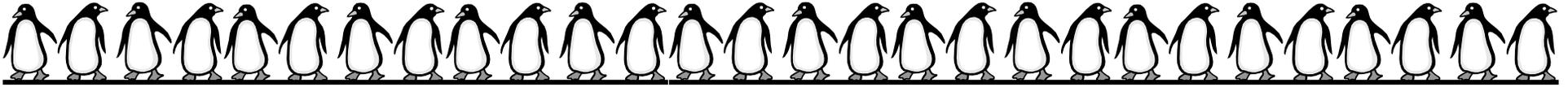


Burns Park Press



April 2007 - Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Hearing & Vision Re-test	3 Hearing & Vision Re-test	4	5	6 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break	7
8	9 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break	10 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break	11 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break	12 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break	13 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break	14
15	16	17 7pm Tappan Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation, 7-8:30 pm Robert Allen, AAPS CFO at Burns Park	18	19 7pm, PTO meeting (free childcare)	20 Burns Park Press Articles Due	21
22 1-5pm Earth Day Cleanup	23 Special Interest Fair	24	25 4th Grade Camp	26 4th Grade Camp	27 4th Grade Camp 5th Grade visit to Scarlett MS	28
29	30	31	Mark your calendars: May 2: 3rd and 4th Grades' Concert, 7:00 p.m. May 4: Red Cross Blood Drive, 2:00–8:00 p.m. May 5: Science Olympiad May 6: Burns Park Run May 7: Instrumental Music Concert May 11: 5th Grade visit to Tappan MS			

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Burns Park Mission Statement:
 All of our children will become confident, secure, caring individuals of a diverse community who are lifelong learners and achieve personal success.

From our Principal

Dear Burns Park Families,

March was a busy month, and April promises to be even busier! A special thanks goes to JoLeen Felkey and Pam Ibrahim for making Science Night another great success. Our thanks go also to Ms. Erdstein and the Friends of the Media Center for navigating our kids around the world for March Is Reading Month. April is bringing us an all school trip to Pioneer's *Wizard of Oz*, the Special Interest Fair and 4th Grade Camp. We extend a great big thank you to our PTO, the Burns Park Players, Agnes Jensen, Ms. Wall, Ms. Spiegel and the many other volunteers that make all these events possible!

Student Placement for the '07-'08 School Year

Once again, it is time to begin the process of identifying classroom configurations for next year. As we did last year, the teachers and I will get together and group students so that there are a variety of abilities and personalities in each class. When grouping students, we try to create heterogeneous classes characterized by a variety of academic abilities, social/emotional characteristics and learning styles.

Additionally, we will carefully consider information parents share with me—in writing—about their children. This

information will be used along with what we already know to help us develop well-rounded classrooms for all students. Although at this time of year teachers know their students pretty well, any other information parents feel would assist us with this process is welcome. It is our goal to make good placements for *all* of the children and to include parental input in the process whenever possible. Sharing how your child learns best, what subjects/activities s/he finds interesting, ideas that have worked well in the past, work habits at home, or hobbies or recreational interests can all be helpful.

Most parents are satisfied to leave placement up to the judgment of the teachers. **Parents with a specific concern regarding placement should communicate it to me in writing by Friday April 27, 2007.** A separate letter for each child is required. Please understand, however, that these requests will be honored as part of a process that builds a balanced class of students. Specific teachers cannot be guaranteed.

Fluctuations in enrollment greatly affect classroom configurations and staffing assignments. Our staffing plan and class configuration will not be finalized until the week before school starts in September.

Plans for 2007–2008

As we look ahead to next year, we once again ask for your help. If you know of children who will be eligible to attend Kindergarten—i.e. 5 years old on or before December 1, 2007—please let us know. If you know that your family will not be returning in 2007–2008, please call the office at 994-1919. We need to develop classroom organization plans and must rely on up-to-date numbers at each grade level. Thanks for helping us anticipate population fluctuations in our attendance area.

Project Healthy Schools

The Ann Arbor school district supports Project Healthy Schools. This joint community initiative has been ongoing for three years. There is a strong partnership between the Ann Arbor Public Schools, health practitioners and local agencies. The district has adopted policy guidelines promoting nutritional health. Our elementary science instruction includes health education outcomes prescribed by the State of Michigan's Model Health Curriculum. Our PE teachers use fitness programs and explicitly address nutritional health during PE class. If you are interested in learning more about Healthy Schools, the following websites explain the program:

<http://www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspae/2004/hmschool.htm>

<http://www.med.umich.edu/projecthealthyschools/>

Safety, Weaponry, and School Procedures

I'd like to remind parents to check your children's pockets and backpacks for any item (including replicas) that might be considered a weapon according to the State Code. This code applies serious consequences for elementary-aged students as well as for secondary students. Parents should be alert to the weaponry law and its guidelines regarding weapons/replicas and threatening behaviors on school property. Please speak with your children and be vigilant about checking backpacks. The law is intended to keep everyone safe.

Have a safe and enjoyable spring break.

Kathy

From our PTO Presidents

At our PTO meeting last week, we approved a plan for some new features on the upper elementary playground. "Option 1" was the winning scenario, and includes an extended blacktop area and additional basketball hoops (most likely 4 total), a community built climbing wall, and two new overhead climbers. We'll keep you posted on when you might see this equipment installed, and stay tuned for your chance to help out!

It's that time of year again, when we start looking for volunteers to chair the various PTO programs that we offer during the year. All these wonderful things don't happen without a volunteer at the helm. Are you interested in taking a leadership role in one of our programs? Contact Kelly, Helen, or our Volunteer Coordinator, Janice Lieberman (liebermanjanice@yahoo.com). At our April meeting we plan to review the various programs that our PTO offers, and make plans for the 2007-08 school year. Come and tell us what you think! If you're unfamiliar with all the PTO programs, refer to page two of the Burns Park Directory for a complete list of our programs and volunteers.

Kelly Bumgarner, President
761-5439
skbum@sbcglobal.net

Helen Starman, President-Elect
994-8553
hstarman@comcast.net

Music Notes

Dear Burns Park School Community, First off, congratulations and thanks to the 1st & 2nd grade classes for their excellent concerts the evening of March 27th, and thanks to all of the people who helped make those shows possible, including but not limited to: Janice Lieberman, Steve Norton, Ping Wang, Chris Sadlier, Juliet Flanders, Kristen Freshley, Steve Engle, David Lowenchuss, Eva Rosenwald, Cynthia Sheng, Julie Cohen, Jennifer Tanau, Jane Noffke, Cindy Middleton, and Kate Higgins and the crew that helped her in the making of the 1st grade T-shirts. Thanks also to all the other volunteers whose names I can't pull out of the air just now, to my student teacher, Ms. Sarah Mehaffey, and the music teacher who has so ably subbed for me this year: Ms. Shelley Klippe! Thanks to you parents for assisting your child with her/his words at home and for getting them to their concert!

Secondly, a reminder of upcoming concerts:

May 2, Wednesday,

- ◆ 3rd grade (Mrs. Kim and Ms. Everett and Ms. Dworkin) at 7 p.m. singing "Songs from South of the Border"
- ◆ and 4th grade (Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Spiegel and Ms. Kreger) at 7:40

("The Beatles" and Recorder Songs),

- ◆ both concerts accompanied by Mr. Mike Montgomery of previous Ragtime concert fame and our wonderful parent band

May 15, Tuesday,

- ◆ 5th Grade Original Compositions: all compositions created and performed by 5th graders of 2007

Songbooks for 3rd & 4th's will be sent home several weeks prior to the concert date. Please be sure your child knows his/her words! Thank you!

5th graders, please keep clear your calendar of any conflicts on Tuesday, May 15! Thanks so much!

As always, if any family has a transportation problem that evening please inform the school, as our PTO will pay for a taxi to transport your child or your family. Further details on all of these concerts will be coming home in the next several weeks.

All parents and students are welcome to come to any performance. They are fun! Thank you very much. The kids are doing a great job!

Cynthia Page,
Vocal Music Teacher

Fifth Grade Instrumental Music Concert

Parents: Please mark your calendars!

Monday, May 7, 2007

7:00 p.m.

All performers please arrive by 6:40

Concert Dress: Nice, neat clothing; no sweats, sports jerseys, or printed tee shirts, please. Skirts must be long enough to cover the knees when seated.

Parents with questions can contact Carolyn Bybee: bybee@aaps.k12.mi.us

Or call Mrs. Bybee or Ms. Ford at the school

Calling all fourth grade parents!

It is a tradition at Burns Park that fourth grade parent volunteers setup, serve and clean up the fifth grade graduation brunch so that the fifth grade parents can enjoy the time with their children; the brunch food is provided by the fifth grade parents. This year's graduation is on June 15 at 10:00 AM.

Please contact Helen Starman (hstarman@comcast.net or 994-8553) with any questions and to volunteer.

Special Interest Fair is Coming!

The annual Special Interest Fair will be Monday, April 23rd. Start brainstorming now!! For anyone 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 previous projects range from "All about Horses" to a model of Hogwarts Castle to projects about Korea). ALL students – kindergarten through 5th grade are encouraged to submit a project! The fair is non-competitive, and children may work alone or in a group.

Look for details coming home in your child's backpack, or contact Agnes Jensen at ajense17@sbcglobal.net.

This year, we are encouraging students to make projects that relate to our Multicultural focus on Spanish-speaking countries. To choose a topic, consider these questions:

- ◆ Is your child from a Spanish-speaking country?
- ◆ Does your child have relatives, ancestors, or friends that have lived in one?
- ◆ Has your child traveled to one?
- ◆ Is your child interested in the food, art, clothing, dance, music, animals, plants, land, people and/or history of a Spanish-speaking country?
- ◆ Does your child love learning Spanish and want to demonstrate knowledge of the language?
- ◆

We are eager for students to make projects relating to their experience and knowledge of these cultures. If desired, the project can be written in Spanish (with English translation). All of these projects will be grouped together in one location. Also, we would love to have Latino food and music. If you are able to bring food to share, music to play, or clothing and crafts to display on April 23, please contact Janice Lieberman at 761-7431 or liebermanjanice@yahoo.com.

We are also looking for a few volunteers to help check projects in the morning of the fair (from 8 until 8:50 am), or to man the auditorium for an hour during the day (to help teachers make sure that as the students tour the fair, they don't touch fragile items, etc).

If you can help, please contact Agnes.

¡Se acerca la fecha de la Feria de interés especial!

La feria anual de interés especial sera el lunes, 23 de abril. ¡Empiecen a pensar desde ahora! Para los que no conozcan la feria, es similar a la feria de ciencias pero con temas de todo tipo. La finalidad es motivar a los estudiantes a trabajar en algún tema de su interés y preparar una muestra (algunos ejemplos de trabajos anteriores varían desde "Todo sobre caballos", modelos de los castillos de Hogwarts y el fútbol en Argentina.) TODOS los estudiantes- desde el kindergarten hasta 5to grado pueden presentar un proyecto. La feria no es competitiva, y los niños pueden trabajar solos o en grupo.

Más información sera enviada en la mochila de su hijo/a. También puede contactar a Agnes Jensen en: ajense17@sbcglobal.net

Este año, estamos alentando a los estudiantes para que sus proyectos se relacionen con nuestro foco multicultural de los países de habla hispana. Para elegir un tema, considere las siguientes preguntas:

- ◆ ¿Su hijo proviene de un país de habla hispana?
- ◆ ¿Su hijo tiene parientes, ancestros o amigos que vivieron en un país hispano?
- ◆ ¿Su hijo viajó a uno de estos países?
- ◆ ¿A su hijo le interesa la comida, el arte, la ropa, el baile, la música, los animals, las plantas, la tierra, la gente o la historia de un país hispano?
- ◆ ¿A su hijo le gusta la lengua española y desea demostrar sus conocimientos del idioma?
- ◆

Nos interesaría especialmente que los estudiantes hicieran proyectos relacionados a su experiencia y conocimiento de esta cultura. El texto puede ser escrito en español (con traducción al inglés). Todos los trabajos de este tema serán agrupados en el mismo sector de la feria. También, nos encantaría tener música latina y comida. Si usted puede traer música, ropa o artesanías para exponer, o algo de comida para compartir el 23 de abril, por favor contacte a Andrea Rojo al 213-0005 o sino en: andreaszk@sbcglobal.net

Por ultimo, necesitamos voluntarios para recibir los proyectos en la mañana de la feria (de las 8 a las 8:50 horas), o una hora durante el día en el auditorio (para ayudar a los maestros a controlar que los alumnos no toquen objetos frágiles, etc.)

Si está disponible para ayudar, por favor contacte a Agnes o a Andrea Rojo.

Speak out! Our schools are in trouble

By Steve Norton, Jennifer Tanau, Jeannette Jackson and Janice Lieberman Founders of Ann Arbor Parents for Schools

Did you know...?

...that over \$3.7 million will be cut from this year's AAPS budget automatically unless the Governor and Legislature find new funds? Or that every school district in the state faces these cuts?

...that school districts like Ann Arbor are not allowed to raise new funds to run our schools - we can only cut our budget?

...that this would be the third time in five years that the state has had to take back money in the middle of the year because revenues for education were less than expected?

Michigan's school funding system is broken. Since 1994, control of the amount of money available to run schools has been taken out of the hands of local districts and determined by the State Legislature. But even more importantly, those changes shifted school funding away from using stable sources of revenue like property taxes and onto the sales tax, various "sin taxes," and the state lottery. This worked passably well when the economy was growing, but since Michigan's economy began to slow, revenue from the sales tax and similar taxes began to shrink rapidly. This year, the revenue shortfall has left a \$377 million hole in the state's School Aid Fund, which provides the bulk of revenue for local school spending. The situation for next year looks equally grim.

Join us in urging our lawmakers to fix the problem instead of doing nothing or providing band-aids!

We've been working to forge links with parents around Ann Arbor, and now around the state, and we could use your help.

To learn more about how school funding works in Michigan, we invite all parents to visit our web site:

<http://www.aaparentsforschools.org>. We've been posting regular updates on the school funding situation and the current negotiations over the budget in Lansing, along with links that help explain the system and how it got to look the way it does. Check out the rest of our site to find out more about what's happening with school funding today and how we can all make our voices heard.

Finally, come and join other parents to learn about our schools' budget crisis: Robert Allen, the Deputy Superintendent for Operations of the AAPS (their CFO), will be speaking at Burns Park on the evening of April 17. (See Helen Starman's article about the meeting below.) We hope to see you there.

Thanks for your support!

Please join me in welcoming Robert Allen, AAPS Deputy Superintendent for Operations (CFO), to Burns Park on April 17 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. He will speak about the district's current budget crisis, its origins and what the future holds. As this topic is relevant for any parent with a child enrolled in the Ann Arbor public schools I know that you will want to make a special effort to attend.

Questions? Helen Starman
(hstarman@comcast.net or 994-8553)

Pioneer Theatre Guild Presents The Wizard Of Oz

Pioneer Theatre Guild is thrilled to present the beloved musical, The Wizard of Oz, with music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg. This iconic show is a favorite for people of all ages, and is based on the classic novel by L. Frank Baum. With direction by Ryan Foy, choreography by Sadie Yarrington and Kelcy Griffin, assistant direction by Alex Puette, and music direction by Gretchen Suhre, this production features 40 talented Pioneer students and 15 elementary-aged Munchkins from Pioneer feeder schools. . It is hard to imagine a musical with more brains, courage, and heart than this one. With its dazzling technical opportunities and wonderful plot and score, this show truly feeds the soul.

***The show features Burns Park graduates Laura Wellman as Dorothy, Clara Teall as Glinda, Hannah Jacobson as the Munchkin Mayor, Betsy Haller, Elise Kulik, Hannah Pearlman, AJ Randolph, Emily Steward, Hannah Huget as the Assisstant Stage Manager, and Ben Lehman as Lights crewhead.

Tickets: Adults \$12, Students/Seniors/Teachers \$8

- ◆ Saturday, April 21st, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday, April 22nd, 2:00 p.m. matinee
- ◆ Friday, April 27th, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, April 28th, 2:00 p.m. matinee
- ◆ Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday, April 29th 2:00 p.m. matinee

There will be reserved seating (rows G-K) available for \$25 a ticket with no waiting in line! Please contact ptguild@gmail.com with any questions, and a member of the student executive board will respond promptly.

Advanced tickets will be available after April 10 at Morgan and York—1928 Packard (on the corner of Packard quarter of a mile south of Stadium Blvd); For information: (734) 662-0798 No telephone orders accepted, please! See our website for more information: www.ptguild.org.

Burns Park Run

Sunday, May 6, 2007, 8:30am

www.burnsparkrun.org

New charitable donations opportunity:

For the past 2 years, the Burns Park Run has collected donations for Mott Children's Hospital. We have been able to give about \$500 each year, and we feel great about helping others outside of our school. This year, Joel Dalton has created a method of raising funds (run for a cause) for a number of charitable organizations. This additional fundraising is always optional. The organizations are listed on our new webpage (Thank you Joel and Steve Norton), <http://www.burnsparkrun.org>, and on the online registration site, <http://www.active.com>, which you can access through a link on the BPR webpage. Fundraising for all organizations except Mott can only be done online.

If you would like to raise funds for an organization that is not listed, please email Joel Dalton at daltonjd@gmail.com. He will provide you with a format for giving him the necessary information (tax id#, etc). The deadline for adding an organization is April 10. Please feel free to call or email Joel if you have questions about the fundraising process.

Our goal is to register over 1,000 runners and walkers this year. Please help us get the word out to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and especially kids. The new webpage makes it easy!

Paper registration forms will be coming home in backpacks at the end of April. A printable form will also be available on the PTO website. Questions? Call Jackie Dalton at 747-6952 or email jdalton@cch.org.

Hard to Think of a Better Way to Spend a Sunday Morning

Please consider joining the Walk and Talk Team as they walk/run the 5K at the Burns Park Run on May 6th

We are looking for volunteers to walk/run with a group of our Walk and Talk students who have spent the fall and spring season training hard for the Burns Park Run 5K. It's an incredibly rewarding experience to see these kids reach their goal of completing the 5K walk/run. What does it entail you ask? We simply need you to meet us at the park where you will gather your previously assigned group of students to supervise and encourage as they make their way around the course.

Please let me know if you have any interest in supporting our students as they take on this fun challenge. It's a exciting time and I promise you will be proud when our Walk and Talkers cross the finish line!

Contact me if you would like to help out – we'd love to have you!

Marci Ammerman

662-7812

mbammerman@comcast.net

Earth Day Clean Up!

Burns Park Elementary School -

Sunday, April 22 between 1-5pm (weather permitting)

Bring your children and work gloves to help spruce up the school playground and park. Join the Playground Committee in painting maps on the asphalt, finishing the picnic tables, planting flowers, cleaning up the garden and making bird feeders. Come get your hands dirty and help celebrate Earth Day!

Emily Hastie

Ice Cream Social

The very popular, family fun Ice Cream Social will be on Wednesday, **May 30**. There will be live music, moon bounces, games, and food for all.

The success of this event is dependent on the many parent volunteers. If you would like to lend a hand, please contact Nancy Vettorello (668-0619 or vettorel@umich.edu) or Lynda Norton (761-1478 or lnorton@okno.com). Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered, especially the chairs of the committees.

Nancy and Lynda

Note card Fundraiser: Update

Thanks to all the families who ordered note cards, notepads or address stickers! We raised over \$750.

They will be coming home in backpacks early this month. Questions? Contact Victoria Booth (vbooth@umich.edu or 327-0172) or Cynthia Sheng (csheng@cisco.com)

Thanks a Million

Many thanks go out this month to our numerous Math/Science night volunteers. As you know, it takes a lot of help to pull off an enjoyable evening like this one, so here (in no particular order) are the folks who made it possible: co-chairs JoLeen Felkey and Pam Ibrahim, Doug Forman, Margaret Punch, Tammy Clark Ojo, Daniel Normolle, Cathy Wagoner, Pam Ibrahim, Steve Brown, Jim Wallace, Julie Lawson Timmer and Dan Timmer, Yanan Zhao, Mike and Cindy Bott, Mike Felkey, Rebecca Felkey, Kathie Weinmann, Jennie Brooks, Jona Jeffords, Patrice Johnson, Bill Brinkerhoff, Kathy Sample, Greta and Graydon Krapohl, and Fei Fei Metzler. Also, Kristen Freshley who provided beautiful graphics work for our flyers around school. Thanks everyone!

All the kids had a terrific time Racing Around the World with Reading this month, thanks to Rachel Erdstein and her March is Reading Month team. Many thanks to all those who helped with bulletin boards and banners, train tickets and trivia question, mystery readers and "mileage" counting...it couldn't have happened without you!

Thanks to all those parents providing help to Cynthia Page-Bogen for the wonderful first and second grade music concerts.

We appreciate the help of Anne Gilbert on installing the "playground Options" bulletin board on very short notice, and thanks again to the rest of the committee, Joel Dalton and Mike Bott, for their efforts in finalizing the plans.

Kelly Bumgarner & Helen Starman

Burns Park Press Advertising

Display Ads

We welcome ads for companies and services of interest to our Burns Park community. The BP Press ad size is a nominal 2.5 x 4.25 vertical or horizontal, roughly 1/8 of a page for \$35/ issue or 3 months for \$100. The ads may be enlarged to fit the available space, at no extra charge.

Classifieds

Classifieds are meant to be used by the families of the Burns Park area to sell/buy personal items and/or services. Classifieds will be included on a first come, first served basis as space permits. Rates are \$.20/word.

Electronic Submission, please!

Submit your ad to Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor (agilbert@surovell.com).

Payment

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

Questions?

Contact Anne at 657-7121.

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 May 2007 issue are due no later than Friday, April 20. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

Anne Gilbert

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.

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Check out the **PTO websites:**

www.burnsparkpto.org

and Penguin Talk :

www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/