a Space Available school. That means that we cannot accept students that live within the Ann Arbor district, but not within the Burns Park attendance area.

Fondly,  
Kathy

### **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.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:carole@durgy.com)) or Jenny Jalet ([sutton@umich.edu](mailto:sutton@umich.edu))

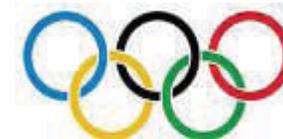
### **Burns Park Disability Workshop**

**Thursday, March 11th**

This amazing program for 4th graders is back and scheduled for Thursday, March 11th. It is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity for any parent! In the morning, the students will rotate in small groups through a series of "hands on" stations that allow them to to experience the challenges of physical, visual, auditory, speech and learning disabilities; in the afternoon, they will meet as a large group with adult presenters who will talk about their own disabilities. We need about 25 parent volunteers to help with the set-up and the morning workshops. There are two opportunities to volunteer, please let me know if you are available for either or both:

1. Set-up: Wednesday evening, March 10th (exact time TBD)
2. Workshops: Thursday, March 11th (8:45 am - 12:00 pm)

Juliet Flanders ([julietflanders@gmail.com](mailto:julietflanders@gmail.com))



### **Sign Up For Science Olympiad**

Calling all 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders: there is still time to sign up for the Burns Park Science Olympiad Team. Practices will begin March 7th. Come learn about fun science topics. If you need a new sign up sheet or have any questions, please e-mail Yeong Kwok at [ykwok@umich.edu](mailto:ykwok@umich.edu) or call 998-1020.

**March 8:** team field trip to the River Rouge Plant

**June 5:** Science Olympiad competition at Skyline

## From our PTO Presidents

We hope that everyone has enjoyed Mid-Winter break!

Please note that school will be closed for a Teacher Service Day on Monday, March 8.

After a fun-filled, and snow-filled winter, we're looking forward to spring. Juliet Flanders is organizing the disability workshop this year for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders on March 11. This is a tremendous experience for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders (and volunteers) to learn how people with various disabilities manage in day-to-day life.

Another exciting event happening in March is our Annual Special Interest Fair! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to pick a topic of their choice to research and make a project. The fair will be on Tuesday, March 16, and is sure to be fun for all!

The movie nights have proved to quite the success for the kids and parents alike! Watch for information about two upcoming movie nights in March and April.

Science Olympiad team practices start up on March 7. It is not too late to register your child for the team.

Our next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, March 18 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. (note the time change) in the Library. We will have updates on PTO fundraising thoughts and PTO programs generally. We will also have a short presentation about the new school vegetable garden. Please join us...as always, fun and free childcare is provided in the gym.

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions or concerns.

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)

The entire Fifth Grade offers a HUGE thank you to Kathy Sample for organizing the concession sales at the Burns Park Players presentation of *Guys and Dolls*. Sales from concessions fund all of the Fifth Grade graduation activities. Kathy not only organized the many volunteers, but she bought all of the food, drinks, and flowers, transported them to Tappan, and kept an eye on supplies. **Thanks Kathy!!**

## Thanks a Million!

- ◆ **Liam and Christine Ayers** and their **Grange Kitchen and Bar** for donating 10% of their sales on Tuesdays in February to Burns Park PTO. This was very thoughtful and generous, not to mention a tremendous help.
- ◆ **Sally Pinnell, Linda Dabrowski** and the rest of the **Hospitality Committee** for providing delicious treats and beverages for our NAAPID day.
- ◆ **Katie Chosid** and the many parent volunteers, for organizing and supervising the Lunchtime Choices activities – the students had a lot of fun!
- ◆ **Nancy Vettorello** and **Rachel Erdstein** for coordinating volunteers and organizing another successful book fair.
- ◆ **Julie Cohen** for organizing parent volunteers to help with 5<sup>th</sup> grade clay houses.
- ◆ **Room parents and parent volunteers**, for helping with class Valentine's Day parties.
- ◆ **Burns Park Players**, for once again providing an amazing opportunity for over 100 Burns Park students and their parents to participate in this year's "Guys and Dolls," a musical production that is not only fun, but also a fundraiser for our school and for arts programs district wide.

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers!



### A special thanks to the Lunch Time Choices volunteers!

Thank you to the following people for helping out with Lunchtime Choices this winter. The volunteers were: **Monica Valluri, Janice Lieberman, Jud Hoffman, Krista Hoffman, Melissa Bruzzano, Riyaz Kanji, Mary Van der Velde, Peter Van Alstine, Mike Bott, Victoria Green, Kathy Cramer, and Quest Martial Arts**. The children enjoyed the activities and loved being able to spend time indoors on the coldest of days.

Thanks! - *Katie Chosid*

## Reading tips for March

I wanted to share a couple of great resources for helping your child become a better reader and enjoy reading even more. The first is a collection of ebooks for kids and is available through the Ann Arbor District Library. All you need is a username and password.

Anyone who has an AADL card, can create this if you don't already have one. The AADL website describes Tumblebooks as "a collection of TumbleBooks (animated, talking picture books) TumblePuzzles. TumbleBooks are created from existing picture books which we have licensed from children's book publishers." This is very cool! It's easy to get to, too.

Just go to [www.aadl.org](http://www.aadl.org)

Click on Research (across the top)

Click on Kids

Scroll down and click on "Tumblebooks"

Enter your library username and password

The second resource is for parents and students looking for more titles at the student's "Just Right" reading level. There is a leveled books database on the Web that you can visit. You'll want to search for "guided reading levels" A-Z. You can just look for

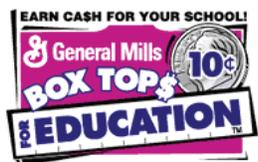
titles or narrow your search by keyword. There are thousands of titles to find.

The website address is [http://books.atozteacherstuff.com/leveled-books/index.php?p=getdb&db\\_id=1](http://books.atozteacherstuff.com/leveled-books/index.php?p=getdb&db_id=1)

Additionally, here are some tips when helping your child read. Encourage him/her to use these strategies:

- Look at the picture clues
- Think about the story
- Think about the first sound, get your mouth ready and make the sound
- Go back to the beginning of the sentence and reread
- Always be thinking
  - Does it make sense?
  - Does it have meaning?
  - Does it sound right?
  - Do we talk that way?
  - Does it look right?
  - Do the letter sounds match?
- Take the hard word and "chunk" it into smaller parts.
  - Example: thin            th-in
  - Example: Today        to-day
  - Example: Call            c-all

Keep 'em coming!



Thank you Burns Park families! Over the past few months, we have collected over 14,700 Boxtops for Education, earning our school \$147 towards our library. You child will hopefully notice a selection of new books. Please continue to donate Boxtops. It's a big help!

*Alison Schulte and Anne Boyd*

## Come to our second "Love Our Library" Shelf Organizing Party!

If you love books, want to help make sure your children can find the books they are looking for, and happen to have a few minutes free after morning drop-off, please join us!

On **Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:50 a.m. until 9:25 a.m.**, we're having another brief get-together to put the books back in order on the library shelves. We'll provide free gourmet coffee and great conversation, while you exercise your brain with the alphabet and the Dewey Decimal system! Last time, we were able to organize every shelf in the library in this short period of time. Even if you can only stay 5 or 10 minutes, your efforts will be greatly appreciated by the kids!

Hope to see you there – mark your calendars!

Any questions, contact Mary van der Velde ([mvdvelde@umich.edu](mailto:mvdvelde@umich.edu)) or Kathy Cramer ([cramer4321@gmail.com](mailto:cramer4321@gmail.com))

## Book Fair Success: We Couldn't Have Done It Without You

Once again, our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! In just four days, Burns Park students and their families purchased over \$9,300 worth of books. Students and parents were excited to see the great selection of books. Teachers were thrilled with donations to their classrooms. Profits from the sale (25%) will be used to increase our book collection in the Library Media Center.

We would like to start with a special thanks to Nancy Vettorello for taking on the job of coordinating all the volunteers for the book fair. And Many Thanks to these wonderful volunteers . . . Amanda Mercer, Sueanne Caulfield, Theresa Reid, Jackie Katz, Carol German, Lauren Kinsherf, Bob Schoeni, Barbara Peitsch, Ludia Kim, Kamaran, Courtney McCreadie, Suzanne Ross, Greta Kraphol, Sara Meingast, Mary van der Velde, Ellen Janke, Laura Holloway, Helmut Pfanner, Wendy Burke, Katrina Sykes, Kristy Demas, Heather Robinson, Shelly Webber, Peggy Walsh, Patrick Wellman, Elizabeth Pariano, Philip Cartman, Jane Gordon, Garrett Scott, Janice Lieberman, Emily Santer, Mary Matossian, Rachel Bendit, Katrina Sykes, and Sarah Powers. It is with the continuous help of parent volunteers that we are able to have successful school activities. Thanks especially to the generous donors who made it possible for every child to get a book at our book fair. I apologize if I've left anyone out. All of your help is greatly appreciated. I hope that all who bought books enjoy reading their choices, and look forward to hearing about them from our students.

*Rachel Erdstein and the Friends of the Library*

# ART ROOM NEWS

## Youth Art Month

YAM (Youth Art Month) celebrates student art in Ann Arbor. Many stores and businesses will have artwork displayed in their windows and interiors. Burns Park student artwork will be displayed at the Ann Arbor Art Center. Reception for student artists and their families will be on Sunday, March 28th at 1:00 at Palio's Restaurant on Main Street.

### *3rd Grade Molas*

*at the Ann Arbor Art Center*

Parker Stern, Jake Zell, Jacalyn Wasserman, Quentavia Keene, Elise Liu, Claire Bott, Hazel Byers, Rory Fuller, Georg List, Hui Yoo, Sophie Lete-Straka, Andrew McCreadie

## 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades go to art museums

There are two art field trips sponsored by the PTO. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be going on a double-dip museum trip: the University of Michigan Museum of Art and the Kelsey Museum of Archeology. The premier art museum in the state of Michigan, the Detroit Institute of the Arts, will be the destination of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome as chaperones so mark your calendars!

## CLAY HOUSES ARE CONSTRUCTED!!

A very big thanks to Julie Cohen (who coordi-

nated all the parent helpers) and all the volunteers who came on clay house making days this year. We couldn't have done it without you! They will be fired in the kiln and then we will be glazing them during the month of April. Then they are fired again and I hope to have them up and ready for an exhibition at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade concert night on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

## FESTIFOOLS IS COMING!

I am very excited to announce a collaboration with the University of Michigan Festifools celebration this year. Mark Tucker, Burns Park parent, will be spearheading the making of some very awesome puppets that will be designed and made by Burns Park 5<sup>th</sup> graders during the month of March. These will be shown in the Festifools parade on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendar for that date as well.

## PLEASE SAVE

**fabric remnants**

**ribbon**

**buttons, beads**

**yogurt and sour cream/hummus/cottage cheese containers-all sizes and with lids** (cleaned please!)

**yarn**

**Newspaper:** Since newspapers are fast becoming a thing of the past, my supply of newspapers is getting low. Please filter out any advertising flyers if possible. I could also use the plastic newspaper bags for taking home 2-D artwork.

## Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found located near the library before the winter break. We will be clearing out items left for more than 30 days at the end of February. All items will be donated. Also, labeling coats, mittens, and boots with your last name will help us contact you should they make it to the Lost and Found. Thank you.

Colleen Kollman and Liz Phillips



## \$10,000+ for Burns Park!

The Burns Park Run is Sunday, May 2, 2010, at 8:30am. This is our school's biggest fundraiser and the best race in Ann Arbor (we think!). As race directors, we have grown the BPR to 1,000 runners and, in a tough economy, earned well over \$10,000 for the PTO last year. As you can imagine, this money is utilized to fund many different activities for all grades at Burns Park. This event takes many hours of planning, organizing, and recruiting of volunteers. **We need 100 volunteers from Burns Park for a successful event.**

How can you help? Give 2-3 hours of your time on race day (brunch prep, packet pick-up, finish line medals, water tables, clean up) or before race day (promoting the event with flyers, organizing food donations, working at packet pick-up, distributing race forms).

Email: Jackie Dalton at [a2boss@gmail.com](mailto:a2boss@gmail.com) to offer your time and to indicate when you can help.

## Movie Nights

The next PTO Movie Night will be March 19th

Stay tuned for the date and details!

Melissa Bruzzano and Courtney McCreadie

## MUSIC ROOM NEWS

By: Cynthia Page-Bogen

### UMS School of the Year!

We were selected by UMS as "School of the Year" for our support of the Arts. Congratulations to all, and thank you to UMS! Thank you, Burns Park parents, for supporting the Arts within our school. It is a joy for all of us to work with them with our students and encourage the experience and joy of the Arts for all students. Here is the quote from Claire Rice, Interim Director of Music Education at UMS:

"Facing an audience of proud parents, flashing cameras, and critical peers, third grade students at Burns Park Elementary recently performed the classic Arab world song *Til'it ya Mahla Noorha* from memory and...in Arabic! That inspiring performance typifies Burns Park's commitment to culturally diverse participation and education. Through sustained engagement with UMS, the school's community of learners regularly seeks out opportunities to explore and discover, whether it be the cultural treasures of Detroit's Mexicantown, the movements of Montreal's Rubberbandance Group, or the pedagogical techniques of using drama to teach tolerance. With this season's School of the Year Award, we celebrate Burns Park—its students, teachers, administrators, and parents—and the wonderful work it does to engage students with arts and cultures of the world, inside and outside of the classroom."

### Ladysmith Black Mambazo

On February 1st our 3rd grade classes attended a youth performance of "Ladysmith Black Mambazo", an a cappella male singing group from South Africa made world-famous on Paul Simon's "Graceland" album. What a joy! Thank you to the teachers choice and PTO & BP Players funding that made this field trip possible.

### The Harlem Quartet

On February 12th, Grades 3, 4 & 5 attended an assembly by The Harlem Quartet, four laureates from the Sphinx Competition. We were so lucky to have these wonderful young musicians come to our school! Again, what a joy. We thank Mr. Aaron Dworkin, director of the Sphinx Competition, for making this assembly possible. These string players played wonderful music at the highest level AND were so good with the audience.

### Dance Your Way Through Michigan History

Once again, the Ann Arbor District Library Outreach Program directed by Mr. Ira Lax will bring in Mr. Glen Morningstar to run a three-week program for our 3rd & 4th graders entitled "Dance Your Way Through Michigan History". This is a wonderful treat for the students and Ms. Stevenson and I look forward to it. The March residency will culminate in a family dance to be held at school the same evening as the 3rd grade concert, April 28th. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. and last 30+ minutes. Directly afterwards we'll begin a family contradance. This event will be a fundraiser to raise the funds to bring in Mr. Morningstar again the next year. Suggested donation is \$10+/family, although any contribution is welcome. Please consider investing in our curriculum for next year and supporting us generously if you can. Thanks so much. And please thank the outreach program and Mr. Lax at the AADL if you've the opportunity!

### Concert Dates

I'd like to announce the concert dates for the '09-10 year and ask that you get them on your home calendars. A reminder that is transportation is ever an issue, our PTO will generously pay for a taxi to pick up and deliver your child/family. Just contact Mrs. Morhous or Mrs. Kyle or myself at least two days in advance of the concert date.

### 1st and 2nd Grades April 19th

6:45—1st grade "**Under the Sea**" (1st grade open house in their classrooms prior)

7:20— 2nd grade "**Seussical**" and "**Cat in the Hat**" songs.

\*\* 1st grade parents, if you are leaving after your child's performance, please leave the parking lot ASAP to make maximum room for the 2nd grade families. Thanks so much. \*\*

### 3rd Grade April 28th

7 p.m. "**Michigan!**" This concert will be followed by a contradance called by the wonderful Mr. Glen Morningstar.

### 4th Grade May 25th

7 p.m. "**Songs by or about African-Americans**"

### 5th Grade May 18th

7 p.m. "**Original Compositions Concert**"

\*\* Please be sure to put this on your calendar and clear the date, as attendance by all students is critical. Compositions are created and performed by every group member and everyone has a critical part. I hope all students will be able to attend. \*\*

I will need help to produce these concerts (running off songbooks, running lights & sound, etc.), so please let me know if you're available to and would like to help. Lyric sheets will come home with your child about 2 weeks prior to concert time. Please help your child memorize his/her words by listening to them. Thanks.

I am looking forward to seeing you at a concert and thank you in advance for your support of your child's concert preparation.

## 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\$, started 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. **Orders are due by midnight** on the following dates: Mar 3, Mar 24, Apr 28, and May 26.

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

**Order On-line and  
Pay by Credit Card at  
[www.burnsparkpto.org](http://www.burnsparkpto.org)**

## FUNDRAISING FOR BPES

***For the past five years the Burns Park community has supported elementary Spanish language education in our school!***

This Spanish program – funded by Burns Park families, community members and local businesses – provides Spanish language education, two to three times weekly, during the school day for all first through fifth graders. Research shows that introducing a language to elementary age children contributes to success in learning new languages and to overall academic success. As our world becomes “flatter” and our students participate more fully in the global economy this language program is an important part of their future success.

In the 2009-2010 school year the AAPS district began implementation of their district wide elementary language program. In its first year the program provided district wide Spanish language education for all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Our Burns Park program provided Spanish language education for our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. In 2010-2011 the AAPS program will be implemented district wide for all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Previously this program was going to include 5<sup>th</sup> graders as well but is unable to roll up two years because of a current lack of language certified teachers.

The Burns Park Foreign Language Initiative (BPFLI) is now fundraising for the 2010-2011 school year to support Spanish language education for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. As in past years, we fundraise in advance so that we can plan curriculum for the next school year. **Our fundraising deadline is Friday, April 9th.** Please let us know that you support

Spanish language education for all students at Burns Park by making a contribution or pledge to BPFLI by this date.

The total cost for the 2009-2010 Spanish language program is \$20,000 or about \$120 per student being taught. Compare this to the cost of afterschool language programs (\$300 - \$400 for a full year) or private tutors (\$35/hour). When we reach our fundraising goal BPFLI will support Senora Alfonso teaching our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish language classes for the 2010-2011 school year.

We need your help NOW; we would like to count on each and every parent in our school community to fund this program with whatever amount you can afford. From \$5, \$50, \$500 to \$1000—every contribution makes a difference. Remember, we need \$20,000 to fund the program for 2010-2011. Each year we fundraise to support this program and its continuing success depends on you!

Please reply today! For your convenience contribution/pledge forms will be sent home in back pack mail the first week of March; you can also visit our website, [www.bpfli.org](http://www.bpfli.org), to pay with credit card. If you have questions please visit our website or email [info@bpfli.org](mailto:info@bpfli.org).

Thank you in advance for your support!

### ***Burns Park Foreign Language Initiative***

Cindy Bott	Steve Norton
Jon Kinsey	Heather Robinson
David Lowenschuss	Kathy Sample
Fei Fei Metzler	Helen Starman

.....GIRLS ON THE RUN.....

GIRLS ON THE RUN-meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5:30 at Burns Park from 3/ March 15th thru May 28th. It is for 3-5 grade girls where fun running games and activities are used to help girls learn about expressing themselves, making good choices, creating healthy eating habits and serving their community. Registration forms will be passed out in school via their teachers the week of March 1st. Registration ends on March 15th. The program culminates in a non-competitive 5K in May that the girls have an absolute blast doing. It leaves them with an incredible sense of accomplishment.

Any questions-feel free to contact:

Jackie Katz  
[jbk22@att.net](mailto:jbk22@att.net)



Check out the **PTO websites:**

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>

and Penguin Talk :

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

## **LICE** Check Regularly – Treat Quickly – Nit Pick Daily – Clean Environment Thoroughly - Report Promptly

- ◆ We are sending this information out to all parents to share facts about head lice, how to identify whether your child has head lice, how to treat head lice, and steps you can take at home to help prevent your child from becoming infested with head lice.
- ◆ Any time children come together – at playdates, at sleepovers, at religious gatherings, at school, or at any other social grouping like Girl/Cub Scouts, Brownies, play practice, or team sports, head lice cases commonly increase.
- ◆ Head lice do not transmit disease and are not a serious medical condition. They cannot survive on your pets. Head lice have nothing to do with the cleanliness of a house or parenting skills.
- ◆ Direct, physical, head-to-head contact is the usual way head lice spread. Lice do not jump, fly or swim. They are, however, good crawlers.
- ◆ Check your child's head daily for lice and/or nits (eggs). Mature lice, which are no bigger than a sesame seed, avoid light and are hard to see. Lice eggs or "nits" are usually found close to the scalp – usually within 1/4 inch. They appear as tiny whitish ovals that are "glued" to the hair shaft. They cannot easily be flicked away as dandruff can.
- ◆ If you find head lice on your child, please notify the school and keep him or her home until properly treated. It is recommended that head lice be treated with shampoos specifically labeled for head lice.
- ◆ **Read and follow the directions carefully.** A second treatment is typically necessary no sooner than one week later to kill lice that hatch after the initial treatment.
- ◆ Lice shampoos do not remove the eggs from the hair. The eggs that are ¼ inch or closer to the scalp must be combed out with a special lice comb and/or manually removed on a daily basis until no live lice are found for three weeks.
- ◆ When your child returns to school, please have them report to the office so that they can be rechecked prior to their reentry to the classroom.
- ◆ Continue to examine all family members daily for 3 weeks and treat if live lice or nits close to the scalp are found.
- ◆ Combs, brushes, hats, and other hair accessories in contact with an infested person should be washed in hot water (130°F) and should not be shared with other family members.
- ◆ All items your child has been in contact with in the past two days such as towels, pillowcases, sheets, pajamas, clothes, coats, hats, scarves, and similar items should be washed in hot water (130°F) and dried on high heat for at least 30 minutes. Items that cannot be washed may be stored in a tightly sealed garbage bag for a period of two weeks or may be placed in a freezer or outdoors (if temperatures are below freezing) for 24 hours.
- ◆ Vacuuming the house, mattresses, car seats, and furniture is recommended. Using household insecticides to treat the home, vehicles, carpets or furniture will unnecessarily expose your household to harmful chemicals.
- ◆ To help prevent the spread of head lice, please encourage your child not to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, barrettes, as well as helmets or headphones with foam ear protectors.

### **Check Regularly – Treat Quickly – Nit Pick Daily – Clean Environment Thoroughly - Report Promptly**

For more information regarding head lice or its treatment, please feel free to contact the school office, your school nurse, your child's doctor, or your local health department. You can also go on the district's website to the parents link to obtain more information and resources. Thank you for your help and support.

In peace,

Debita Graham, RN, School Nurse

## 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](mailto:deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org)

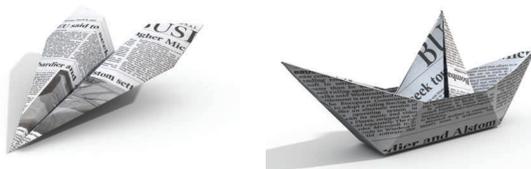
**Payment:** Please place your check (made out to Burns Park PTO) in an envelope labeled "BP Press Ads, attn: Treasurer" in the PTO box in the school office. (They may also be mailed to the school at 1414 Wells, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.) Both the electronic ad copy and payment must be received by the published deadline for the issue in which the ad is placed.

**Questions?** Contact Deb at 604-3704 or [deb.odom.stern@stanfordaluni.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 April 2010 issue are due no later than **Friday, March 19th**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

[deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org)

GIVE  
OPPORTUNITY  
A PLACE  
TO KNOCK



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