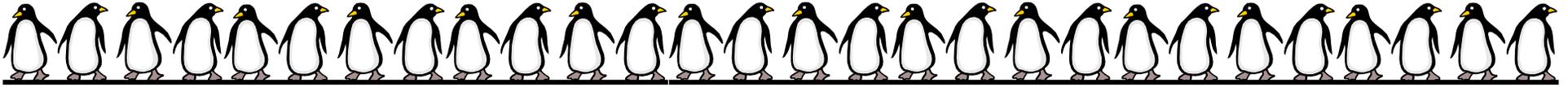


# Burns Park Press



## January 2007 - Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Jan 1 Winter Break	2 Winter Break	3 Winter Break	4 Winter Break	5 Winter Break	6 Winter Break
7	8 Back to School	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 No School: MLK Jr. Day	16	17	18 7pm, PTO Meeting, free childcare Burns Park Press Articles Due	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Blood Drive	31 Lost & Found Items Removed	<b>Mark your Calendars:</b> Feb 14-16: Hearing & Vision Screening (grades 1-5) Feb 19: NO SCHOOL Feb. 21, 7pm: Kindergarten Roundup (parents only) Feb 22 (afternoon): Kindergarten visit Feb 22, 7pm: PTO Meeting Feb 23: Mid-Winter break begins at end of day		

**Inside this Issue:**

- From our Principal.....2-3
- From our PTO Presidents.....3
- Flu season is upon us.....3
- School Concert Dates.....4
- Burns Park Kids Care ...about helping rebuild New Orleans.....4
- Blood Drive!.....4
- Create-Your-Own-Notecards .....5
- Burns Park Press Submissions .....5
- Burns Park Press Advertising.....5
- Thanks a Million.....6
- Other Thanks! .....6

Check out the **PTO websites:**  
[www.burnsparkpto.org](http://www.burnsparkpto.org)  
 and Penguin Talk :  
[www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/](http://www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/)

**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.

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## From our Principal

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Dear Families,

*¡Feliz Año Nuevo!* Happy New Year! It is great to be back with your wonderful children, and we hope you enjoyed your vacation together. Thank you all once again for the delightfully delicious luncheon on December 11th. Your generosity, thoughtfulness and perpetually terrific culinary skills warm all of our hearts. Thanks again — you are wonderful!

We are enjoying our time together in our Community Circles on Wednesday mornings. We've read *Courage* by Bernard Waber, *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson, and *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes. We've talked about the courage of the characters in the stories, and we've shared our own, similar life experiences. As we talk about the courage to make good decisions and stand up for ourselves and others, we are reinforcing our earlier lessons from the curriculum *Take a Stand: Preventing Bullying, Interpersonal Conflict and Violence*. All families should have received a copy of the family handbook that accompanied this curriculum in September.

The staff and I believe it is extremely important that we develop a comprehensive approach to teaching our children how to be good friends, to make new friends, and to stand up for one another. In order to further support our teachers as they infuse lessons on caring and inclusiveness into their daily

routines, we meet in our multi-age Community Circles weekly and follow the recess guidelines for *A Trouble-Free Playground*.

With *A Trouble-Free Playground* in its fourth year at Burns Park, it appears that the games are becoming a tradition. As a staff we appreciate the children's increased physical activity and their ability to solve problems effectively. Teachers report a significant reduction in the number of after-recess complaints. Our noon supervisors report far fewer students needing adult intervention. So many children want to play one of the *Trouble-Free* games, that our biggest challenge is finding space for all the games.

Most misbehavior at school arises out of misunderstandings that occur when our children make sincere but inexperienced attempts to share, to be fair, and to be responsible. Problem solving and redirection resolve most of these misunderstandings, but when misbehavior becomes problematic - such as with bullying or physical aggression - we follow the guidelines in Ann Arbor Public Schools' *Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*. Bullying and physical aggression are addressed specifically in this handbook which is available online at the district's website. The *Burns Park Student Handbook* also addresses these issues and is available online or in the school office.

It is our goal to provide a school environment that is safe for *all* students. In addition to following the *Rights and Responsibilities Handbook* guidelines and proactively applying the curricula mentioned above, we work specifically with children who bully others. Applying a No Bullying philosophy, we provide consequences, monitor behavior closely, and teach specific replacement behaviors through a team effort involving all teachers, our school social worker, our teacher consultant and, of course, me.

We need parental support of these efforts at Burn Park School. If you have any questions or would like to share your thoughts, please feel free to give me a call. I'd be happy to talk with you further.

### **MLK Day Observed at Burns Park**

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we at Burns Park will extend our Community Circle theme of "take a stand" by discussing the courage it took to stand up for civil rights. We will honor Dr. King's peaceful ways to "stand up" for the civil rights of all. **There is no school on Monday, January 15 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parent Involvement Day**

Mark your calendars now for our parent involvement day — NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) — scheduled for Monday, February 12. On this day, ALL parents are invited

and encouraged to come to school for all or part of the day to experience the learning environment first hand. This year, La Ron Williams will delight all of us with a performance of African folk tales and songs. Look for additional information soon, but please mark your calendars and plan on coming to school that day.

### **2007–2008 Kindergarten Round-Up (Scavenger Hunt and Visit)**

#### **Bring Your Parent to School on Parent Involvement Day —**

**Monday, February 12, from 9:30 to 11:00.** Next year's kindergarten families

are invited to join the rest of our families and visit our school. We have designed a Scavenger Hunt to allow you to tour our building at your own pace. Please call the office (994-1919) and let us know that you are interested so that we plan for the correct number of families.

#### **Kindergarten Parent Orientation — Thursday, March 8, 7:00 PM**

**(parents only)** During this meeting we'll talk about our kindergarten program and answer any questions you might have. You will get a chance to visit the kindergarten classrooms and see a slideshow of children in action during the regular kindergarten day. We will also distribute all the necessary registration forms. Since this meeting is designed for parents, the PTO will provide childcare as they do for PTO meetings. You will need to register for childcare prior to

## ...from our principal

that evening by calling the office (994-1919).

### Children's Visit — Friday, March 9

On the afternoon following the Parent Orientation, we will offer this program for the incoming kindergartners. This is an opportunity for our prospective kindergartners to get an idea of what it is like to come to school at Burns Park. We will divide them into groups of 12 to 15 students, and they will spend approximately one hour with one of the kindergarten teachers doing kindergarten activities. Parents may sign their prospective kindergartners up for the visit at the Parent Orientation.

If you know of any families with children to enroll in kindergarten for the fall, please let them know about these Kindergarten Round-Up events.

### Reminders

Does your child eat hot lunch? Please keep enough money in your child's lunch account to cover the cost.

And finally, don't forget that there will be no school for students on Monday, February 19 while our teachers have a professional development day. Also, our mid-winter break begins at the end of the school day on Friday, February 23 and school will resume on Monday, March 5.

Educationally yours,

*Kathy Morhous*  
Principal

## From our PTO Presidents

At our January 18th PTO meeting, we plan to discuss a capital project for the school. The PTO has some funds in savings which we are considering using to improve our school. We have met with the teachers to determine what needs there are, and have heard from some parents and even kids!

The idea we have heard most is some sort of playground enhancement. It makes sense to stay outdoors because of changes that are due to the building itself with the AAPS bond projects. We'd like to hear your ideas too, so please plan to come. As always, our goal is to meet efficiently and be finished in an hour, but if lots of people come to share ideas (and we hope they do!), it may go over.

Best wishes for safe and fun winter break, and Happy Holidays!

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

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

## Flu season is upon us

The flu or influenza is a highly contagious respiratory illness that typically presents itself with a sudden onset of chills and fever, a stuffy nose, headache, tiredness, body aches, sore throat, and a dry, hacking cough. Diarrhea and vomiting can also occur more commonly in children. The worst of the illness usually lasts for 3 to 4 days, but the cough and a "worn out feeling" can last for a week or more.

The flu is caused by a virus. A person is contagious (can spread the flu) 2 days before they show symptoms and for 3 to 5 days after they develop symptoms. The incubation period for the flu is generally 24 to 72 hours.

Influenza spreads easily by inhaling droplets coughed or sneezed into the air by a person who has the flu. The flu can also be spread by touching surfaces or objects contaminated by secretions from a person ill with the flu. The virus may live for hours in dried mucous.

How can you prevent you and your family from getting the flu and how can you help prevent the spread of illnesses?

- ◆ GET A FLU SHOT!!!! It is not too late to vaccinate against the flu. The best time to get your yearly flu shot is in October or November, but it is not too late to get the shot in December and later. Flu season can begin as early as October and can last as late as May.

- ◆ GET ADEQUATE REST, FLUIDS, AND EXERCISE AND EAT A BALANCED DIET
- ◆ HANDWASHING! Encourage everyone in your family to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently throughout the day.
- ◆ CATCH YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE!! Catch your cough or sneeze in the inner part of your elbow. This prevents the spread of the droplets and helps keep your hands from being contaminated. Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- ◆ USE TISSUES!!! After using a tissue, immediately throw the soiled tissue in a trash receptacle and wash your hands.
- ◆ STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK!!!! A person should be fever free (without taking a fever reducer) for 24 hours, be able to be on a regular diet, and have adequate energy before returning to work or school.

If you have any questions please contact your doctor, your child's doctor, or the school nurse.

Here's to a healthy winter!

In peace,

*Debita Graham, RN, School Nurse*

## School Concert Dates

Dear Burns Park School Community,  
Please mark on your calendars the schedule for school concerts for the 2006 - 07 school year:

Grades 1 & 2: Tuesday, March 27, 1st grade at 6:45 and 2nd grade at 7:15

Grades 3 & 4: Wednesday, May 2nd

Grade 5: Original Compositions Concert, May 15th at 7 p.m.

All Concerts will take place in the school auditorium. Students should arrive 10 minutes prior to show time. Split classes perform with the higher grade level. It is of utmost importance that all 5th graders attend their concert, so please make any arrangements that may be necessary. For any families that need help with transportation to a concert, please contact myself or Mrs. Morhous or the classroom teacher. PTO funds will ensure that all families are able to attend.

Further details will be forthcoming as the dates draw closer. Please watch for them.

Thank you.

*Cynthia Page-Bogen*

Vocal Music Teacher, Burns Park

## Burns Park Kids Care ...about helping rebuild New Orleans

The Burns Park Kids Care Club is collecting items to send with Ms. Kreger when she returns to New Orleans in February to continue her work to repair and rebuild houses there. (See the collection box outside the office).

The following article, written by the 5th-grade members of the Club, describes Ms. Kreger's efforts, and provides a list of items needed.

Last April Ms. Kreger went to New Orleans to help rebuild houses that were wrecked in hurricane Katrina. Five Burns Park 5<sup>th</sup> graders got the inside scoop on how Ms. Kreger helped those people in New Orleans whose houses got destroyed.

Q. How did you help?

A. First we hauled junk out onto the street and then we pulled down walls, ceilings and floors of damaged houses.

Q. Who did you help?

A. I helped poor, elderly and disabled people coming back to their houses in New Orleans.

Q. How many houses did you clear out?

A. Only two in the week we were there, because there was so much junk.

Q. Why did you help?

A. I helped out because I felt like I needed to do something.

Q. What did the people whose houses you cleaned out do when you finished?

A. They hugged us, they sang, they danced and they brought us food. They were elated!

Q. How did you feel while working?

A. It's the hardest thing I've ever done. I was exhausted.

Q. How did you feel after the trip was over?

A. I felt like I had made a difference in the house owner's lives. That was its own intrinsic reward.

Ms. Kreger is going back to New Orleans to help more people whose houses have gotten wrecked from February 24<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>. So if you want to make a difference in people's lives in New Orleans you can e-mail Ms. Kreger at [kreger@aaps.kla.mi.us](mailto:kreger@aaps.kla.mi.us).

You can also donate supplies. Here is a list of supplies the crew might need:

Pharmacy Items: toilet paper, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, bug spray, aspirin, tylenol, ibuprofen, Chapstick, saline solution

Work Supplies: shop vac, work gloves, respirator mask, sweat rags, ear plugs, safety glasses, paper masks, hard hats

Clothes: flip flops, sunglasses, baseball hats, bandanas, long sleeved shirts

Food/Drinks: water bottles, easy-to-pack snacks that last in the heat

## Blood Drive!

Sandy Kreger's class will organize a blood drive on Tuesday January 30 from 1:30 - 7:30pm.

Look forward to homemade snacks, goody bags, and entertainment! Each pint saves up to 3 lives!

To sign up, go to [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) and type in bpe in the source code box (bpe stands for Burns Park Elementary). Then just pick a time!

## Create-Your-Own-Notecards

Thank you notes, birthday cards, personalized stationary, Mother's and Father's Day gifts ...

Again this year, Burns Park students and families can create their own individualized note cards – and raise money for the PTO. In mid-January, look in backpacks for order forms and blank cards to create your own designs. The professionally printed cards, in packs of 20, will arrive in March already packaged for gift giving. Extra blank cards and order forms will be available in the office if siblings or friends want to participate.

Questions? Please contact:

*Victoria Booth*

(327-0172 or [vbooth@umich.edu](mailto:vbooth@umich.edu)) or

*Cynthia Sheng*

(973-1395 or [csheng@cisco.com](mailto:csheng@cisco.com))

## 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 2007 issue are due no later than Thursday, January 18. Late submissions may not be included.

Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

Anne Gilbert

## 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](mailto: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.

# Pilar's Café



**Traditional Salvadorian  
& Latin Cuisine**

2285 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104  
(734) 913-2659 Fax (734) 913-2931  
[www.pilarscafe.com](http://www.pilarscafe.com)

## Thanks a Million

A big thank you goes to **Sara Figueroa and Theresa Reid** for their efforts in organizing Family-to-Family Giving this year. This is such a nice opportunity to help local families to enjoy the holiday season. Thanks to all who participated!

Thanks to our photo re-take day volunteers **Chris Hoffman and Colleen Hood**. Things like this simply cannot be done without parent help. Thanks for stepping up!

We appreciate all the hard work of **Mary Hampton** in organizing the Salvation Army canned food drive again this year.

Your kids will have things to do inside on cold days this winter thanks to **Elizabeth DeRose** who has pulled together ideas and volunteers for Lunchtime Choices. Thanks, Elizabeth!

*Kelly Bumgarner & Helen Starman*

## Other Thanks!

### Family to Family Giving

I'd like to thank all of the generous parents and children of Burns Park who donated a total of \$3700 for the 34 children in our area who would otherwise have had much less for the holidays!

Everyone put together a wonderful holiday gift of giving! Thank you for your support and kindness.

*Sara Figueroa*  
([sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com](mailto:sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com))  
FTFG program chairperson

### Hospitality Committee

Thank you to Charlie's La Shish and the Produce Station for their generous contributions to the teachers' conference night dinner on November 9. La Shish

donated 27 dinners and the Produce Station donated a large fruit tray. Please support these businesses and thank them for their generous support of Burns Park.

The Holiday Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon was a huge success, thanks to the generosity and culinary talents of Burns Park families. More than 70 families participated by contributing an amazing variety of delicious main dishes, salads, beverages, and desserts. Special thanks to the Hospitality Committee members who volunteered their time as well as their culinary skills. The teachers and staff truly enjoy this event - thanks for making it possible!

*Kim Mass and Patricia Silverman*  
Hospitality Co-chairs

### 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.

### PTO Executive Board

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