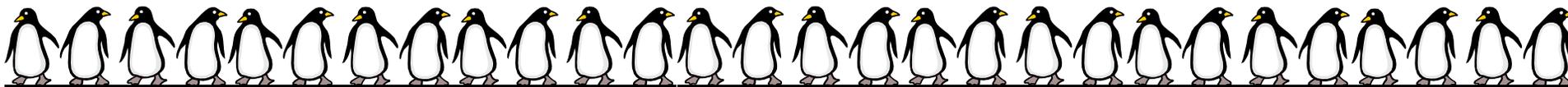


Burns Park Press - October 2007



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Check out the PTO websites:

<http://www.burnsparkpto.org>
and Penguin Talk :
<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.

Calendar of Events

Sun, Sept 30:	Big House, Big Heart 5K
Tues, Oct 2:	BP Penguins Care Club
Wed, Oct 3:	BP Bucks Orders Due
Thurs, Oct 4:	Sally Foster Orders Due
Sun, Oct 7:	Science Olympiad Meeting
Mon, Oct 8:	MEAP Tests Begin
Wed, Oct 10:	BP Bucks Orders Delivered
Thurs, Oct 18:	PTO Meeting
Tues, Oct 23:	Sally Foster Orders Delivered
Wed, Oct 24:	MEAP Tests Complete
Wed, Oct 31:	Halloween Parade, 2:30
	BP Bucks Orders Due
Mon, Nov 5:	Parent - Teacher Conferences
Tues, Nov 6:	No School
Wed, Nov 7:	BP Bucks Orders Delivered
Thur, Nov 8:	Parent - Teacher Conferences
Wed - Fri, Nov 21-23:	No School: Thanksgiving
Wed, Nov 28:	BP Bucks Orders Due

Send us your extra Halloween candy!

Lunches With Love would like Burns Park Parents to remember that all extra Halloween candy can be donated to LWL. Last year, we were able to add treats into our lunches to the shelter for the remainder of the year due to your generosity! Thanks so much! Sara Meingast & Nancy Upchurch

Looking for coaches for Burns Park Science Olympiad Team

- Before you say, "No, I can't do that," just read further: The Science Olympiad is a creative, fun way for children to learn about science, math, engineering, and problem solving. The Burns Park Science Olympiad Team gives children a place to develop their curiosity about how things work, and form friendships with other children who also love hands-on, problem solving stuff. Even if you are not a science type yourself, your child might love something like this!

So here's the catch: Your children need coaches. Burns Park has not yet been able to have children participate in all of the science Olympiad events because we did not have enough coaches! Come check out what coaching, or co-coaching, entails. Please attend an open house on Sunday, October 7 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Sue Cutler and Jeff Fessler's house, 1415 Morton Ave. (2 blocks south of Burns Park). Children are welcome. If you want to learn more about the Science Olympiad, visit <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards.home>, or call Sue Cutler, Burns Park WESO Head Coach at 995-5399.

From our Principal

Dear Burns Park Families,

October is here and so is the cooler weather. Don't let your kids out of the door without their cool weather clothing. At Burns Park it is always wise to dress in layers.

Thanks to our terrific staff and many PTO volunteers the month of September ran smoothly. A very special thanks goes to those volunteers that have helped in the office in Kathy Kyle's absence and during the first grade noon hour. Thanks too for the warm welcome back of goody bags and a refrigerator full of soft drinks. 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 to curriculum night. 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 8. All tests, including makeup tests, must be complete by Wednesday, October 24. 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. This 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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We have scheduled school-wide conferences on the evenings of Monday, November 5 and Thursday, November 8. If you didn't 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.

Halloween Celebrations

We will celebrate with a parade beginning at 2:30 on Wednesday, 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 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. You may also check balances on line through Mealpay Plus at <http://www.mealpayplus.com> or call (866) 761-2208. If you believe your family is

.. more from our Principal

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

PTO Volunteers

Thank you to the many parents who returned forms indicating interest in both classroom and PTO committee volunteer jobs. We're in the process of contacting you about the jobs you've signed up for. If you filled out the form but haven't heard from anyone yet, it's possible that your form got lost or that the information didn't get entered properly into our database. It is important to us that your volunteer interests are recognized!

If you'd like to check on this, please contact Janice Lieberman, our Volunteer Coordinator, at liebermanjanice@yahoo.com or 761-7431.

From our PTO Presidents

At the first PTO meeting the 2007-2008 budget was approved. This year the PTO will have an operating budget of approximately \$39,000 with increased funding going to teacher subsidies, field trips and the following committees: Science Olympiad, Walk & Talk, Multicultural and Penguins Care Club; no funding was decreased. Thanks so much to those who attended the meeting and voted on the budget. Please note that these meetings are open to all parents in the school community and those in attendance are directly involved in the discussions and voting. Meeting length will continue to be one hour and free childcare is provided – please join us if you!

By now you have received your Sally Foster catalogue and order forms. Hopefully you have had a chance to look them over and are just about ready to make your decisions. Order forms are due Thursday, October 4 and orders will be sent home on Tuesday, October 23; additionally you, your friends and your family can order online at <http://www.sallyfoster.com> - our school number is 253593.

Our scrip fundraiser, Burns Park Bucks, will kick off this month - watch for information in back pack mail and in PTO email; the first order will be due Wednesday, October 3 and orders will be ready for pick up on Wednesday, October 10. This is a great fundraiser because it costs you NOTHING! Questions? Lynda Norton, 761-1478 or lnorton@okno.com.

In order to save time, money and trees we will again be delivering the Press online this year. Any family who opted in at the beginning of the school year (yellow form in the first day of school packet), as well as any family that does not have an email address in our database will continue to receive a printed copy. If you wish to receive a paper copy and did not “opt-in” please email our press production chair, Sue Burke (saburke@umich.edu).

Our next PTO meeting is Thursday, October 18 at 7 PM. We will be joined by Wendy Correll, executive director of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation and a former Burns Park parent. She will present on the purpose and role of the foundation and will ask for our thoughts on future funding ideas. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact either of us.

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

Elizabeth DeRose, President-elect
677-0882 or ederose@comcast.net

Library Media Center News

The school year is off to a great start in the Library Media Center. I am happy to report that, since the first week of school, students have been eagerly checking out books, magazines, and audio books. 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.

Box Tops for Education



We will continue collecting Box Tops for Education this year. This program augments our Library Media Center budget. If you already use these items, you can help. Clip and save Box Tops logos from participating products. Then, turn in your Box Tops logos to the designated orange box in the Library media Center. I will mail them to General Mills. They, in turn, will issue a check to our school. Last year, we earned nearly \$400! Let's keep it up. Each Box Top is worth ten cents and we can earn up to \$20,000 this year!

Thank you, Rachel Erdstein

Burns Park Library Birthday Books

Want to help build the Burns Park Library collection? A great way to do it is to donate a book in honor of your child's birthday!

Buy a book and Miss Erdstein will add a decorative book plate to the inside cover honoring your child on his/her birthday. If you'd prefer to have Miss Erdstein do the shopping, that's great too! Just fill out the form below or contact Miss Erdstein directly to make arrangements.

This is also a great way to celebrate your child's teacher! Your child's and his/her teacher's name will be written on the book plate.

Replacing lost and/or damaged books is expensive. The annual allotment for replacing books is tied to enrollment, which is lower this year at Burns Park. You can help maintain the collection by donating a book this year.

Please buy a book for my child's birthday!

Child's name: _____

Child's birth date: _____

We'd prefer a book for the fiction, non-fiction or Everybody section (circle one)

Amount enclosed: _____

After School Service Learning Club Begins Tuesday, October 2

What: The Burns Park Penguins Care Club

When: After school (3:42-5:00pm) on the first Tuesday of every month

Where: Room 306

Why: To foster compassion and the spirit of service in our children by providing them with hands-on opportunities to help people, animals and the environment on a local, national and global scale.

Our October meeting will focus on learning about the needs of children around the world. We will also prepare for distributing UNICEF boxes. Past projects include a Halloween Costume drive, making hats for children at Mott Children's Hospital and a visit from Howell Nature Center staff and critters.

Look for an informational flyer and permission slip coming home with your student or contact Email Emily Hastie (emilyhastie@comcast.net) or Joel Dalton (daltonjd@gmail.com)

Get Rid of Holiday Stress!
Santa's Little Helper
Holiday Gift Wrapping by In-Home Appointment
Now serving Washtenaw County!

Limited Time Offer!
20%
off your appointment fee when you call before November 15th!
734-239-4034

Visit MySantasLittleHelper.com!

The advertisement features a cartoon illustration of Santa Claus on the left. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout with a red box highlighting the 20% discount offer.

AAPS Strategic Plan - Update #1

Honoring our past, planning for our future...

The Ann Arbor Public School district is engaged in a strategic planning process, which honors our long history as an excellent public school system as well acknowledging that the district must act now to strengthen the educational experience for every student.

The process started with the formation of a 32-member Strategic Planning Team who met last March to draft the Strategic Plan. That plan, which includes eight strategies, has now been passed to eight Action Teams for the development of an Action Plan for each strategy.

Community members, parents, staff, administrators and students are all involved in the development of the plan. The plan will wrap up in November with implementation starting in Spring 2008 and continue over the next five years.

We invite you to review the first Strategic Plan Newsletter that provides a complete update on the process as well as progress from each Action Team.

You can access the newsletter at the district website: <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us>.

A few copies of the newsletter are available in the school office or you can call the district communication office at 994.2236 for a paper copy of this update.

Introducing the AAPS Farm to School Initiative

New this fall in the Ann Arbor Public Schools elementary and middle school cafeterias - Farm Fresh Fridays - which will provide children, for free, with a taste of fresh, healthy produce grown right here in Southeast Michigan. Students will find these items available either on the food line or handed out by volunteers in the cafeterias. Signs will be posted every Friday describing the farm where the Farm Fresh Friday food was harvested.

AAPS is also pleased to introduce the new fruit and vegetable bars in the elementary schools that are available to all students whether they purchase a meal or not. The middle schools are also serving more fresh produce in the cafeterias.

Farm Fresh Fridays are a project of the Ann Arbor Farm to School Collaboration whose members are:

- Ann Arbor Public Schools
- Chartwells Dining Services
- Project Healthy Schools
- Ann Arbor Farmers Market
- The Agrarian Adventure
- Food System Economic Partnership
- Washtenaw County Health Department

¡Acquí aprendemos español!

Here we learn Spanish! Walk down the halls of Burns Park on any given day and you will hear students calling out "¡Hola Señora Alfonso!" Look into any classroom and you will see students practicing times tables, naming common classroom articles, writing lunch and dinner menus or studying maps all in Spanish! For the third year in a row students at Burns Park will receive regular Spanish language instruction within the classroom during the school day. This year first through fourth grade will receive intensive language instruction (three to four times a week) and fifth graders will receive a once weekly Spanish class. By the 2008-2009 school year, all grades, first through fifth, will be receiving Spanish instruction three to four times a week. This unique program, approved by the Ann Arbor Public School district, is entirely funded by contributions from parents and community friends as well as local businesses.

The Burns Park Foreign Language Initiative (BPFLI) was formed to raise funds for this program and to liaison with school personnel and the school district for its implementation. We will be in touch with you soon regarding our fundraising goals for the 2008-9 school year.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please visit our website www.bpfli.org or call us now! We look forward to hearing from you!

Cindy Bott (bottmc@yahoo.com)

Sue Cutler (secutler@umich.edu)

David Lowenschuss (david.lowenschuss@pfizer.com)

Fei Fei Metzler (fmetzler@umich.edu)

Steve Norton (snorton@okno.com)

Kathy Sample (kesample@umich.edu)

Helen Starman (hstarman@comcast.net)

Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education / Early Intervention Services

The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) is planning a Special Education Monitoring visit in the Ann Arbor Public School District on October 3 and October 4, 2007. The purpose of the Monitoring visit is to investigate factors that may be affecting the district's disproportionate representation of African American students with disabilities, specifically in the area of cognitive impairments, in its special education programs and services. This is a requirement according to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA, 2004). Should this be deemed to be a result of inappropriate identification the district will be required to develop a plan of improvement.

The site visit will involve an examination of district policies, procedures and practices through student record reviews, staff interviews, along with a district self-review. A summary of the findings will be provided after the Monitoring visit. Ann Arbor Public schools welcomes the opportunity to review special education programs and help our students achieve to their highest potential.

Should you have any questions about this monitoring visit, please contact Larry Simpson, Administrator for Student Intervention and Support Services at 994-2318 or simpson@aaps.k12.li.us.

The Sally Foster Gift Wrap fundraiser is "Wrapping Up!"

All orders are due October 4.

Thank you for supporting this important fund raising event for our school and our kids!

Anne
Gilbert

Associate Broker

734 657 7121

AGilbert@Surovell.com

Burns Park real estate expert
and parent. Neighborhood
sales information at:

<http://www.AnneGilbert.com>

Edward Surovell Realtors
1898 West Stadium Boulevard
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STILL ACCEPTING STUDENTS!!



*A Secular Humanistic
Community*

- Sunday School
- B'nai Mitzvah Program
- Adult Programming
- Shabbat Activities
- High Holiday Celebrations
- Life Cycle Events

Our Sunday School program focuses on the historical, cultural, and ethical experience of the modern Jewish identity.

- K-7 meet Sundays, 10 -12p (Sept—May)
- Pre-School, every other month
- Also offering our B'nai Mitzvah program for 6th/7th grades



THE JEWISH CULTURAL SOCIETY
2935 BIRCH HOLLOW DRIVE
ANN ARBOR, MI 48108
JCS@JCCFED.ORG

Thanks a Million

Thanks to ALL the teachers, staff and volunteers who have worked so hard this month to get our school year off to a good start! Many, many thanks to:

- ◆ **Janice Lieberman**, volunteer coordinator, for collecting and organizing the classroom and PTO volunteer data!
- ◆ **Steve Norton & Ginny Rogers**, IT committee, for working tirelessly on our family database and the information for the directory.
- ◆ **Barbara Peitsch** for printing the directory.
- ◆ **Sara Meingast** for a GREAT Fall Festival and **Julie Lawson Timmer** for organizing the fifth grade drink sale at the Fall Festival.
- ◆ **Jennifer Osterwisch & Anne Steinhauer** for chairing the Sally Foster Gift Wrap sale – we are off to a great start!
- ◆ **Ludia Kim, Janice Lieberman, Kim Mass, Eva Rosenwald, Catherine McCurrach, Kristen Freshley, Emily Santer, Dorian Moore, Cecily Garrity-Janger, Jenny Jalet, Sara Meingast, Jane Wood, Jeannette Jackson, Andrea McNeil & Susan Bass** who have volunteered in the office each morning for the last three weeks – we can't thank you enough for your support!
- ◆ **All the parents** who volunteered to help with picture day!
- ◆ **PTO executive committee** for their work on the 2007-2008 PTO budget.

Parents who attended our first PTO meeting – it was great to see familiar faces and to meet new ones! Hope to see you all again in October!

Helen Starman & Elizabeth DeRose

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 2007 issue are due no later than **Friday, October 19**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

Anne Gilbert, 657-7121 or AGilbert@Surovell.com

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 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 or AGilbert@Surovell.com.

PTO Executive Board

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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.