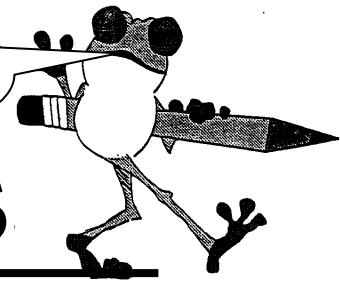


Welcome Back
to School!



Burning Issues

President's Message

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at Burning Tree! I hope you all had an enjoyable

summer and actually found a little time to relax! It's always hard to see the summer end, but it's also nice to reconnect with the staff and friends we haven't seen over the summer!

We are so lucky to have such wonderful and dedicated staff and generous and involved parents at Burning Tree. PTA President-elect Ellie Abramowitz and I want to thank everyone for their generous support of the PTA this last year through their countless volunteer hours and/or financial contributions. You should know that your PTA dollars were hard at work this summer! If you haven't had a chance already, make sure to come up and see the amazing facelift the school got this summer! All of the hallways, stairs, stairwells, trim, the conference room, and several offices were painted. Burning Tree has always been a great place to come to school, and now we hope the building will reflect the positive attitude and upbeat tone of our teachers and students! Thanks to Vicki Herson for overseeing this project.

Your PTA dollars were also responsible for a major technological upgrade this summer. The school was able to purchase several Prometheon White Boards as well as "elmos" which will help promote more interactive learning for our students. To learn more about this new technology and how it will help both our teachers and our students, **be sure to attend the first PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00pm** (see the article below for more information on the first PTA meeting). We encourage you to join the PTA so your vote can be counted on many important matters that affect you and your children. Our PTA meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of almost every month - please come and share your ideas and any concerns you may have.

I also want to draw your attention to the PTA website, which was created two years ago by BTES parent and past Board of Director member, Karen van Loon. The web site offers a wealth of information, from PTA events, to parenting classes, to lunch

menus! Plus almost every PTA form you need can be found on the website. Please take a moment to see all that it has to offer by visiting www.BurningTreePTA.org. My deepest thanks to Karen for her endless hours in creating and maintaining this terrific resource during the past two years, and thanks to Cami Fawzy who will take over as webmaster this year.

Ellie and I look forward to working closely with Mrs. Erdrich, Mr. Tark, the staff and of course, you, to make this another productive and successful year at Burning Tree. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us if you have a question, a concern or an idea to share! We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family and wish your child(ren) a terrific school year.

Cindy Campbell, PTA President

Back-to-School Family Picnic

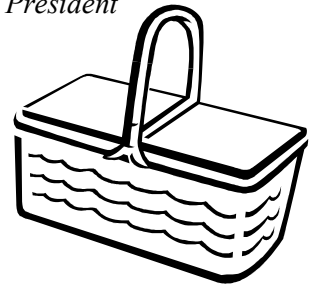
Friday, September 11th, 5:30-7:00 pm

BTES Rear Playground

Jump-start the new school year by attending the Burning Tree Elementary School Back-to-School Family Picnic! It's an opportunity to mingle with friends, classmates, and teachers in a fun and informal atmosphere.

Potomac Pizza will be selling pizzas, subs, hot dogs, and drinks. Alternatively, you can bring your own picnic dinner. Bring a blanket and, if you'd like, a dessert to share. We'll provide **popsicles, face-painting, and other fun activities.**

We need volunteers before, during, and after the Picnic. If you're interested in helping, please contact Barbara Butrica at mailbox@butrica-stricker.net or Rachel Bottone at rmbottone@gmail.com.



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First PTA Meeting and Volunteer Fair!

Please attend our first PTA Meeting and “Volunteer Fair” on Tuesday, September 8th. The Volunteer Fair will run from 7:00pm – 7:30pm and the PTA meeting will begin at 7:30pm. The PTA provides on-site babysitting for children age four and older but you **MUST** sign up ahead of time. (Please email Lisa Segert at Lbsegert@verizon.net to register; please tell her how many children and their ages.) Come and learn about all of our PTA’s great programs and events. Tables will be set up in the All Purpose Room so that PTA Committee Chairs can share information with you and answer your questions, and you can sign up to help! The PTA meeting will include a report from Mrs. Erdrich, including information about new teachers joining our school, information about the PTA and approval of the 2009-2010 budget and any issues that members would like to bring up during new business. Please sign up to be a PTA member, as you have no voting rights if you are not a member. If you paid dues last year, thank you, but those memberships have expired, and it’s time to rejoin! When you pay your dues, you receive the invaluable **Burning Tree Directory** and will partner with other parents to become active, involved citizens in our community! A membership form is attached and can be found at www.BurningTreePTA.org.

PTA Vacancies!

Thank you so much to those of you who have already signed up to be a co-chair of one of our many amazing PTA programs and events. We still have a few committees that need either one or more co-chairs. The PTA is looking for more enthusiastic parents who want to contribute to the happiness and well-being of the Burning Tree Community – and some of these committees require as little time as 2-3 hours per month! It’s also a lot of fun to be involved and allows you to meet other fabulous parents at our school! For more information or to co-chair, please contact this year’s VP for the Program or contact Cindy at CampbellHannegan@comcast.net.



VP for School Based Programs, Patti Klepp
(pb.klepp@verizon.net)

- **Creative Writing Club**
- **Foreign Language in Elementary Schools** (FLES); vacancy -- French language only

VP for Fundraising, Julie Garcia
(JulieGarcia@aol.com)

- **Plant Sale**; one more co-chair needed

VP for Volunteers, Lisa Segert
(lbsegert@verizon.net)

- **Health Room Volunteer**
- **Lunch and Recess Volunteers**; one more co-chair needed

Room Parents Needed

Don’t Wait -- Sign Up Now!

Your children are very excited about their new teachers and classes for the new school year. A rewarding and fun way to get involved in the classroom and in the school is to volunteer to be a Room Parent.

We have divided up the classroom tasks to spread out the responsibilities among more parents and to have a clearer definition of roles. For each class, we are seeking a **Teacher/Classroom Liaison Parent**, a **Treasurer**, a **Halloween Party Coordinator**, a **Valentine’s Day Party Coordinator**, an **End of the Year Party Coordinator** (for grades K-4), and a **PTA Liaison Parent**. The list of responsibilities for each of these positions is on the attached flyer.

Parents may sign up for more than one position. At Back-to-School Night, each family will be asked to sign up to help with (at least) one of the parties. This doesn’t mean the parent necessarily has to attend the party, but he/she will be asked to contribute by ordering party favors or purchasing snacks, etc. Please note that if a class does not have a party coordinator for a particular party than there will not be a party for that class.

You are not alone! There are resources to help you with these great jobs. Please join us for a Room Parent Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 10:15am and 7:00pm (come to one). We will have guidelines for each position, forms for Back-to-School Night sign-ups, and you can hear tips from experienced room parents. Even if you are an experienced room parent, please join us for one of these training

sessions to hear updates and new information on room parent responsibilities.

To submit your name for one (or more) of these positions or if you have questions, please contact the Room Parent Coordinator for your child's (or children's) grade. For **Grades K – 2**, contact Kim Bayard (kbayard@frb.gov or 301-365-2303) and for **Grades 3-5**, contact Dorene Rosenthal (dorene@verizon.net or 301-229-4940). You may email the information, or if you prefer, drop the attached form off at school (or send it to school with your child) for the PTA Forms box. Thanks for your help!!!

Back to School Help Needed in the Lunch Room and at Recess

Would you like to see your child's new friends? Who they sit with at lunch or play with at recess? You can get a peek into their day by helping out during their lunch/recess hour. Lunch and recess will now run from 11:40-1:25 in total. Lunch for K and Grade 2 will be from 11:40-12:10 and Recess will be from 12:10-12:40. Lunch for Grades 1 and 3 will be from 12:25-12:55 and Recess will be from 12:55-1:25. Lunch for Grades 4 and 5 will be from 12:55-1:25 and Recess will be from 12:25-12:55.



We are looking for volunteers to help during lunch and recess beginning the first day of school. We would like parents to volunteer for the entire hour-to follow their "group" either from Lunch to Recess or from Recess to Lunch. This way you can see your child both at lunch and in action on the playground. If you have 2 children who eat and recess at different times and would like to only be on the playground or in the lunchroom, we will work with you!

Please note: We ask that parents with children in Kindergarten NOT volunteer within the first 3 weeks of school so as not to disrupt them as they settle into their new routines. If you can help or have any questions, please contact our coordinator Farish Perlman @ fperlman@cwr103.com. Thank you for your help!

The Appropriate Use of BTNet

Please remember when using the **BTNet List Serve** this year that its sole purpose is to provide information relating only to PTA business, school affairs or educational advocacy issues. For all other issues, there is a "Community Update" published every Friday on BTNet for an exchange of information on topics such as tutors, child care, missing items, community performances, vacancies on sports teams, etc. We are fortunate that former BTES parent Jay Kaufman puts together this Community Update. Anyone wishing to publish information in the BTNet Community Update should submit text to Jay at jfk@kaufmanhome.net by noon on Wednesday.

The Weekly Update

The PTA publishes a weekly electronic update about PTA and School Events to keep our Burning Tree Community up to date on fun events and fundraisers. During the month of September the Update will also come home in your child's backpack at the end of the week. However, starting in October, the Update will be emailed to you on BTNet every Thursday. If you have not already signed up for BTNet make sure you do so in order to receive this and other important school and PTA information (see attached flyer to sign up for BTNet). If you would like to always receive a paper version of the Update, please fill out the "Weekly Update Opt-Out Form" which will be included in the Weekly Updates in September. The deadline for all Weekly Update articles and flyers is Tuesday at noon. The first deadline is Tuesday, September 1st at noon. Anyone wishing to publish information should email articles and attachments to Ellie Abramowitz at ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net through October; thereafter articles and attachments should be emailed to Yvonne Van Lowe at yvonne.vanlowe@cigna.com.

Burning Issues

The PTA thanks Joe Busch for continuing on as our *Burning Issues* editor. This monthly PTA Newsletter will come out the second Thursday of every month. Throughout the year, there will be no *Weekly Update* the week the *Burning Issues* is distributed. To submit an article for publication, the deadline is the first Friday of every month. Please submit copy by email to Joe Busch at jbusch@urban.org. Hard copies of flyers can be left in the Newsletter folder in the copy

room, but notify Joe that you have placed an item in the folder.



Mark Your Calendar for These Important Dates:

- **Tuesday, September 8, 7:00pm.** Annual Volunteer Fair and First PTA Meeting.
- **Tuesday, September 8,** Greenraising Fundraiser begins. Our new environmentally friendly fundraiser! Check your child's backpack for more information.
- **Wednesday, September 9, 9:15am.** Committee Chair Training in the Staff Lounge. This meeting is necessary for all Committee Chairs whether you are new or a veteran to the job. Please try to attend.
- **Wednesday, September 9, 10:15am or 7pm.** **Room Parent Meeting** in the Staff Lounge. For all of those interested in ANY of the room parent positions; pick one to attend.
- **Friday, September 11, 9:30am - 11:00am,** **New Parent Coffee** at Vicki and Michael Herson's House, 8709 Burning Tree Road.
- **Friday, September 11, 5:30pm - 7:00pm,** **Back-to-School Picnic** on the rear playground. (Rain date is Friday, Sept. 25.)
- **Monday September 14, 7:00pm, K-2 Back to School Night.** Babysitting is available for age 4 and older but you MUST register. Email Lisa Segert at Lbsegert@verizon.net.
- **Tuesday September 15, 7:00pm, 3-5 Back to School Night.** Babysitting available for age 4 and older but you MUST register. Email Lisa Segert at Lbsegert@verizon.net.
- **Wednesday, September 23, 7:30pm – 9:00pm, New Parent Evening Get-Together** at Lisa and Antoine Sanfuentes' House, 7504 Westfield Drive.
- **Tuesday September 29, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Learning Center Parent Get-Together** at

Yvonne and Kevin Van Lowe's House, 7012 Rainswood Court.

- **Wednesday, September 30, Individual Student Pictures.**

Burning Tree Elementary School

2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Cindy Campbell
- President-Elect: Ellie Abramowitz
- Treasurer: Laura Weiss
- VP for Fundraising: Julie Garcia
- VP for Volunteers: Lisa Segert
- VP for School-Based Programs: Patti Klepp
- VP for Community-Based Programs: Kerry Sporkin
- Recording Secretary: Surya Shah
- Corresponding Secretary/Membership: Yvonne Van Lowe
- MCCPTA Delegates: Ira Feldman and Sharon Tompkins
- At-Large Reps: Vicki Herson (Cluster Representative), Delia Tetelman (Special Needs Representative), and Line Vreven (International Representative)
- Ex-Officio Members: Lisa Sanfuentes and Dorene Rosenthal

Elementary/Middle School PTAs

PTAs serve as a type of forum where parents, teachers, administrators, and other concerned adults discuss ways to promote quality education, strive to expand the arts, encourage community involvement, and work for a healthy environment and safe neighborhoods. Join the Burning Tree PTA!

Burning Tree Directory & Handbook

We are finalizing the Burning Tree Directory and Handbook. In order for your child(ren) to be included in the directory please make sure to take the following steps:

For students NEW to Burning Tree: complete a NEW Student Information Form. The form was sent home with the school information packet in the summer mailing. You can also find a form on the PTA website (burningtreepta.org). Please either return this

form in an envelop marked "directory" or e-mail it to karenvanloon@verizon.net. Deadline is Friday September 4.

For children returning to Burning Tree: if your child(ren) was/were not in the directory last year, but you like information included this year, or you have corrections to last year's information, please fill out a NEW Student Information Form.

All parents whose students information was in last year's Directory will receive an e-mail containing last year's Directory information. Please verify this information online by Friday September 11.

Please Note:

The August school mailing also included the MCPS request to Withhold Directory Information Form. If you complete this form, your child's name will not appear anywhere in the directory.

Only PTA members receive the directory. Join by completing a PTA membership form (available online)

If you have any questions about the Directory, please contact Karen van Loon at karenvanloon@verizon.net

PTA Membership Drive

It's that time of year again – back to school AND time to join or renew your PTA membership.

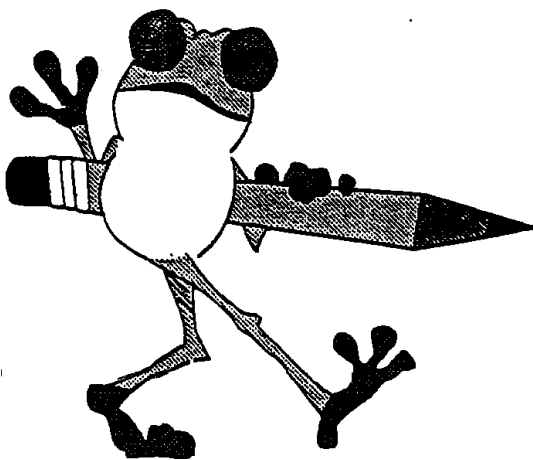
None of our education and fun programs like Science Fair, Lunch with a Scientist, Cultural Arts, International Nights, Arts Festival and the Spring Fair could be done without your support. Further, PTA fundraising activities help fund many important programs at BT; including the purchase of books and equipment for the Media Center, science equipment and extra supplies for our kids' classrooms. In previous years, the PTA funded the purchase of new computers, playground equipment, the purchase of new technology that promotes interactive learning for our children and much more.

We encourage you to send your membership form and dues as soon as possible, and help the PTA anyway you can. As part of your membership, you will receive the indispensable Burning Tree Directory with addresses, phone numbers and other valuable information. Also, as a member, you can vote at all PTA meetings and benefit from special discounts and fundraising opportunities offered exclusively for PTA members – www.pta.org/benefits.

If you have any questions, please call me at 301.469.6431.

Yvonne Van Lowe, PTA Membership

Welcome Back!



Burning Issues is published monthly by the Burning Tree PTA, the week following each PTA meeting.

Principal:

Mrs. Nancy Erdrich 301-320-6510

Assistant Principal:

Aaron Tark 301-320-6510

PTA Co-Presidents:

Cindy Campbell 301-469-0252

Ellie Abramowitz 301-365-0543

Newsletter Editor:

Joe Busch 301-767-9786

We welcome your contributions and suggestions. Please send your articles via e-mail to Joe Busch at jbusch@urban.org or call him at 202-261-5569. The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday, Sept. 11th**.

Room Parents Job Descriptions Don't Wait -- Sign Up Now!

Room Parent Roles

Teacher/Classroom Liaison Parent

Be the point of contact with the teacher and coordinate the monthly roster of classroom volunteers. Depending on the teacher, this parent may also be responsible for securing volunteers for class events such as concerts and field trips. In Kindergarten, this parent is also responsible for coordinating the Kindergarten playground roster. Parents from the classes of Ms Merritt, Ms Backenstoe and Ms Choe rotate responsibility for supervising the playground during recess, each month.

Treasurer

Collect and administer class funds for parties and teacher gifts. Funds are collected from each family at Back to School Night.

Halloween Party Coordinator

Take the lead in coordinating the contributions of all the parents who signed up to help with this party. This includes coordinating classroom decorations, party activities, snacks and party favors.

Valentine's Day Party Coordinator

Take the lead in coordinating the contributions of all the parents who signed up to help with this party. This includes coordinating classroom decorations, party activities, snacks and party favors.

End of Year Party Coordinator (grades K-4)

Take the lead in coordinating the contributions of all the parents who signed up to help with this party. This includes coordinating classroom decorations, party activities, snacks and party favors. For 5th grade, there are grade wide end of the year festivities. Contact the 5th Grade Farewell Committee to get involved.

PTA Liaison Parent

Be the point of contact between the PTA and classroom parents, and lead parent involvement in Staff Appreciation Week and at the Spring Fair. The PTA Liaison Parent is also responsible for recruiting parent volunteers to supervise the children when they eat lunch in the classroom on the few days of the year when the All Purpose Room is not available, for example during the Science Fair.

YES. SIGN ME UP! Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Preferred Position(s) (You may sign up for more than one position):

Teacher/Classroom Liaison Parent _____ Treasurer _____

Halloween Party Coordinator _____ Valentine's Day Party Coordinator _____

End of Year Party Coordinator _____ PTA Liaison Parent _____

Questions? Please contact the Room Parent Coordinator for your child's (or children's) grade. **Grades K-2** -- Kim Bayard (kbayard@frb.gov); and **Grades 3-5** -- Dorene Rosenthal, dorene@verizon.net.

