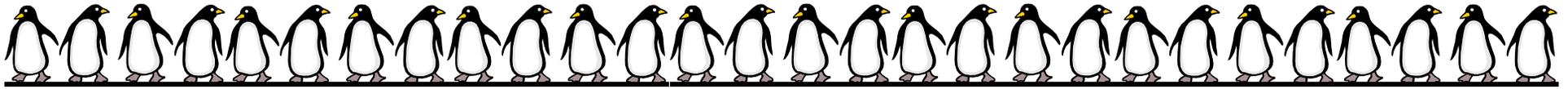


# Burns Park Press - December 2007



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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

- Wed, Nov 28: **BP Bucks Orders Due**
- Thur, Nov 29: **Book Fair Family Night 6-8:30**
- Wed, Dec 5: **BP Bucks Orders Delivered**
- Wed, Dec 12: **Teacher & Staff Luncheon**
- Fri, Dec. 21: **BP Press Articles Due**
- Fri, Dec 21: **Winter break begins at end of day**
- Mon, Jan 7: **School Resumes**
- Mon, Jan 21: **No School: MLK Jr Day**
- Thur, Jan 24: **4th Grade Concert**
- Thur, Jan 31 **Blood Drive**
- Mon: Feb 18: **No School**
- 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**

It's time to celebrate and show our appreciation for our wonderful teachers and staff with a **Holiday Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon** on **Wednesday, December 12**.

To make this annual event a success, we depend on your help! Parent volunteers are needed to provide main dishes, side dishes, salads and desserts, as well as assistance in set up and clean up. If you've already returned the volunteer form that was sent home in your child's backpack mail immediately after Thanksgiving, thank you! If not, we would still welcome your contribution. Please send email and phone responses to Elizabeth DeRose at [ederose@comcast.net](mailto:ederose@comcast.net) or 677-0882, or send the volunteer form back to school with your child. Thanks so much for your support of this special Burns Park tradition!

Elizabeth DeRose and Leslie Sapp

During December we will be asking you for **Family to Family Giving** donations and appreciate your generosity. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and talents to help decorate the many envelopes. The children have done a great job decorating! I'll follow up in January with the totals and the number of kids that we were able to help out this year. What a heartfelt feeling to give to our kids in the neighborhood who can really use our help for the holidays!

Sara Figueroa, [sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com](mailto:sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com)

**Book Fair! November 27 - 30**, including a special **Family Night** on **Thursday, November 29** from **6:00 - 8:30 pm**.

## From our Principal

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Dear Burns Park Families,

I hope that each of you enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday as much as I did. It seems that in our fast paced world, we just don't spend as much time as we should be enjoying the company of family and friends.

I'm so proud of all of our students! They are making such wonderful progress in all academic areas. I hope that each of you had a chance to confer with your child's teacher and came away better understanding how they are doing in school and what you can do to help them be successful.

Please continue to work with your child at home. Reading together every day is one of the best ways you can support your child's learning.

If you need to reschedule your appointment, because you missed your parent/teacher conference, please call the office. If you need special assistance, such as translation or transportation, let the office know and we will try to help.

### Report Letters

Everyone should have received their child's report letter last Friday (Nov. 30th). If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's report letter or if you'd like to discuss the letter further, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

### Kudos

It was great seeing everyone during fall Parent / Teacher Conferences. We hope that 100% of our families participate in these conversations about their children's achievement. A special thanks goes to Elizabeth DeRose and the fine PTO Teacher Appreciation Committee for the wonderful dinners you provided to get us through the evenings.

### Colder days are coming

Before your children rush out the door each day, please be sure they are bundled warmly. The building doesn't open until 8:45 and we go outside for lunch recess everyday unless it is 0 degrees or less. Please be sure your child dresses accordingly. That means boots, winter coat, hat and mittens or gloves. We also recommend that students plan on having layers of clothing to add or remove so they can be comfortable as the weather changes throughout the day.

### Snow Rule

We follow one simple rule when it snows: Snow Stays on the Ground. As much fun as it can be, it can also be dangerous. Snowballs have been known to become more ice balls than snow or contain foreign matter in addition to snow. In those cases, serious injuries can result. Rather than take a risk, we just don't allow throwing of snow at all. Please help your children know and follow this rule.

### Walking and/or Transporting Students to School

We are fortunate to reside in a neighborhood where nearly half our students walk to school. We ask parents who drive their children to school to take these safety precautions to insure that all our students are safe.

- ◆ Allow enough time to drive safely.
- ◆ Make sure you come to a complete stop at all stop signs and wait for children to completely cross the intersection.
- ◆ Pull all the way up to the curb before opening car doors.
- ◆ Insist that your riders exit on the curbside of the car.
- ◆ Don't block intersections by dropping children off at stop signs.
- ◆ Do not park along the curb behind the buses; parked cars on the west curb cause traffic jams!
- ◆ When you exit the parking lot **please make a right hand turn**. The few minutes it takes to go around the block are well worth the safety of our children.

The start and end of the school day are very congested times in our parking lot. Drivers must be continually alert to the presence and movements of children.

## .. more from our Principal

### Cold and Flu Season

Please help us all stay healthy. If your child is ill, has had a fever or been nauseous within the last 24 hours, he or she should not be in school. Keeping children home an extra day after being ill allows time for their immune systems to recover and prepare to fight off the next group of germs. Please keep your telephone numbers current on our emergency cards so that you can be reached should your child become ill.

### Reminders

- ◆ Does your child eat **hot lunch**? Please keep enough money in your child's lunch account to cover the cost.
- ◆ Please check the **lost and found** on a regular basis.
- ◆ **Gift Policy** - During this holiday season, it is important to remind you of the Ann Arbor Board of Education's Gift Policy: Staff may not accept gifts beyond a token value. Thank you for your cooperation.

On behalf of the Burns Park staff, I want to wish each and every one of you a safe and enjoyable winter break full of family, friends and fun. May 2008 be a healthy, happy year for everyone.

Educationally yours,

Kathy

## From our PTO Presidents

Thank you to everyone who attended our PTO meeting this month. We approved an additional \$1,000 for the multicultural committee budget. The committee has worked very hard this fall to organize a series of field trips, assemblies and classroom presentations all focused on the culture of Africa. Not only have they worked tirelessly as a group, they have also worked closely with classroom and specials teachers, particularly Mrs. Page, and with the March is Reading Month and Special Interest fair volunteers. It looks like it will be an exciting year!

This month the PTO provides two great opportunities for Burns Park families to help others in need. Mary Hampton has organized the Salvation Army Canned Food Drive. You can donate canned goods and paper products to local families in need by bringing them to school and putting them in the boxes outside the office. Sara Figueroa and Theresa Reid have begun organizing the Family to Family giving program. Watch for envelopes in your child's back pack so that you can participate in this wonderful program that directly benefits Burns Park families in need.

Remember our scrip fundraiser, Burns Park Bucks, is an easy and painless way to support our PTO and our school. Please take a look at our list of retailers ([www.burnsparkpto.org](http://www.burnsparkpto.org)) before you do your holiday shopping: gift cards and certificates make GREAT presents for friends, family and teachers and benefit your child at the same time.

Finally ... happy holidays to all and best wishes for a happy new year!

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

*Elizabeth DeRose, President-elect*  
677-0882 or [ederose@comcast.net](mailto:ederose@comcast.net)

## Walk & Talkers Appreciate Awesome Volunteers

The mailman doesn't have anything on these very special Walk and Talk Volunteers. Neither rain, snow nor sleet could keep these incredibly dedicated women from their weekly commitment this fall. Thank you for making this program possible : Jane Wood, Jodi Fichera, Kendra Theriot, Brenda Scotton, Barbara Peitsch, Julia Huttar Bailey, Gayle Rosen, Karen Smyte, Heidi Butz, and Marla Williams.

We had an enthusiastic group of kids who joined us 3 times a week to run/ walk laps – many reached their goals of 10 miles, 26.2 miles, and even 50 miles – WOW!! Walk and Talk will begin again this spring as we prepare for the Burns Park Run. The kids love to have parent visitors during Walk and Talk so please join us for fresh air, exercise and humorous conversation.

Marci Ammerman

## Multicultural Focus for 2007-08 is AFRICA

The planning group, working with our wonderful teaching staff and PTO committees are planning an array of activities that focus on the diverse countries and cultures that comprise the continent of Africa.

Activities are planned from January through the end of March including assemblies and field trips, opportunities for student involvement through individual research and presentations (after-school and in Lunchtime Choices), and special tie-ins with existing school-wide activities: March is Reading Month and the Special Interest Fair.

Thanks to our PTO and the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation, our planned activities are fully funded!

We are currently looking for \*VOLUNTEERS\* to help with the following:

- ◆ Recruit and coach students who will make short presentations on Africa-related topics after school or at lunchtime
- ◆ Assist with in-school workshops or assemblies on various dates, including lights and sound--training provided. (January through March)
- ◆ Help with research for bibliographies and website lists for student research, March is Reading Month handout, Special Interest Fair handout.
- ◆ Help plan and implement Lunchtime Choices activities related to Africa.

Please get in touch with us to volunteer or learn more.

Multi-cultural Planning Committee

Violet Souweidane, Luciana Borbely, Ruth Slavin

souweidane@aol.com rslavin@umich.edu lborbely@comcast.net

Special thanks to Cynthia Page-Bogen for writing the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation grant The Burns Park School Multicultural Committee was one of 93 applicants: 39 ideas received funding.

## News from the Music Room

Our school was graced with some musical opportunities offered to us by various organizations and I would like to give thanks:

Our school was very lucky to have three musicians, two from Brazil and one from New York, come to school during the first week of November. They worked with several individual classes in the music classroom and later in the week presented assemblies to the rest of the school.

I would like thank these musicians, Philip Galinsky, Magali and Bebete Martins, and also thank Bebete Martins, Program Associate at U of M's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, and Sueann Caulfield, moms of student Josh Martins- Caulfield, for bringing these fantastic presentations to our school. We were so fortunate! The music was great and the students had so much fun! I really enjoyed working with wonderful Brazilian music in the classroom and I hope your child came home singing in Portuguese! A big thanks to those four people for enriching us with Brazilian music! Obrigada!

Eastern Michigan University Orchestra will be playing a free youth concert of Igor Stravinsky's "The Firebird" on Dec. 7 and grades 2 - 5 are going! Yippee! The kids really enjoy this concert and it's free! Thanks to the BP Players for subsidizing our buses with their field trip stipend.

On a school concert note, may I remind parents in Mrs. Spiegel's and Ms. Dworkin's classes that their concert is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 24? Please mark your calendars and do let me know of any transportation issues. Remember to send in plain white undershirts/T-shirts with your child beginning the first week of January and let Mrs. Higgins know if anyone is available to come in and help stamp-print the shirts during art class time in January.

Submitted with thanks from Cynthia Bogen and the staff and students of Burns Park Elementary

## Special Interest Fair: Wednesday, March 19, 2008

It's never too early to start planning for the Special Interest Fair! 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. More details will follow after the new year. We look forward to seeing all of the great projects!

Questions or comments? Please contact one of the Special Interest Fair co-chairs:

Kim Mass, 213-5255, [nkhmass@selectivityinc.com](mailto:nkhmass@selectivityinc.com)

Patricia Silverman, 998-1156, [boczar@med.umich.edu](mailto:boczar@med.umich.edu)

## Blood Drive

Ms. Kreger's class will be sponsoring a blood drive on Thurs. Jan. 31 (and also on April 30) , and YOU are a V.I.P.!

So, if you are interested in giving blood and being served like royalty by our children, here is what you can do:

1. Go to <http://www.givelife.org> .
2. Type in bpe for the source code. bpe stands for Burns Park Elementary.
3. Fill out a profile.
4. Pick a time!

Hope you all have peaceful and healthy holidays.

Sandy Kreger (Lucky Teacher)

## UNICEF A Lesson in Counting & Caring

At their November meeting, Penguins Care Club students emptied UNICEF trick or treat boxes and sorted coins to help count the money collected by Burns Park students. One hundred and sixteen boxes were turned into the school and piles of coins and dollars filled the tables. The kids were amazed at the amount of money donated. When the last coin was counted, \$1966.16 was raised to help UNICEF provide education, nutrition and health care to children around the world. Be sure to pat your children on the back for a job well done. Their efforts will make a difference. Thank you to all who participated!

Thanks, Emily Hastie



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and parent. Neighborhood  
sales information at:

<http://www.AnneGilbert.com>

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

## Thanks a Million

Thanks to ALL the teachers, staff and volunteers who have worked so hard this month!

Many, many thanks to:

Elizabeth DeRose and Leslie Sapp, Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation committee who arranged dinner for the teachers both conference nights! AND Charlie's LaShish for donating dinners for every teacher, The Produce Station for donating salad and bread and NYPD for pulling together a great order of lasagna with very short notice – be sure to thank these businesses the next time you are there!

Marci Ammerman and the Walk and Talk volunteers – you have been a very important part of recess for many of our students this fall!

Rachel Erdstein, Elizabeth DeRose, Nancy Vettorello and the Friends of the Library committee for organizing the Scholastic Book Fair and all the parent volunteers who helped the students pick out and purchase their books!

Chris Hoffman, Sri Kodali and Rebecca Ratliff for helping with picture re-take day!

The multicultural committee for working so hard to put together a great set of events celebrating Africa!

Ludia Kim, Teresa Jong, Jenny and Sam Jalet for organizing and running the Ohio State football parking fundraiser!

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 January 2008 issue are due no later than **Friday, December 14**. Late submissions may not be included. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the Press are welcome!

Anne Gilbert, 657-7121 or [AGilbert@Surovell.com](mailto: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](mailto:agilbert@surovell.com).

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

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

## PTO Executive Board

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