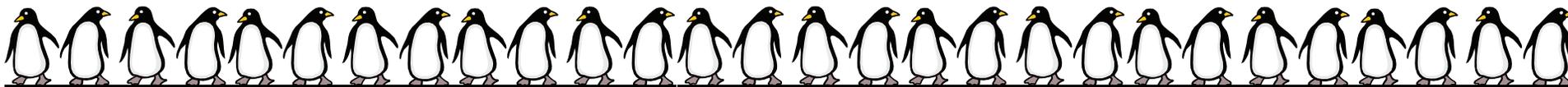


Burns Park Press - April 2010



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Calendar of Events

- Thurs. Apr 15: **Family Science Night**
- Mon. Apr 19: **1st & 2nd grade Concerts**
- Fri. Apr 23: **BP Press Submissions Due**
- Wed. Apr 28: **3rd grade Concert**
- Thurs. Apr 29: **PTO Meeting, 7pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Sun. May 2: **Burns Park Run!**
- Mon. May 3: **BP Players membership meeting, 7pm in the library**
- Wed. May 5: **4th grade Concert**
- Thurs. May 6: **Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**
- Tues. May 18: **5th grade Concert**
- Thur. May 20: **PTO Meeting, 7 pm**
Free childcare in gym
- Wed. May 26: **Ice Cream Social**
- Thurs. May 27: **Ice Cream Social rain date**
- Mon. May 31: **No School: Memorial Day**
- Sat. June 5: **Science Olympiad at Skyline**

Garden Wish List

(details on page 5)

- ◆ Hoses, including soaker hoses
- ◆ Watering cans
- ◆ Garden tools (e.g. trowels, shovels, rakes)
- ◆ Garden bed edging (e.g. bricks, narrow logs)
- ◆ Sprinklers
- ◆ Stumps for seating
- ◆ Containers or large pots for flowers
- ◆ Benches
- ◆ Garden shed

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.

From our Principal

Dear Families,

As the warm weather arrives, the staff and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the time and energy you have spent volunteering at Burns Park this year. On behalf of the students and staff, we thank you! To show our appreciation, we invite you to a ***Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast***. The breakfast will be from **8:20 to 8:45 on Thursday, May 6, 2010**, just prior the start of the school day. We are planning a special thanks to the PTO Multi-cultural committees past and present for their efforts that contributed to our *UMS School of the Year Award*. Burns Park School is a better place to learn because of the extra pair of hands you each so generously provide. Please join us for a light breakfast and some warm conversation.

Reading is Magic

We want to thank Rachel Erdstein, Kathy Cramer and rest of the Friends of the Library for another fabulous March is Reading Month! With only one more week to read, our students had only reached half of their goal, but they rallied (read like crazy) and met their goal. We think that lots of good books and committed students eventually won out over the exceptionally beautiful weather we've had this March. Thanks for motivating us to read.

Kindergarten Round UP

Round UP was a huge success. If you were unable to attend, please stop by our office to pick up the paper work. As I write we have 12 families signed up for the EDO (Extended Day Option). Applications can be picked up in our office, but must be turned into the office of Rec and Ed as soon as possible. If you only need part time after Kindergarten care, please contact Rec. and Ed. to sign up for our K-Care program. It looks likely that we will offer both programs. Please spread the word.

Class Placements

Although most parents feel comfortable leaving the class placement of their children up to the judgment of the Burns

Park Staff, if you want to share some specific information about your child, please remember that your input is due by **Monday, May 3rd. A separate letter for each child is required.** Please understand, however, that these requests will be honored as part of a process that builds a balanced class of students. Specific teachers cannot be guaranteed.

MEAP Results

Our MEAP results are in and we are proud of all of the hard work our students do every day to achieve all the grade level outcomes. Overall our students did very well. Because our students did so well on the MEAP, we've looked at how many students performed at the Advanced level as compared to the Proficient level. There is evidence that students who perform at the Advanced level do better on college entrance exams. There is also evidence that students performing at the Advanced level in Math are better prepared to take on Algebra in Middle school. We're working hard every day to make sure that all of our students meet the Advanced levels on the MEAP test.

Percentage of Students Meeting the Expected Grade Level Content Standard

(Proficient & Advanced Categories) on the MEAP

20090-10	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Reading	97.3	94.6	98.4	98.3
Math	100	100	95.4	98.3
Science	Not Given	Not Given	96.9	Not Given
Social Studies	Not Given	Not Given	Not Given	95

In Math we were pleased to see that 100% of our 3rd and 4th grade students scored at the Proficient level or above; in 3rd grade 91.9% of the students reached the Advanced level, and in 4th grade 82.2 reached the Advanced level. In 5th grade 90.9% reached the advanced.

When we disaggregated our data, we were pleased to see that in math at the 3rd and 5th grade level more of our minority (African American and Latino) students achieved at the

Advanced level than at the Proficient level. We will continue to work to ensure that all of our students are on the path to be algebra and college ready!

There are no writing test results for this year. The test was eliminated for grade 3, 5, 6 and 8. The 4th and 7th grade writing tests administered this fall were field tests only, so no results are available. With the elimination of the writing tests, there is also no longer an English Language Arts (ELA) score.

We have written Achievement plans for all students who scored below the proficient level. We have several new interventions to use to assist us as we work with these students to make sure they are meeting all of the grade level benchmark expectations. With the national incentive funds that the district received this past year we now have some new programs that are technology based. They include, READ 180 and System 44 to assist students that find some aspects of reading and spelling problematic. FASTT math to help cement addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. And Co-writer to assist students that have a difficult time getting their thoughts down on paper. Although we didn't begin using these interventions until November, we are seeing positive results.

We are still waiting for the individual student reports from the state. As soon as they arrive, we will mail them home to you. Should you have any questions about your child's MEAP score, don't hesitate to contact us.

Educationally Yours,
Kathy

Kathy Morhous
Principal
Burns Park Elem.
734-994-1919

Ice Cream Social

5/26/2010 5:30pm to 8:00pm

YEA! It is almost that time again for the 2010 Ice Cream Social, to be held Wednesday, May 26, from 5:30 to 8:00pm. Rain date is the following evening, Thursday, May 27. Music, food, games and friendships are all waiting for you!

We are still in need of energetic volunteers to chair some of the game activities, so anyone willing to give it a try please sign up in our volunteer

website: www.mysignup.com/

BurnsParkIceCreamSocial, or contact any of the co-chairs, Deb Kellen (dkellen@umich.edu), or Pei Huang (peibg@yahoo.com). There are great step-by-step instructions, so no experience necessary – it is truly a lot of fun!

Kids Say the Darndest Things . . .

A boy is shopping with his mom. She's gained a few pounds and needs new pants. She puts on a larger size and is thrilled to discover that they're too big . . .

Mom: WooHoo, These are too big!

Son: Don't worry Mommy, you'll grow into them.

From Mrs. Crankshaw's third grade.

Family Science Night is coming April 15th!

Mark your calendars: Family Science Night is coming to Burns Park April 15th! From 6-7:30. After several years of great programs from the Hands-On Museum, the Leslie Science & Nature Center is stepping up to coordinate this year's event.

This year we'll explore different natural science topics using hands-on activities such as "Incredible Insects," "The Web of Life," "Tremendous Trees," "Warning! Endangered!" and "What on Earth is a Watershed?"

The program also features live animal presentations, which might include a turtle, a snake, a rabbit, or an owl among others. This program also requires 10-20 parent volunteers. If you're able to help, please contact Susan Hutton at susanphutton@yahoo.com.

The Skatepark Spellers: A Family Learning Institute Fundraiser

Members of the Ann Arbor Skatepark Steering Committee are putting together a team to compete in the Family Learning Institute (FLI) spelling bee. Our goal is to raise \$500 to join the Bee. Your donation to the team will help a kid get the extra help that they need to succeed!

The Family Learning Institute provides low income students in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti who are performing below grade level a no cost supplemental academic program guided by one-on-one tutoring that incorporates the tools for becoming successful learners. Many students from Burns Park benefit from the FLI.

To donate to the cause, please click on the following link and click "donate."

<http://www.crowdrise.com/flispellingbeeskatepl/fundraiser/trevorstaples>

Crowdrise is a new fundraising tool put together by the founders of Moosejaw. If you're interested in starting your own fundraisers, Crowdrise is a fun, easy way to do it!

Thanks!

Trevor Staples

From our PTO Presidents

We hope everyone enjoyed Reading is Magic month! It was a fun way to usher in spring.

We had a productive PTO meeting in March. Kathy Morhous gave us an update on the excellent MEAP results of Burns Park students (see the March meeting minutes on-line).

In addition, Lynn Heumann provided an update on the latest discussions and events going on with the district's PTO council. Among other things, she shared guidelines for PTO By-Laws and reminded us of our keeping them up-to-date and in compliance with the PTO Council's By-Laws. We do plan to change the BP PTO by-laws to establish the position of Fundraising Coordinator as part of the PTO Executive Committee and we will review the by-laws to determine if additional changes are needed. We will publish the proposed changes before voting on them at the April or May meeting.

Lynn also noted that there is a PTO Officer training on April 29th at Tappan Middle School. It costs \$25 per person to attend. Anybody who is interested in serving as a PTO officer can contact me and I would be happy to sign you up.

Looking ahead, we have many exciting events planned in the coming months, and many opportunities to volunteer and get involved...the Family Nature Night, the Burns Park Run, Ice Cream Social, School Garden work day and planting, Walk & Talk, and grade level concerts to name just a few!

Please join us at our next PTO meeting on Thursday, April 29 (delayed one week from the original date) from 7:00-8:00 pm. Free childcare is available.

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Lynda Norton, President 761-1478 lnorton@okno.com

Wendy Burke, President-elect 585-5570 wendy.burke@mac.com

Thanks a Million!

- ◆ A Big Thanks to **Chris Fichera** and his company, **i tops**, for designing and printing the t-shirts for the BP t-shirt Fundraiser! His generosity and help made this fundraiser possible.
- ◆ **Elizabeth DeRose** for coordinating the t-shirt fundraiser and helping to design the fun shirts!
- ◆ **Rachel Erdstein, Mary Van der Velde and the Friends of the Library Committee** for organizing this year's March is Reading Month activities...Reading is Magic was enjoyed by all of the students!
- ◆ **Juliet Flanders** for organizing the Disability Workshop for the 4th graders, and to **Danny Heumann**, BP dad, who gave an inspiring talk that afternoon as part of the workshop. What a wonderful learning experience this was for the students!
- ◆ **Jenny Jalet and Carole Durgy** for organizing our Special Interest Fair...and thanks to all who participated! It was a record turnout!
- ◆ **Melissa Bruzzano and Courtney McCreadie** and all the parent volunteers for organizing and running another successful movie night.
- ◆ **Sally Pinnell and the Hospitality Committee** for organizing refreshments for Kindergarten Roundup.
- ◆ BIG thanks to Kathy Cramer, Jenny Freisthler, Courtney McCreadie and Sally Pinnell for their help sorting and distributing over 200 t-shirts for the Burns Park T-shirt Fundraiser!

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers!



ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF 5TH GRADE STUDENTS!

The State of Michigan requires that the immunization records of all 6th graders be reviewed to make sure that those students are up to date with their immunizations or have a signed waiver on file.

Additionally, the State of Michigan recently changed the immunization requirements for all 6th grade students.

The PREVIOUS requirements were:

4 doses DTaP, Td, or DT (diphtheria and tetanus) vaccine. 3 doses if the 1st dose was received on or after the 7th birthday.

3 doses of Polio vaccine.

2 doses MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine received after the 1st birthday.

3 doses of Hepatitis B.

1 dose of Varicella vaccine (Chicken Pox) or a parent or medical provider statement that a child has had chicken pox.

The NEW requirements are:

the immunizations as outlined above **PLUS**

a second Varicella vaccination for all 6th grade students.

1 dose of Meningococcal (MCV4 or MPSV4) vaccine if the 6th grade student is at least 11 years old.

1 dose of Tetanus/Diphtheria/acellular Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine if 5 years have passed since last dose of Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccine (DTaP, Td or DT) and the student is at least 11 years old.

Please contact your child's doctor to review your student's immunization status, to obtain any necessary immunizations, and to obtain an updated copy of their immunizations. Please turn those updated records in to the Burns Park office prior to the end of this year or provide an updated immunization record during Tappan Middle School's registration. You can also have your student's doctor fax the updated immunization record to Burns Park this year. Our fax number is 734-994-1548.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter. This is one more step in getting your student ready for Middle School. If you have any questions, please contact me. Debita Graham, RN, School Nurse, Burns Park Elementary

School Vegetable Garden Updates

Just in time for spring, we're excited to announce that the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation awarded Burns Park a \$1,000 grant for our new school garden! We are very grateful for their support. We are also very thankful for Molly Crankshaw's sponsorship of the grant application.

This grant enables us to install a much-needed fence in the garden and to buy more compost and mulch. We still plan to have some sort of storage unit for hoses and tools. We are planning a work day on April 11 to install the fence. All are welcome!

The 2nd and 5th graders planted peas, broccoli, lettuce, kohlrabi and radishes during the last week of March. Most of these will be ready for harvest before school gets out!

More students will be planting after spring break, including carrots and beans, and then later tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, melons, gourds, and more! The garden will be a beautiful green space before you know it.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to help the school garden! We are so grateful for any level of support. The garden is providing a wonderful opportunity for all the students at Burns Park. Listed below are many items that we need for the garden. If you have any of these items that you wish to donate, it would be much appreciated!

Lastly, if you would like to be added to the School Garden email list to learn about goings-on and to help with classes, please let us know.

Happy spring!

Emily Hastie (emilyhastie@comcast.net) and Lynda Norton (lnorton@okno.com)



Gears and Beers ride to cure ALS, June 12, 2010

is an organized bicycle ride put on by the ALS Association Michigan Chapter to raise money for ALS research. I rode in this event last year and this year I created a Burns Park team. Please consider joining the ride on the BP team or donating for the BP team (sponsor the team, myself, or anyone else who joins the team). The routes start and end at Olson Park in Ann Arbor. If you ride you have a choice of 25, 75, or 100 mile routes (although I don't think anyone checks too carefully how far you ride). I'm riding the 75 mile route. This year the post-ride party food is provided by Zingerman's and beer is again provided by Arbor Brewing Company.

To register to ride or donate (or for more information) please go the web site http://webmi.alsa.org/site/TR/Rides/Michigan?fr_id=6380&pg=entry <http://webmi.alsa.org/site/TR/Rides/Michigan?fr_id=6380&pg=entry> .

To register hit the "Register" button and then select "1. Join or form a team" to find the Burns Park team if you would like to join. Enter Burns Park and hit "Search for a Team". For riders there is a registration fee of \$50 before April 1 and \$75 after April 1. After you register you can ask people to sponsor you or the team.

To donate for the Burns Park team hit the "Find a Participant" button, then select "Search for a team" (Burns Park, of course) and then select the Burns Park link or myself (Francis Connolly) or anyone else registered to the Burns Park team to contribute to the team total. Gears and Beers asks a minimum \$40 donation if you are a non-rider planning to attend the post-ride party at Olson Park.

Contact Frank Connolly at fconnoll@peoplepc.com if you have any questions or need any help registering or donating. Thanks.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU . . .

It's our Friends of the Library committee along with Miss Erdstein that plans our March is Reading Month. We met once a month leading up to March to brainstorm, plan and implement the theme and activities for the month, hoping that our ideas would capture the interest of all grade levels. Parents also read trivia questions each morning and meet to count the minutes read by students each week. It takes the commitment of parent volunteers to make our plans come to flourish for many of our PTO committees and I would like to THANK these volunteers for their time and commitment, **Bob Brustman, Lauren Kinsherf, KC Brown, Janice Lieberman, Mary van der Velde, Courtney McCreadie, and Amanda Mercer, Krista Hoffman, and Deb Fisch.**

Also, a special thanks to **Carolynn Hayman** for creating "Magic Bunny", the balloon creature that was jumping out of his magic balloon hat. This was a surprise treat for our students. If anyone is interested in hiring Carolynn for events, you can get her information from Miss Erdstein.

Thank you all,
Kathy Cramer

Movie Night

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who make Movie Night fun for our kids. March volunteers included SueAnne Bell, Melissa Bretzius, Kathy Cramer, Mike Cramer, Sandee Jackson, Lauren Kinsherf, Anne Leo, Paul McCreadie, Heather Robinson, Eric & Susi Shaw, Marie Todd, Jamie Yahr, and Dan Zahn. Thanks!

Join us **April 16th** as the PTO presents **Wall E** in honor of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day and our new school garden.

Look for the Movie Night flyer in back packs just before Spring Break

Courtney McCreadie & Melissa Bruzzano

Burn\$ Park Buck\$



“Earn money for our school without spending an extra dime!”

The Burns Park PTO’s scrip fundraiser, known as Burn\$ Park Buck\$, started its seventh year in early October. Burns Park families who participated in this fundraiser over the last few years earned thousands of dollars for our school without spending an extra dime; they simply changed the way they paid for their groceries and other retail items.

How does Burns Park Bucks work? The PTO purchases gift certificates or gift cards at a discount from local grocers and retailers including: **Busch’s, Hiller’s, Whole Foods, The Produce Station, Gratz, Real Seafood Company, Barnes & Noble, Borders, LL Bean, Gap, Lands’ End, Old Navy, Panera Bread, Starbucks, Williams Sonoma and many more.** You buy the gift certificates or gift cards from the PTO at full face value and use them at the store (or on-line, if applicable) where they are worth full face value. The PTO keeps the difference between our cost and the price you pay; the discount we can receive ranges from five to eighteen percent.

Busch’s and Hiller’s offer rechargeable gift cards that allow you to initially purchase one card at the dollar value of your choice. The card holds

a balance as you use it, and you can refill the card, as needed, at the store—with cash, check or a credit card. (This way, you can still receive airline miles and other credit card rewards while supporting our school.) Burns Park continues to receive 5% whenever you refill your card.

Kroger has simplified their process of donating to Burns Park PTO. Instead of purchasing and recharging gift cards, they allow us to link our Kroger Plus cards—the one you swipe to get the discount prices—to Burns Park PTO, so that anytime you shop a percentage will automatically get credited to our account. To register your card you’ll need to set up an account first at this website: www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Create a new customer account by clicking on **Sign in/ Register** link on the upper right side of the page. This will generate a verification **email to you requiring you to activate your Kroger account by clicking the link and signing in to your new account.**

Click on **Edit Kroger Plus Card Info.** Enter the 12 digit number on the back of your Kroger Plus card. (Or, if you don’t have a Kroger Plus card there’s an option noted allowing you to print a form and take it to the store’s service desk.)

Click on **Community Rewards Information.** Use organization # 82907. Select Burns Park Elementary School.

Total activation time is estimated at 7-10 days, once you do the on-line part above. You’ll know that the card is registered by looking at the bottom of the Kroger’s receipt which should say “At your request, Kroger is

donating to Burns Park Elementary School”

Plum Market also has a similar program to Kroger; visit their Service Desk to complete the form and link your rewards card to Burns Park School PTO.

How do I order my Burns Park Bucks? Once a month you will receive an e-mail reminder to order on-line at www.burnsparkpto.org (you may also print out the order form and drop it off in the Burns Park Bucks box in the office). You will receive your completed order on the following Wednesday. You may choose one of two methods for paying for your order: by credit card directly on-line or by check. Burns Park PTO does pay a percentage for the service of using the on-line services, so if you would like to maximize your contribution, feel free to write a check. Payments may be placed in the Burns Park Bucks box in the office or mailed to:

Cindy Middleton
1402 Brooklyn Ave.
Ann Arbor, 48104

You may also choose one of two methods for receiving your order: 1) pick-up at the school Wednesday morning or afternoon or 2) home delivery. **Orders are due by midnight** on the following dates: Mar 3, Mar 24, Apr 28, and May 26.

Any questions? Feel free to contact Cindy Middleton at cynthia.middleton@gmail.com or 623-1704.

**Order On-line and
Pay by Credit Card at
www.burnsparkpto.org**

LICE Check Regularly – Treat Quickly – Nit Pick Daily – Clean Environment Thoroughly - Report Promptly

- ◆ We are sending this information out to all parents to share facts about head lice, how to identify whether your child has head lice, how to treat head lice, and steps you can take at home to help prevent your child from becoming infested with head lice.
- ◆ Any time children come together – at playdates, at sleepovers, at religious gatherings, at school, or at any other social grouping like Girl/Cub Scouts, Brownies, play practice, or team sports, head lice cases commonly increase.
- ◆ Head lice do not transmit disease and are not a serious medical condition. They cannot survive on your pets. Head lice have nothing to do with the cleanliness of a house or parenting skills.
- ◆ Direct, physical, head-to-head contact is the usual way head lice spread. Lice do not jump, fly or swim. They are, however, good crawlers.
- ◆ Check your child's head daily for lice and/or nits (eggs). Mature lice, which are no bigger than a sesame seed, avoid light and are hard to see. Lice eggs or "nits" are usually found close to the scalp – usually within 1/4 inch. They appear as tiny whitish ovals that are "glued" to the hair shaft. They cannot easily be flicked away as dandruff can.
- ◆ If you find head lice on your child, please notify the school and keep him or her home until properly treated. It is recommended that head lice be treated with shampoos specifically labeled for head lice.
- ◆ **Read and follow the directions carefully.** A second treatment is typically necessary no sooner than one week later to kill lice that hatch after the initial treatment.
- ◆ Lice shampoos do not remove the eggs from the hair. The eggs that are ¼ inch or closer to the scalp must be combed out with a special lice comb and/or manually removed on a daily basis until no live lice are found for three weeks.
- ◆ When your child returns to school, please have them report to the office so that they can be rechecked prior to their reentry to the classroom.
- ◆ Continue to examine all family members daily for 3 weeks and treat if live lice or nits close to the scalp are found.
- ◆ Combs, brushes, hats, and other hair accessories in contact with an infested person should be washed in hot water (130°F) and should not be shared with other family members.
- ◆ All items your child has been in contact with in the past two days such as towels, pillowcases, sheets, pajamas, clothes, coats, hats, scarves, and similar items should be washed in hot water (130°F) and dried on high heat for at least 30 minutes. Items that cannot be washed may be stored in a tightly sealed garbage bag for a period of two weeks or may be placed in a freezer or outdoors (if temperatures are below freezing) for 24 hours.
- ◆ Vacuuming the house, mattresses, car seats, and furniture is recommended. Using household insecticides to treat the home, vehicles, carpets or furniture will unnecessarily expose your household to harmful chemicals.
- ◆ To help prevent the spread of head lice, please encourage your child not to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, barrettes, as well as helmets or headphones with foam ear protectors.

Check Regularly – Treat Quickly – Nit Pick Daily – Clean Environment Thoroughly - Report Promptly

For more information regarding head lice or its treatment, please feel free to contact the school office, your school nurse, your child's doctor, or your local health department. You can also go on the district's website to the parents link to obtain more information and resources. Thank you for your help and support.

In peace,

Debita Graham, RN, School Nurse

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 Deb Stern, BP Press Editor, deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

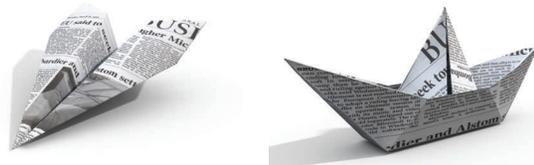
Payment: Please place your check (made out to Burns Park PTO) in an envelope labeled "BP Press Ads, attn: Treasurer" in the PTO box in the school office. (They may also be mailed to the school at 1414 Wells, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.) Both the electronic ad copy and payment must be received by the published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

Questions? Contact Deb at 604-3704 or deb.odom.stern@stanfordaluni.org

The Burns Park Press is published on-line each month!

By reading the Burns Park Press on-line, we save about 2600 printed sides of paper EACH MONTH!!! This saves ink, paper, copying resources and time!!!

Still want to receive a paper copy each month? Complete the "Burns Park Press Opt-IN letter" included in your First Day Packet. Or send an email requesting a paper copy to Kathy Sample at kesample@umich.edu.



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 April 2010 issue are due no later than **Friday, April 23rd**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

deb.odom.stern@stanfordalumni.org

Experienced babysitter, Burns Park alum and current U of M student looking to take excellent care of your child(ren) this summer.

Email or call Emily McEvoy (Mrs. Higgins' daughter): emmymac@umich.edu or (734) 904-3262. References available.

Editor's Note: Emily is FANTASTIC!

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..... **We get letters!**

Lynda: Hi! Our grandchildren, Nathan Sprick (age 8) and Sophia Sprick (age 5) attend your school.

I have been reading the PTO newsletter and wanted to compliment you and others on such a wonderfully concise and interesting newsletter!! Keep up the good job. We live 45 miles north, in Genesee County, and its nice to keep abreast of what the school is doing above what our daughter and son-in-law are happy to tell us!

We have been collecting the boxtops for education and I would like to know where I could mail these to the PTO.

Also, I read with interest about the beautiful garden project you have planned. I would like to make a monetary donation and need to know where that should be sent as well. What a great idea!!!

Nathan is involved in the Science Olympiad and, hopefully, we can attend the competition June 5th.

I look forward to hearing from you or from Emily Hastie about the garden donation. I was not sure which of you to email.

Thanks again!!
Brenda Bridgett
Swartz Creek, MI

Dear Brenda,

Thank you very much for your message! I'm very grateful that you'll be supporting the school through the boxtops program and with a donation to the garden.

For the boxtops, you can mail those directly to the school c/o Rachel Erdstein, the media specialist. She coordinates that program for the school and all proceeds go to support the school library. Address: Burns Park School, 1414 Wells St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

For the donation to the garden, you can mail that directly to the PTO Treasurer, Jenny Freisthler at 1505 Shadford Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

We are very excited about the garden project! We'll be planting with 2nd graders (their pea experiments) and 5th graders (broccoli, kohlrabi, lettuce, and radishes) next week. We hope to install a fence at the end of break with a family work day. Then we'll be planting with the rest of the grades during April and May (beans, pumpkins, melons, tomatoes, cucumber and more). Many of the cool weather vegetables will be ready to eat before school gets out. Then we hope to have a lovely fall harvest when school resumes in September. I hope you have a chance to visit the garden sometime soon.

The Science Olympiad is also a wonderful program for the students. As they get older, there are different events in which they can compete as well (my kids are in 'Potions' -- cool chemistry stuff, and 'Circuit Wizardy', among other things).

Thank you again for your kind message and your support!

Best regards,
Lynda Norton