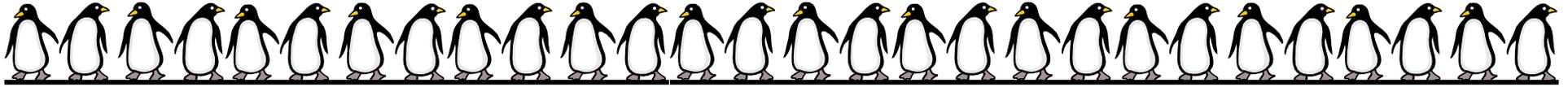


Burns Park Press - February 2008



Inside this Issue:

From our Principal	2-3
Volunteers needed for March Read-A-Thon 3	
Note Card Fundraiser	3
Family to Family Giving	3
From our PTO Presidents.....	3
Art Room News	4
Burns Park Players Mark 25th Anniversary with "Disney's Beauty and the Beast".....	5
Wild Swan Theater February Break Camp!	5
Common School Calendar	6
Thanks a Million!.....	7
Burns Park Press Submissions	7
Burns Park Press Advertising	7
Attached:	
Flu	
NAAPID	

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

Tues, Jan 29:	Spiegel / Dworkin Concert
Thur, Jan 31	Blood Drive
Feb 8 & 9:	BPP "Beauty & the Beast"
Mon, Feb 11:	NAAPID DAY
	Kindergarten Round-up: Bring Your Parent to School Day
Fri, Feb 15:	Articles due for March Press
Feb 15 & 16:	BPP "Beauty & the Beast"
Mon: Feb 18:	No School
Tues, Feb 19:	Kindergarten Parent Night
Thur, Feb 21:	Kindergarten Round-up Children's Visit
Fri, Feb 22:	Mid-winter break begins at end of day
Mon, Mar 3:	School Resumes
Mon, Mar 10:	No School
Wed, Mar 13:	3rd Grade Concert
Wed, Mar 19:	Special Interest Fair
Fri, Mar 21:	No School

The Special Interest Fair is Coming: March 19

The Special Interest Fair is right around the corner! This year's fair will be held on Wednesday, March 19. Watch your child's backpack mail in early February for a flyer with more information and a registration form.

For those of you not familiar with the fair, it is similar to a science fair, but almost anything goes! The purpose of the fair is to encourage students to pursue a topic of their interest and provide a showcase for their efforts (examples of last year's projects include Meet Puerto Rico," "Webkins," "Iguana Extravaganza," and "The Football Hall of Fame"). This year, we are encouraging students to make projects that relate to our multicultural focus on Africa.

ALL students from kindergarten through 5th grade are encouraged to submit a project! The fair is non-competitive, and children may work alone or in a group. On fair day, projects are brought in and set up in the auditorium before school starts, classes tour the projects throughout the day, and families are invited to tour in the evening.

Registration forms are due by Friday, March 7 so we can determine how much space is needed and map out where each project will be displayed. Questions or comments? Please contact one of the Special Interest Fair co-chairs:

Kim Mass, 213-5255, nkhmass@selectivityinc.com

Patricia Silverman, 998-1156, boczar@med.umich.edu

We look forward to seeing all of the great projects!

From our Principal

Dear Burns Park Families,

It's February, and we have important events coming up. We hope that all of you will join us for at least part of the day on Monday, Feb 11 for Parent Involvement Day – officially known as NAAPID, and Kindergarten Round Up is Feb 19 - please pass it along to families with young children.

Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) is Monday, February 11

Please come celebrate National African American Parent Involvement Day with us. On this day, all parents, guardians, and significant adults in our students' lives are invited to spend part or all of the day with their children at our school. On this day, ALL parents are encouraged to come and experience the Burns Park learning environment first hand. Look for additional information and a schedule coming soon from your child's classroom teacher.

Through music, books and storytelling, Jacqueline Blake will involve our students in the story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his childhood, the civil rights movement and the nonviolent message of this American hero. You are welcome to join the K-2 classes at 1:15 or the 3-5 students at 2:15.

We also invite parents of incoming kindergartners to consider visiting on that day. Parents are welcome to sit in on the kindergarten classes. Incoming kindergartners are welcome to tour the school and attend the assembly with you.

Kindergarten Round-Up & Visit

- Tuesday, February 19, 7:00 PM (parents only)
- Thursday, February 21 in the afternoon (Children's Visit)

Kindergarten Parent Orientation is the evening of Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 PM. During this meeting we'll talk about our kindergarten program and the EDO (Extended Day Option) program. We will also answer your questions. You will get a chance to visit the kindergarten classrooms and view some slides of children in action during the regular kindergarten day. We will also distribute all the necessary registration forms. We ask that parents leave their children at home, as this event needs your full attention. We are, however, prepared to provide childcare to parents who need it. Call the office at 994-1919 to reserve a space for your child.

On Thursday, February 21 of that same week, we've planned a visit 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 small groups of 12 to 15 students, and they will spend an hour with one of the kindergarten teachers doing kindergarten activities. Parents may sign their children up for the Kindergarten Visit at the Parent Orientation or by calling the office prior, at 994-1919.

If you would like to turn in your registration forms at the time of the kindergarten visit, we ask you to bring your child's birth certificate, his or her immunization record, and three documents (such as

a lease, sales agreement, and/or utility bills) verifying your address. While you wait, you will be able to hear about our beginning literacy program from our Reading Intervention teacher, Ms. Sue Cramer.

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

Lunch Time Choices

Lunch Time Choices are underway, and students are enjoying a change in recess opportunities. They really look forward to the activities that many adult volunteers have planned for them. On their behalf I extend a giant thank you to Katie Chosid and Nicky Warder, who organized the program, and to the many, many PTO volunteers that come each week. Volunteers play board games and Chess, teach needlepoint and Origami, make Beady Babies, supervise the computer lab, jump rope, etc. Our students are especially grateful for this change of pace during the noon hour.

Burns Park Players Presents Beauty and the Beast

Once again, kudos to the Burns Park Players for including over 100 Burns Park children in their production of Beauty and the Beast. It promises to be a great show, one that you will not want to miss. Performances are Feb. 8, 9, 15 and 16.

... more from our Principal

The Burns Park Players provides an opportunity for families to share a theater experience. The Players' productions are intentionally designed to be a family affair, in which parents must take a part in the production in order for their children to be a part of the chorus. If you talk to the families that participate, they will tell you that this is family entertainment at its best! There are many behind-the-scenes jobs that need to be done in order to put on a great show, so those among us who have stage fright need not fear getting involved. Working with the props, lighting, sound, costumes and childcare are just a few of the opportunities that await you. Information regarding next year's show will be announced in the Burns Park Press in the fall.

Have a safe and restful Mid-Winter Break, beginning at the end of the day on Friday, February 22.

Educationally yours,

Kathy Morhous, Principal

Volunteers are needed for the March Read-A-Thon on March 28.

Would you like to read to classes, escort them to readers, or act as a timekeeper?

Many slots are available in the afternoon, and a few in the morning.

Contact Deborah Fisch:
dfisch@monkey.org or 761-4248.

Note Card Fundraiser

Look for the Note Card Fundraiser forms and blank cards that will come home with your child in early March.

Meg Wallace and Ellen Janke

From our PTO Presidents

At this month's PTO meeting we met with the architects and school personnel who are overseeing the Burns Park renovations. Burns Park is slated for major construction work, including the addition of three new classrooms to the A-wing, an enlarged cafeteria, the creation of four large classrooms from six smaller ones on the third floor, new lockers and extensive remodeling of most of the common student bathrooms. Additionally, there will be electrical upgrades in all classrooms. A draft of the planned renovations will be posted near the office in the next few weeks.

This month almost 100 Burns Park students will be performing in the Burns Park Players production of "Beauty and the Beast" on the weekends of February 8 and February 15. Please show your support for these students and the Burns Park Players by attending this fun family show! The Burns Park Players are very generous in their support of our school – in the past few years they have paid for microphones in the auditorium, a new piano and many, many field trips. For more information about ticket sales and the Burns Park Players please visit their website www.burnsparkplayers.org.

There will be no PTO meeting in February, but we look forward to seeing you at our March 20 meeting; as always, free childcare is provided in the gym.

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

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

Family to Family Giving

Thank you to all who contributed to the Family to Family Giving program for 2007! It was a great success both in all the helpers I had to decorate and staple the envelopes and in all those who were able to donate financially!

Our final tally was that we were able to give 37 children (17 families) each \$90.00!!!

Burns Park families were able to donate a total of \$3330.00 despite these difficult times and the pulls in every direction that everyone has at the end of the year.

Thank you again for all of your generosity!

Have a wonderful new year!

Sara Figueroa and Theresa Reid



Our peace flags that are draped across the art room are expanding exponentially. It is remarkable the diversity of languages that are represented at Burns Park. It seems almost every week my students bring a new word for peace in the various languages that are part of our students' ethnic heritages. Please stop by and see them when you get a chance. And if you have a word for peace in a language we haven't put up yet, please feel free to send it in with your child.

As part of our school-wide multi-cultural celebration of the continent of Africa, all of our classes are involved in art projects with an African focus. We are currently trying to establish contact with a school in Uganda for an art cultural exchange, thanks to Laura MacLatchy, who has contacts in that country. Stay tuned for more on that.

Many of the 4th graders' Impressionist paintings are currently on display at the Reichert Building's long hallway between the hospital and the outpatient buildings at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital. I have heard great feedback about how their artwork has brightened up the hearts of visitors, staff, patients and families there.

I am pleased to report that the sale at the art auction of the Egyptian wall painting created by Mrs. Crankshaw's 3rd graders brought in more than \$200.00 to be given to the Family-to Family giving program at Burns Park. Oceana and her family have donated the painting as a gift to Mrs. Crankshaw and she will be displaying it in the hallway outside of her

ART ROOM NEWS: February 2008

room for the entire school community to enjoy. Thanks again to the Flanders family, my student teacher, Katherine Downie, Jennifer Tanau, and Hadar Tucker for help in making this project possible.

Current Projects

5th graders are officially finishing up their clay houses-some are already on display in the media center. Thanks to the small army of parent volunteers who came on three art days to help make this happen. After learning important art concepts (positive and negative space, balance and symmetry), we will be venturing to Africa to learn about metal art forms from the Yoruba people.

The **4th graders** studied quilt making and story-quilts in conjunction with Mrs. Page's concert, "I'm Gonna Let It Shine": the story of the freedom struggle of African Americans in our country. Students are creating "story quilts" in the style of Faith Ringgold to celebrate this story. We had a guest artist and storyteller, Judy Schmidt, share her beautiful quilts and discuss the role of quilts and quilt making during slavery times. T-shirts are being hand-printed by students and will be worn for the concert. Next on deck will be African masks. We are scheduling docents from the University Museum of Art to come to the art classroom to show masks and artifacts that are part of their collection.

3rd graders: We went on a field trip to the Toledo

Museum of Art on January 23 and learned lots of ways to look at art. We even went on a scavenger hunt in the Great Hall, looking for Egyptian artifacts and art. Clay canopic jars will be heading home soon-look for them and ask your student what they are used for. You may be surprised!

2nd graders: Arpilleras are now on display in the hallways and we made Adinkra prints from Ghana.

1st graders: Calabash bowls from Nigeria were the subject of study for first graders this past month. Since we didn't have a handy supply of calabash gourds, we made ours from paper mache.

Finally, **Kindergarteners** have made Native American rug patterns with paint, snowman collages and symmetrical mitten designs, to name just a few of our art projects. After the Anansi Tales performance, kindergarteners created their own interpretations of the African folk tales.

Kate Higgins



Burns Park Players Mark 25th Anniversary with “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast”

The Burns Park Players will celebrate its silver anniversary season in February with performances of the popular musical Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. You won’t want to miss this enchanting and colorful show, which is perfect for people of all ages.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 8 and 15, and at 4 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 9 and 16. All shows are at the Tappan Middle School Auditorium, 2251 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. For the first time in its 25-year history, the Players will open the final dress rehearsal to the public on Thurs., Feb. 7. Rehearsal begins at 7:30.

There are three ticket options:

- ◆ Reserved seating tickets are available for \$15 at Morgan and York Market, 1928 Packard, Ann Arbor, or at the door one hour before the show.
- ◆ Premium seating tickets (which include reserved parking) are available for \$30. For information on purchasing premium tickets, please contact Colleen Kollman at colleenkollman@aol.com or by calling 734-478-0449.
- ◆ Tickets for the dress rehearsal are \$5 and available at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m.

Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast includes all of the songs from the popular film, written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman (Little Shop of Horrors), plus new songs written especially for the Broadway version by Menken and Tim Rice (Aladdin, Aida).

The 260-member cast and crew of Burns Park School area community members ranges in age from 6 to 87. Featured performers include Karen Ostafinski, Jon Wardner, Jeffrey Post, Clinch Steward, Jay Pekala, Lisa Mann, Bob Galardi, Dawn Korman, Eva Rosenwald and Zack Pearlman. In keeping with Burns Park Players tradition, more than 100 students from Burns Park Elementary School also are featured in the cast. Twenty-five students from the University of Michigan’s Alice Lloyd Hall are helping build and paint the sets, making this a true “town and gown” effort.

As in years past, proceeds from this show will benefit performing arts in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Since its inception, the Burns Park Players has contributed more than \$250,000 to AAPS students all over the district.

To find out more about the Burns Park Players, please visit us at

<http://www.burnsparkplayers.org>.

Wild Swan Theater Announces its February Break Camp!

In anticipation of Wild Swan Theater’s premiere production of Treasure Island, we will spend a swashbuckling week as “Pirates on the High Seas”. Find your treasure during this fun-filled week of drama! Create characters, make costumes and props, play theater games and learn all about the world of pirates. We will perform a short original play on the last day of camp.

Monday, February 25 – Friday, February 29, 10AM – 1PM

Cost: \$150.00

For children in grades 1-5

For information or to register call 995-0530 or e-mail Ramona@wildswantheater.org

The logo for Anne Gilbert features the name "Anne" in a purple serif font above "Gilbert" in a larger purple serif font. To the left of "Gilbert" are three horizontal green wavy lines.

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

2008-2012 Common School Calendar for Washtenaw County School Districts

First Student Day: Tuesday after Labor Day

Winter Break Guidelines:

If December 25th falls on	Schools close on	Classes resume	Days Off
Sunday	Thursday, Dec. 22	Monday, Jan. 9	11
Monday	Friday, Dec. 22	Monday, Jan. 8	10
Tuesday	Friday, Dec. 21	Monday, Jan. 7	10
Wednesday	Friday, Dec. 20	Monday, Jan. 6	10
Thursday	Friday, Dec. 19	Monday, Jan. 5	10
Friday	Friday, Dec. 18	Monday, Jan. 4	10
Saturday	Friday, Dec. 17	Monday, Jan. 3	10

Spring Break will be scheduled the first full week in April beginning with the first Monday of the month.

Districts are encouraged to schedule one full Professional Development Day to be held any time during the week immediately preceding Labor Day.

Districts are encouraged to schedule one Professional Development Day every other November on general election day.

For the Ann Arbor Public Schools this calendar agreement will go into effect after the 2008/2009 school year.

Thanks a Million!

Many, many thanks to:

Elizabeth DeRose and **Leslie Sapp** for organizing a wonderful staff appreciation luncheon and to all the families who brought food and drinks!

Sara Figueroa and **Theresa Reid** for organizing Family to Family Giving and to all the families who donated so that every Burns Park student could have a happy holiday!

Katie Chosid, Niki Wardner and **all the parent volunteers** for organizing and supervising Lunchtime Choices – the students really enjoy the change of pace these activities offer them during recess!

Mrs. Kreger, her student teacher and **all of her fifth graders** for organizing the blood drive.

Helen Starman

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 March 2008 issue are due no later than **Friday, February 15**. 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

Principal

Kathy Morhous 994-1919
morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us

President

Helen Starman 994-8553
hstarman@comcast.net

President-Elect

Elizabeth DeRose 677-0882
ederose@comcast.net

Treasurer

David Lowenschuss 623-9877
david.lowenschuss@pfizer.com

Secretary

Raleigh Sadlier 327-0534
sadlierfam@yahoo.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Janice Lieberman 761-7431
liebermanjanice@yahoo.com

Burns Park Press

Editor

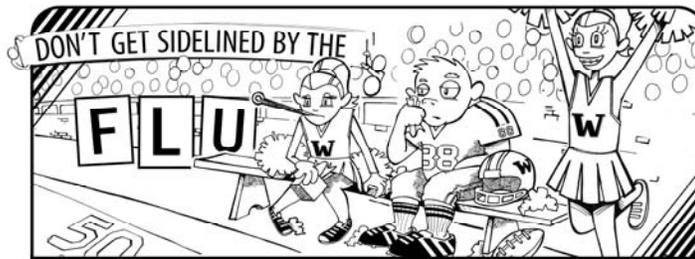
Anne Gilbert 657-7121
AGilbert@Surovell.com

Production

Sue Burke 930-2655
saburke@umich.edu

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.



WHEN SICKNESS STRIKES: Know When to Keep a Child Home From School

A parent's decision to keep a child home from school when he or she is sick can sometimes be a difficult one. No parent wants to interrupt their child's learning, and for some, keeping a child home means missing work or losing pay. However, if he or she has a serious illness such as influenza, it's important for the child to stay home from school. By taking this step, parents can help their children get better faster as well as prevent the spread of illness to others. Following are some frequently-asked questions and answers to aid parents in decision making this flu season.

Q: Should I keep my child home from school if he or she has cold or flu symptoms? Is your advice different for cold versus the flu?

A: If your child has flu symptoms, you should keep him or her home from school. If your child has a cold, the decision to keep him or her home may depend on the severity of symptoms. A good rule of thumb is to keep your child home if he or she has a fever of 100 degrees or higher.

It's also important to know the difference between cold and flu. Flu is a serious illness, and children who have the flu should always stay home from school. Flu symptoms include fever, along with chills, cough, sore throat, headache or muscle aches. Many people describe it "like being hit by a truck." It is a good idea to contact the child's doctor if he or she has these symptoms. Symptoms of a common cold include stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat and hacking cough. Often, cold symptoms come on gradually. Although the common cold is usually not serious, if the symptoms are severe, it's a good idea to keep your child home to rest and get better.

Q: If my child does have the flu or a bad cold, how long should I keep him or her home from school?

A: Parents should keep their sick children home from school until they have been without fever (temperature under 100 degrees) for 24 hours, to prevent spreading illness to others. Flu is spread from person to person through coughing and sneezing. Occasionally, people can get the flu from touching a germ-infested surface. Children are one of the biggest sources of flu spread.

Q: Should I call the doctor if I think my child has the flu?

A: If a child experiences flu symptoms, parents should contact their child's doctor quickly. Some children may benefit from an antiviral medication, which can be prescribed by a doctor and can help lessen the number of days that a child is sick with the virus. To be effective, antiviral medication should be taken within 12-48 hours after flu symptoms begin.

Q: What should I do to help prevent the rest of the household from getting sick?

A: Teach and practice healthy habits. Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds to help prevent germs from spreading. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, because the virus can spread when your hands touch surfaces that are infested with germs. Also, **consider contacting your doctor** if someone in your household gets the flu. A doctor can prescribe antiviral medication that can actually prevent other members of the household from catching the virus.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE INFLUENZA VIRUS, VISIT WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU



NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

“Take Your Child to School - Visit Your Child in School”

Monday, February 11, 2008

ALSO

*******NAAPID AT NIGHT*******

Presents

Education is a Civil Right

SHOWCASE OF STUDENTS' TALENTS

(Student Performers from the Washtenaw County School Districts)

Light Refreshments 5:30 - 6:25 p.m.

PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 6:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium

Corner of Stadium and Main Street

Please use the Flag Pole / Main Street Entrance

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Doris Hope-Jackson, Superintendent Willow Run Community Schools

**On Monday, February 11, 2008 join parents across the nation for
“Education is a Civil Right on NAAPID Day: Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School”**

**This event is free of charge and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. It asks for the cooperation of “the entire village”.
“The greater the involvement, the greater the possibility for the success of our young people.”**

Joseph Dulin, NAAPID Founder

Plan now for your special day and evening with your child.

Contact NAAPID for additional information, AATA bus passes or to purchase promotional items.

**FAX: 734.434.5281
Office Phone: 800.351.4097 (Toll Free)**

**E-Mail: NAAPID@aaps.k12.mi.us
734.434.1144 (Local)**





New venue, increased student participation mark annual NAAPID at NIGHT event

Poetry recited with a cadence that stirs the soul
Music presented that soothes and satisfies the spirit
Drama that inspires and elevates the intellect
A keynote message that will penetrate the heart

You won't want to miss the fifth annual NAAPID at NIGHT *Showcase of Students Talents*, 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, 2008 at Pioneer High School, 601 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. In a month filled with thought-provoking and spectacular events, this is one that will remind the community that exceptional students exist in our very midst.

Participating Washtenaw County schools will gather at 5:30 p.m. for registration and light refreshments prepared by Ann Arbor Public Schools' culinary arts students (Hospitality Today Program). At 6:30 p.m. the program will begin with a brief keynote message from Dr. Doris Hope-Jackson, Superintendent of Willow Run Community Schools.

Yvonne Dulin, chair of the annual event, said growing momentum has sparked the need for a larger venue and to incorporate students in a variety of roles.

"There will be a strong student presence this year, from the greeters at the door to the young people on the stage," Dulin said. "The NAAPID at NIGHT committee continues to look for ways that a variety of students can participate in this event and to develop student leadership. We continue to recognize the student winners of the NAAPID poster contest and we are very excited about the culinary arts students giving us a taste of their talents. We are also grateful for the opportunity to move to Pioneer High School, a larger venue that will allow our guests to enjoy the program in a spacious and comfortable facility."

NAAPID at NIGHT is an extension of the school day program. Parents and guardians are encouraged to celebrate "NAAPID: Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School" during school hours, Feb. 11. National African American Parent Involvement Day was founded 12 years ago by Ann Arbor's Roberto Clemente School Principal Joseph Dulin and is now celebrated in 47 states and in Japan, Australia, Canada and the Virgin Islands.

For additional information, please contact Yvonne Dulin at 734.747.6671 or call the NAAPID office at 800. 351.4097 (Toll Free) or 734.434.1144 (Local).