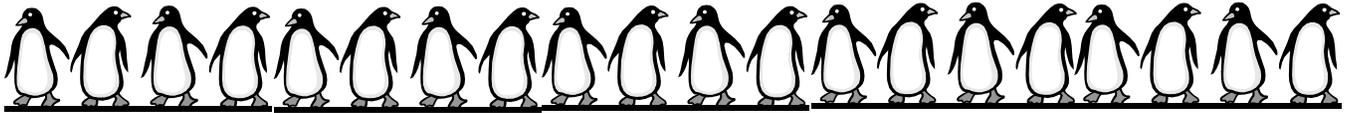


# Burns Park Press



## October 2006 - Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 BP Bucks Order Forms Sent Home	3 Burns Park Players Fall Meeting, 7:00 Kids Care Club, 3:45	4 BP Bucks Orders Due	5	6 Sally Foster Orders Due	7
8	9 MEAP tests begin	10	11 BP Bucks Orders Sent Home	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 PTO Meeting, 7pm, Free childcare October Burns Park Press Articles Due	20	21
22	23	24 Picture Day	25	26	27 Last Day of MEAP tests	28
29	30 BP Bucks Order Forms Sent Home	31 Halloween Parade, 2:15	<b>Mark your Calendars:</b> <b>Nov 1:</b> Burns Park Bucks Order Forms Due <b>Nov 3:</b> Sally Foster Gift Wrap Distribution <b>Nov 6:</b> No School <b>Nov 9, 14:</b> Conferences			

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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.

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## From our Principal

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Dear Burns Park Families,

The school year is off to a great start. Thanks to a great staff and many PTO volunteers the month of September has run smoothly. So many events have already taken place, and I'd like to thank everyone who helped make them a success. Parents put together our Opening Day Packets, the First Day Parents' Coffee, and the Fall Festival. They have also kicked-off the annual Sally Foster gift-wrap fundraiser. It takes lots of dedicated volunteer efforts to accomplish all of this. With such great help from our families, our teachers are able to concentrate on teaching the children.

Your children are doing well as they learn classroom and school routines and engage in active learning. I hope that all of your curriculum questions were answered during Curriculum Night and that you learned how to work together with your child's teachers to provide the support needed to help our students achieve. We thank you all for coming. Should you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

### MEAP

3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will begin to take the MEAP test Monday, October 9th. All tests including make-up tests must be complete by Friday, October 27th. All three grades will be tested in Language Arts and Math. 5th grade will be tested in Science, as well. We are asking that you Turn Off the TV during the month of October to support our students' efforts on the MEAP test. We want students to do their best and getting plenty of exercise, sleep and a good breakfast each day is the best way that we can support our students during this period of time.

It is important to remember, however, that the MEAP assessments

are only one indicator of how our students are doing. Daily, teachers make observations, review student work, and conduct classroom assessment. All of these assessments taken together provide the best measure of student progress and help teachers identify each child's need for further instruction.

### Annual Report

During my presentation in the auditorium during Curriculum Night, I shared a slideshow to highlight our Annual Report. The Annual Report was also distributed in the classrooms. Should you have any questions regarding the information in the Annual Report or slideshow, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

### School Pictures

Students will have an opportunity to have their picture taken on Tuesday, October 24th. This will be the only opportunity offered this year. We will not be offering springtime portrait pictures as we have in the past. Watch for order forms that will be sent home a few days before pictures are taken.

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

We have scheduled school-wide conferences on the evenings of Monday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 14th. If you did not set a conference date with your child's teacher during Curriculum Night, please don't delay in calling the office today at 994-1919. If you can't meet on the dates listed here, your child's teacher will be more than happy to schedule a time that works for you. If you would like to meet with a special area teacher during conferences, please send a note or call the office and we'll make sure you can meet with them as well.

### Thanks BP Players

Our trip to Ballet Folklorico de Mexico at Hill Auditorium was fantastic. Once again we thank the Burns Park Players for their generosity. The enthusiastic conversations at the lunch tables were proof as to how much our students learned and enjoyed the production. It was a wonderful opportunity to share together and to kick off our yearlong celebration of Latin American culture.

### Halloween Celebrations

We will celebrate with a parade beginning at 2:15 on Tuesday, October 31. Weather permitting; we will parade into the park and around the block. We encourage you to come and enjoy our parade. Classroom teachers decide exactly what their classes will do on that day. Some have small parties while others have special activities. Your child's teacher will let you know what is happening. For anyone bringing a costume to school, please follow these rules.

- ◆ **Costumes may not be worn to school.** Please bring your costume to school in a bag. Face makeup, hairspray, etc. must be applied at home.
- ◆ **No fake weapons of any kind are allowed at school!!**
- ◆ **No fake blood, no scary costumes.** We encourage students to dress like a storybook or historical character or something else fun and positive! If it might scare a kindergartener, don't wear it.

### Miscellaneous Reminders

**Hot Lunch:** Students may NOT charge hot lunches. Every child will be provided with a lunch whether or not they have payment, but the lunches

## More from our Principal

reserved for children without lunch money are less expensive (and less interesting!) than those listed on the menu. The Food Service Department sends home frequent reminders to let you know when your balance is getting low. Please check with your children often and keep funds in your account. If you believe your family is qualified to receive meals for free or at a reduced price, you must fill out and return the Free and Reduced Meals application before the end of September—even if you qualified last year—or you will be charged full fees. Application forms were in your First Day Packet, or you can pick one up from the school office.

**Playground After School:** Students are NOT supervised before or after school unless you have signed them up for childcare here at Burns Park. Students who are within walking distance from school often want to stay and play on the playground, but we must insist that they go home immediately after school, check in with you, and then return to the school to play with your permission.

Educationally yours,

*Kathy Morhous*  
Principal

### **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.

## From our PTO Presidents

At the first PTO meeting the 2006-07 budget was approved. Thanks so much to all those who attended. Please note that these meetings are opened to all parents in the school community, and those in attendance are directly involved in the discussions and voting at the meetings. Meetings are going to be kept an hour this year, and we want to hear from you, so please join us!

Our first Golden Apple Grants cycle is set to begin soon. These grants are awarded by the PTO to parents and faculty who seek funding for innovative and enriching programs. This year we'll have funds set aside specifically for parent ideas. So put on your thinking caps!

Our annual Halloween Costume Drive will take place this month. It will be organized by our new Service Learning Kids Care Club...look for an article in this Press. A box will be in the hallway outside the office beginning the week of October 9th to collect any costumes that you are finished with at your house. Costumes may be selected by students who forget a costume on the day of our Halloween Parade, and others are donated to organizations that serve children and families in need.

By now you've received your Sally Foster catalogue and order forms. Hopefully you've had a chance to look them over and are just about ready to make your decisions. Order forms are due back October 6, and orders will be sent home on November 2.

Our scrip fundraiser, Burns Park Bucks, kicks off this month. Watch your child's backpack for order forms coming home October 2. Orders are due back October 4, and will come home October 11. This is such a great fundraiser because it costs you nothing! Place your orders online if you prefer at [www.burnsparkpto.org/scrip/index.php](http://www.burnsparkpto.org/scrip/index.php). You can even pay with a credit card so you still get those airline miles. Try it out...it's easy!

In order to save money and time, we will begin delivering the Press online rather than in print, beginning next month. Any family that does not have an email address in our database will continue to receive a printed copy. If you would like to continue to receive a printed copy, you may "opt-in" by sending an email to our Press Production Chair, Sue Burke at [saburke@umich.edu](mailto:saburke@umich.edu). If you don't use email, look for a flyer in your child's backpack; you can complete the form and send it to the office.

Our next PTO meeting will be Thursday, October 19 at 7pm in the library. We have a new Enrichment Coordinator this year, Katie Chosid, and we plan to brainstorm and discuss various enrichment ideas. Hope to see you there!

*Kelly Bumgarner, President*  
761-5439  
[skbum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skbum@sbcglobal.net)

*Helen Starman, President-Elect*  
994-8553  
[hstarman@comcast.net](mailto:hstarman@comcast.net)

### **PTO Websites:**

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

## Media Center News

Welcome to the new school year! Students are eagerly checking out books and magazines in the Library Media Center. Each student has his/her own library card. Parents and community members can also sign up for library cards and check out or use the Library Media Center materials. As we hash out the final details of the schedule and get parent volunteers in to help with each class, I am really looking forward to a fantastic year.

If you would like to be a volunteer during your student's library class time or during any part of the school day or for special events, please visit me in the Library Media Center or email me at [erdstein@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:erdstein@aaps.k12.mi.us).

Our special Library Media Center programs rely heavily on parent volunteers, and our students love to see their parents as helpers.

-Rachel Erdstein

## Turn Off the Television During MEAP

New this year, Burns Park encourages all students to "Unplug the TV & Plug into Books" during the weeks of October 9 – 27, 2006. Educators believe, and studies have proven, that less television correlates to higher academic achievement. So, turn off the television and read instead.

- ◆ "Children who watch six or more hours of television per day score significantly lower on reading proficiency tests than those who watch one hour or less."
- ◆ "Studies involving more than 400,000 students find that television is bad for academic achievement."

--<http://tvturnoff.org/factsheets.htm> (9/18/06)

We also encourage students to eat well, particularly breakfast, and to get a good night's sleep before testing days.

Students will be receiving pledge sheets that state their intent to participate in this October challenge. Please help your child fill out and return this form. All pledges will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Library Media Center.

-Rachel Erdstein

## Fall Walk and Talk

We have had an enthusiastic beginning to Walk and Talk. It is great to see so many kids participating this fall. Walk and Talk is scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week at lunchtime unless it is raining pretty hard. Please help your kids remember to wear appropriate shoes on those days.

We would love to have parents come and walk and talk with the students and help reinforce the message that physical fitness is part of a healthy lifestyle. Below is the lunch schedule for the students. Come out and join us even if it's for 20 minutes –the kids would love it.

### Burns Park Lunch Schedule:

11:20 – 11:50	Monts, Chappuis, Ambrosino, Campos (1st graders) - Lunch is after recess
11:40 – 12:06	Walters, Crankshaw, Dworkin, Campos (2nd graders) – Lunch is prior to recess
12:15 -12:45	Kreger (3rd graders), Kim, Everett - Lunch is after recess
12:30- 1:01	Wall, Spiegel, Kreger (4th graders) – Lunch is prior to recess
12:45- 1:16	Pryce, Cramer

Questions, please email Marci Ammerman at [mbammerman@comcast.net](mailto:mbammerman@comcast.net)

## Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education

**Mission:** To improve education for all students in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, with a focus on those students receiving special needs services through IEPs and 504 Plans.

The AAPAC strives to help parents by:

- ◆ Providing resource information
- ◆ Bridging concerns to the administration

### Learn More:

Visit our website at <http://instruction.aaps.k12.mi.us/aapac/>

### Get Involved!

If you are interested in getting information about the AAPAC meetings (usually first Monday of each month) or help the AAPAC with a special skill, please fill out the form below and turn it in at the office.

Your contact information will remain confidential.

Monthly Meetings are held in the conference room at the Ann Arbor Preschool Center, located at 2725 Boardwalk (renovated Ballas II and III buildings)

### Next meeting:

Monday, October 9th , 2006 from 7-9pm

## **NEW After School Service Learning Club Begins Tuesday, October 3**

**What:** The **Burns Park Kids Care Club**

(modeled after the national Kids Care Clubs program developed by the Points of Light Foundation, an independent and nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging people in volunteer service).

**When:** After school (3:45 – 4:45 p.m.) on the first Tuesday of every month

**Where:** school classroom TBD

**Who:** All interested Burns Park students

**Why:** To discuss, plan and carry out projects that help people, animals and the environment in our local, national and global communities.

Planned projects include: organizing the school **Halloween costume drive**; making craft kits for children at **Mott Children's Hospital**; making collars, bandanas and treats for dogs housed at the **Huron Valley Humane Society Shelter**; other fun projects that reflect the interests of the Club members.

For More Information: Watch for the flyer and permission slip in your child's backpack next week, or email Joel Dalton ([daltonjd@gmail.com](mailto:daltonjd@gmail.com)) or Julie Lawson Timmer ([julielawsonzimmer@gmail.com](mailto:julielawsonzimmer@gmail.com)).

**\*\* FIRST MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 \*\***

## **Family Math/Science Night**

Please mark your calendars now for our Family Math/Science Night to be held **Tuesday, March 20** from 6-8 PM at Burns Park School. With assistance from the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum staff, we've arranged for multiple stations throughout the school where children may experiment with and learn about Math and/or Science concepts.

**THIS EVENT IS FREE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULTS.**

In order to make the event successful, the program requires that 20-25 adult volunteers assist by explaining assigned topics at an assigned table, instructions to be provided by Hands On staff.

Please contact JoLeen Wagner-Felkey at [jafelkey@hotmail.com](mailto:jafelkey@hotmail.com) or Pam Ibrahim at [pikibrahim2@hotmail.com](mailto:pikibrahim2@hotmail.com) if you are able to contribute a couple of hours of your time to assist students and families during this event. We hope to see you at this wonderful and enriching community event.

## **Sally Foster Fundraiser**

Our Sally Foster fundraiser is here! This is a major fundraiser for our school, netting profits in the \$10,000 range. The proceeds fund great PTO sponsored activities at our school, including Math/Science Night, lunchtime Choices, supplemental classroom equipment, field trips and more.

Many Sally Foster gift wrap rolls are 18-20 feet long--three times longer than the typical store-bought roll! Plus, there are other special gift items like chocolates and bakery items in this year's catalogue, so please take a look!

- ◆ Packets come home with children Friday, September 22.
- ◆ Orders are due back at school by Friday, October 6.
- ◆ Make checks payable to Burns Park PTO.  
\*You can order online at [SallyFoster.com](http://SallyFoster.com) using account #253593 to credit Burns Park.

You can pick up your orders Thursday, November 2, in the afternoon—or they will go home with your child.

If you have any questions please contact

Leila Yim Surratt, 369-4625  
[lyimsurratt@comcast.net](mailto:lyimsurratt@comcast.net)

or

Jill O. Stanevich, 213-6777  
[jill@stanevich.com](mailto:jill@stanevich.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 November 2006 issue are due no later than Thursday, October 19. Late submissions may not be included.

Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome! If you would like to place a classified ad or display ad, please contact me at 657-7121 or [AGilbert@Surovell.com](mailto:AGilbert@Surovell.com)

*Anne Gilbert*

## Burns Park Players Fall Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.

7-7:30: Informal welcome/get acquainted for newcomers to meet BPP Board members and learn about the ways you might be able to participate.

**WHERE:** Burns Park School Auditorium

**WHAT:** To discuss our musical, **OLIVER**, to be performed February 9,10,15,16, and 17, 2007

**WHY:** If you're interested in meeting new people, having fun and livening up your winter evenings.

### WHO:

- ◆ EVERYONE interested in trying out (Auditions for adults will be held in mid-October – specific dates TBA). No theater experience required.
- ◆ EVERYONE interested in working backstage, on sets, costumes, props, orchestra, child care etc.
- ◆ You don't have to be a BPS parent to be involved, so please tell your neighbors, too. Specific skills such as sewing, building, painting and playing a musical instrument are especially needed.

If you can't make the meeting, but would like to volunteer, or if you want more information, visit [BurnsParkPlayers.org](http://BurnsParkPlayers.org) or call Susan Hurwitz (Producer and former BPS parent) at 994-3508, or email [SusanH22@aol.com](mailto:SusanH22@aol.com)

Crew members are expected to give a minimum of 30 hours effort toward the production, and cast members must adhere to the attendance policy which will be reviewed at the meeting.

\*The Burns Park Players is comprised of adult residents of the Burns Park School community (geographical boundaries defined by the school district) who may be, but are not necessarily parents of Burns Park School students. Although we happily include the first through fifth grade children of cast/crew in our chorus numbers, the group was founded in 1984 to provide adults (parents, teachers and others) with the opportunity to produce and perform a musical or play in a relatively relaxed setting. Having fun is our primary goal! Proceeds of our productions go to support the Burns Park School, Tappan Middle School, and other school district functions.

## 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.

All ads must be submitted electronically to Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor ([agilbert@surovell.com](mailto:agilbert@surovell.com)). File formats must be MS Publisher, MS Word, or PDF. Both the electronic ad layout and payment must be received by the published deadline for the issue in which the ad is placed).

Please place your check for payment (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 1919 Wells, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.)

### 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.

All ads must be submitted electronically as text in an e-mail message to Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor ([agilbert@surovell.com](mailto:agilbert@surovell.com)). Both the electronic ad copy and payment must be received by the published deadline for the issue in which the ad is placed.

Please place your check for payment (made out to Burns Park PTO) in an envelope labeled "BP Press Ads, attn: Treasurer" in the PTO box in the school office.

### Questions?

Contact Anne Gilbert at 657-7121 or [AGilbert@Surovell.com](mailto:AGilbert@Surovell.com).

### BP Players Seeks Webmaster!

Burns Park Players is looking for a parent who would be interested in redesigning our website. This is a job that you can do from home with a few phone calls and a computer. It would be a great job for a parent who's child would like to do the show this year (Oliver!) but who's schedule does not permit more time away from home. Please consider website design as your contribution to our neighborhood theatre group and a way to become involved on your own schedule!

Questions may be directed to Susan Hurwitz at [susanh22@aol.com](mailto:susanh22@aol.com) or 994-3508.

## Thanks a Million

A big thank you to **Carolynn Hayman** and **Kristen Freshley** for helping to get the school year off to a "smooth" start by organizing smoothies for the teachers on the first day of school. Many thanks to **Diane from Bearclaw Coffee** for coming out to school that day to make smoothies for all of the teachers and staff before school started.

The tedious task of personalizing the first day packets with purple Family Contact Information forms was made much easier with the help of **Kelly Lohnes, Kim Mass, and Raleigh Sadlier**. Many thanks for their willingness to jump in.

Congratulations and many thanks go to **Ginny Rogers, Barbara Peitsch, and Steve Norton** for their hard work on directory. Ginny input all the names and contact information for each family and Barbara has been working on the production of the directory since last spring. Steve has worked tirelessly on the database which, among other things, produces our directory.

Speaking of data entry, thanks also go to **Carolynn Hayman** for assisting with entering information to the database from the volunteer sign-ups. And **Janice Lieberman** has worked tirelessly to ensure that the various classroom jobs and committees are filled.

Muchas gracias to the **Burns Park Players** for funding the 9/22 field trip to the U of M to see the Ballet Folklorico de Mexico. It was a fabulous performance!

Our Exec Board, **VP Jennifer Kiely, Secretary Raleigh Sadlier, and Treasurer David Lowenschuss**, for reading countless emails on budget related issues, resulting in a thorough and well-thought-out budget.

It's always good to have a community building event to kick-off the year, so thanks go to **Sara Meingast**, our Fall Festival Chair. What a great way to kick off fall.

**Leila Surratt** and **Jill Stanevich** for coordinating the Sally Foster sale. This is a big fundraiser for us, and could not have been done without you!

Thanks to **Julie Cohen** for putting up the great looking bulletin board in the hallway outside the office. It's so nice to walk up the stairs and see such colorful displays!

*Kelly Bumgarner & Helen Starman*

## PTO Executive Board

### Principal

Kathy Morhous 994-1919  
[morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us)

### President

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### Vice President

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## Burns Park Press

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### Production

Sue Burke 930-2655  
[saburke@umich.edu](mailto:saburke@umich.edu)

## Welcome Back Coffee Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Welcome Back Coffee a big success. We enjoyed starting off the school year by seeing old friends and meeting new. A special thanks to those who brought the delicious baked goods and fruit: Jackie Dalton, Sara Figueroa, Julie Halpert, Jill Hunsberger, Agnes Jensen, Jennifer Kiely, Cara Metz, Fei Fei Metzler, Amy Napolitan, and Suzanne Ross. Thanks also to Noah Mass and Ken Silverman, who set up the auditorium, and to Kelly Bumgarner, PTO President, and Jennifer Kiely and Marla Williams, last year's Hospitality co-chairs, who helped us get off to such a terrific start.

--Kim Mass and Patricia Silverman, PTO Hospitality Committee

## CLASSIFIED ADS:

### Lost and Found:

#### Ring Found on Playground!

Please direct inquires to the school office

### For Sale:

**Kid's Diamondback Octane 20 bike.** Bought new 2004. Only used one summer. Periwinkle blue. Great size for 6-8 year olds. \$75 / best. Call Carolynn - 213-2917