

Burning Issues

President's Message

As the year comes to close, we would like to take a moment to thank the many Burning Tree

parents who support BTES and our PTA. Thank you to the PTA Executive Board members, committee chairs, and volunteers who donate their time and energy organizing school fundraisers, school activities and events, who photocopy and edit PTA publications, and who volunteer time in our classrooms, lunchroom, playground and media center. Thank you to the many parents and families who support our school by attending school fundraisers and events! Thank you for your generous support of our "Fill Our Pond" campaign. Even in these difficult financial times we have been amazed by the generosity of our Burning Tree Community. We are fortunate to have so many involved parents and families at our school!

We are also especially fortunate to have such amazing, energetic and committed teachers and staff at Burning Tree Elementary School. We thank them for their dedication and endless hours of hard work on behalf of our children!

We wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Lisa Sanfuentes, PTA President and Cindy Campbell, PTA President-elect



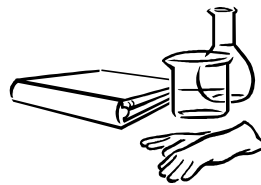
Fill Our Pond Update

Thank you to the families in our BT community who have already generously donated. If you have not already made a donation, you should have recently received an updated Fill Our Pond letter in the mail with more information. Please consider making a donation today - remember your donation is 100% tax deductible and year-end is quickly approaching! Please note that the Adult FUNdraising Party will be

one week earlier than originally scheduled. The party will be Saturday, March 14th instead of March 21st. Please change the date on your Burning Tree Calendar! We hope to see you there!

Lunch with a Scientist

Our Lunch with a Scientist event is on Wednesday, January 21. It is a wonderful opportunity for interested students to speak with scientists from different



disciplines and learn more about their work. The scientists come to the students' classrooms and talk to them during lunchtime.

If you are a scientist, or if you know of someone who would

like to share a lunch hour with a small group of students, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

For more information please contact Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com or Celine Barker at (301) 229-5818 or celine.maryland@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Do You Have An Extra Hour To Volunteer?

There are some classes at Burning Tree that are in need of additional parent volunteers during the Reading Initiative Block. Our primary students are beginning the research reports and we truly need more adults to help. If you are interesting in helping now and throughout the rest of the year, and are open to volunteering in any class where we need support, please contact Marion Richter at Marion_j_richter@mcpsmd.org. We gratefully appreciate your support. *(Continued page 3)*

Inside This Issue:

Appropriate use of BTNET.....	2
BookFair Update.....	4
Calendar.....	5
FUNdraising Updates.....	2
President's Message.....	1
Lunch with a Scientist.....	1
Science Fair.....	3
Volunteer Opportunities.....	1

The Appropriate Use of BTNET

You may ask yourself, when and when not to post something on BTNet? The purpose of the BTNET List Serve 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 each week 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 and grateful that former BTE Parent Jay Kaufman continues to manage the Community Update each week. Items can be sent to him at his email address, jfk@kaufmanhome.net.

For those of you planning PTA Events, please try to use the PTA publications, the Weekly Update and Burning Issues, to post information about your event. This way, our members are not inundated with emails. Try to plan accordingly – the deadline for the Weekly Update is Tuesday at noon, and items should be emailed to mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com. Burning Issues is the PTA Newsletter that is published the 2nd Thursday of each month. The deadline for items is the first Friday of the month, and those should be emailed to jbusch@urban.org.

Of course, it's often necessary to use individual BTNET emails immediately before an event and when additional volunteers are necessary, we just ask that try your best to limit the number of individual emails.

Thank YOU for your help!

*Lisa Sanfuentes PTA President and Cindy Campbell
PTA President-elect*

FUNdraising Update

"Hop Into a Good Book" Barnes & Noble Book Fair and Bethesda Dine-Outs

Many thanks to our fabulous Book Fair co-chairs Sharon Curry, Rachel Bottone and Elizabeth Padgett for organizing such a terrific day at Barnes & Noble. The book fair was a great success and adults and kids really enjoyed the many activities including the interesting discussion during the Principal's Coffee, playing ThinkFun games, the scavenger hunt, exciting prize drawings, teacher story time, and of course shopping and visiting with other BT families and friends! Thanks to Mrs. Erdrich, Mr. Tark and the teachers who read a story to the children - always a highlight of the night - and to all the families who generously supported our school by attending this

event and purchasing personal as well as Wish List books for our teachers, the media center and Broad Acres school. Over 200 Burning Tree and all of the 24 Broad Acres Wish List books were purchased!

HUGE thanks also to Nancy Sandler who worked three times as hard organizing our Book Fair Trio Dine-Out at Mamma Lucia, Baja Fresh and Cosi. And thanks to all the hungry families who participated and helped us earn an amazing, record-setting \$643 for BTES! (This total does not even include Baja Fresh, whose results were unknown at press time.)

Original Artwork

Be on the lookout for Original Artwork orders arriving this week! Forgot to submit your order? It isn't too late – stay tuned for information about late order entry. Many thanks to Britta Battaile and Marianne Katinas for once again smoothly running this popular fundraiser for our school.

Shop for Our School – Make Your Holiday Shopping Count!

This holiday season make every dollar count - when you shop on-line you can raise money for BTES! Just register at www.schoolpop.com (it takes about 3 minutes!) and every time you make a purchase on-line at one of the hundreds of participating retailers, BTES gets a percentage of the sale. There is NO extra cost to you - and it can add up to BIG bucks for BT! And if you shop at Target (and who doesn't!) be sure to designate BTES to receive a percentage of your purchases if you shop with a Target Visa card. Visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school as part of their TARGET TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION program.

Also, remember to register your Giant and/or Safeway cards. If you are entertaining guests this holiday season - and buying extra food- make sure BTES benefits. Register your Giant card at <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus> and use our BTES school code of 0666. If you would like to support our sister school, Broad Acres, include their code of 0867 as a second school. Safeway cards can be registered on www.escrip.com by specifying BTES #6480304 (Broad Acres #151722171) or contact Amy Lenkin amylenkin@millandlong.com and she will help you with this process.

Sally Foster – It's Not Too Late to Order

If you missed the opportunity to purchase Sally Foster products during our catalog sale or just wish you had purchased more, it is not too late! Burning Tree will still earn 50% profit on all online orders placed on our behalf through June 1, 2009. Just go to www.sallyfoster.com to view the products and place your order online. At the checkout screen, key in our account #498966 so BTES gets credit.

Thanks for your ongoing support of Burning Tree's fundraising programs!

Ellie Abramowitz, VP Fundraising

Volunteer Opportunities *(Cont'd from p. 1)*

Have You Been Trained in Facilitating Junior Great Books Discussion Groups? Would You Like to Be?

Our teachers are looking to identify parents who have been trained in leading Junior Great Books groups and are interested in volunteering in classrooms. If you have been trained, please contact Marion Richter at Marion_j_richter@mcpsmd.org.

Junior Great Books is a program that uses a variety of short stories developed by "The Great Books Foundation." MCPS is beginning a phased in implementation, starting in grades 3-5 this year, and moving to K-2 next year, barring budgetary constraints. Teachers are asked to include the program in their classroom curriculum. The Great Books Foundation says, "The Junior Great Books® program is a research-based K-12 reading program that provides a superb framework for teaching reading comprehension, critical thinking, and writing, all in the context of students sharing their ideas about great literature." At Burning Tree, students and teachers are greatly benefited by parent volunteers during discussion. We are hoping to offer training at Burning Tree and will let you know the cost. Training usually takes place from 4:30 to 7:30 on two consecutive evenings. Once trained, we would love that you could give us approximately two to three hours per month. The discussions are wonderful to facilitate as our children bring wonderful insights!

Haven't had the training, but are interested or have questions? Please contact Mrs. Richter at Marion_j_richter@mcpsmd.org.

Please Note:

Our training for parent volunteers interested in how to help out in the writing process will be delayed from

December 12 until later in the winter due to a conflict in schedule. Stay tuned for information on when the training will be rescheduled.

The Science Fair is Coming

January 28, 2009

Mark your calendars now, and prepare to be informed and amazed by the fantastic projects on display at the 2009 Burning Tree Science Fair. Wondering how do submarines work? Pondering whether music affects heart rate? Which combination of acid and base produces the most gas and why? There is no telling what questions will be asked and answered at the 2009 Burning Tree Science Fair.



The Science Fair is a fun way for kids to explore science and the world around them. Our young scientists will display their projects and describe their work to Science Fair Officials on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 (snow date: Thursday, January 29).

Remember, all students are welcome to participate and everyone who does is a winner in our non-competitive fair.

A Science Fair packet of information was sent home last week. The packet includes an entry form, Science Fair "Do's, Don'ts, and How-To's," the schedule of events, a volunteer form and a show board order form. As in the past, the Science Fair is largely financed through the sale of show boards. We charge \$5 each and we will take the first round of orders through Friday, December 19. We will be delivering them to classrooms on Monday, December 22, to be taken home by students. Additional deliveries will be made before the winter break and early January while our supplies last.

Materials with lots of great ideas for Science Fair projects are being set aside in the Library. Ask your teachers or call one of us – we have lots of ideas to help you started. Some students love elaborate projects that require a lot of planning and preparation. Other projects are simple displays of interesting information put together in an afternoon. Some students work alone, others work with a friend. There is no wrong way to go about this – any project for which a student learns something and shares that knowledge is the perfect project for the Burning Tree Science Fair.

If you have questions or want to volunteer to be a Science Fair Official or help in some other way, please contact Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com, or Celine Barker at (301) 229-5818 or celine.maryland@gmail.com. Please also watch for further Science Fair information in future editions of Burning Issues and the Weekly Update.

Katerina Papaioannou and Celine Barker, Science Fair Co-Chairs

Book Fair Update

Thanks to many volunteers this year's Book Fair was a great success! Parents, students & teachers all "Hopped over to the Book Fair" and lent a helping hand. Thank you to my committee, Rachel Bottone & Elizabeth Padget, two first year Burning Tree moms who jumped right in to help plan & execute this event.

Thank you to the parents who helped pull & organize wish list books: Debby Rubin, Brenda Conroy, and Santi Karamchetty. This was a huge behind the scenes help!!

Thank you to those who arrived early to help decorate the store: Heidi Grunwald, Anne Mandigo, & Pam Jansen. It looked so festive!

Thank you to the many parents who helped out at the fair, monitoring the Wish List books & helping with the games: Jeanne Pettenati, Ellie Abramowitz, Anne Mandigo, Els Wildenberg, Karen Dawn, Rossana Morrison, Nancy Samit, Laura Weiss, Dorene Rosenthal, Aparna Gude, Kristen Truitt, Risa Bendar, Melinda Gray, Kathy Colonna—who hosted all evening, double thanks! - Louise Howe, Heidi Grunwald & Sara Lacombe.

Thank you to Mr. Wells & the enthusiastic SGA students who ran the Scavenger Hunt & Guessing games! The kids were great and I told the principal they should all get "Gold Stars" for their terrific help. Speaking of our principal, thank you Mrs. Erdrich for an excellent presentation at the Principal's Coffee. It was well attended and we all took away some great ideas to help motivate our students at school.

And finally, thank you to the teachers who so bravely read aloud during Story Time: Ms. Merritt, Ms. Rhodes, Ms. Richter, Ms. Granoff, Mr. Tark, Mr. Wells, Ms. Flicker, Ms. Friedman, Ms. Hurowitz, and Ms. Erdrich. The excited Burning Tree students missed the memo that these were "Bed Time Stories" intended to settle them down for the night. It's great

to be part of a school community that is so enthusiastic about books and reading!

Sharon Curry, Book Fair Chair

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Thank you to all the volunteers for setting up, serving & cleaning up at the luncheon, and to the many families who donated delicious desserts. We appreciate all the support we have had from the BT families we could not do it without you. Wishing everyone Happy Holidays.

Kathy Chelst, Beth Martino & Anne Ruskowski, Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs

A Note of Thanks

As the year comes to an end and we are now well into the school year, I wanted to take this time to say thank you to all the volunteers who have spent their time and energy in and around Burning Tree. We ask a lot of our parents and they never fail to deliver—so thank you.

Elissa Ginsky

Bingo Night Volunteer Thank You

Many thanks to all our volunteers for making Bingo Night a great success!

Big Big thanks to Joan Wolf Chiaverini for entertaining us all as the masterful MC of the night!

Our volunteers contributed their time and talents to facilitate a fun and well-run Bingo Night. We all heard how much the kids enjoyed the night!

Many thanks to Anand Basu, Britta Battaile, Elisa Bragale, Christine Brake, Joe Busch, Cindy Campbell, Maury Campos, Yi-Wen Chen, Kathi Colonna, David Elfin, Debbie Feinstein James, Ilissa Flamm, Tom Fong, Darrin Hartzler, Jill Hazan, Joan Ishimoto, Pam Janssen, Sara Lacombe, Ruby Lee, Amy Lenkin, Katherine Lewis, Lynn McUmber, Rosemary Mitchell, Lisa Sanfuentes, and Wynne Sitrin.

Our appreciation also goes out to the Pyle and Whitman students who volunteered.

Melinda Gray



Calendar of Upcoming Events



Wednesday, December 17 – 1st Grade Concert

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Jan. 4 – No School

Christmas and Winter Break

January 2009

Wednesday, Jan. 7 – Principal's Coffee

Thursday, Jan. 8 – PTA Exec. Board Dinner

Thursday, Jan. 15 – Winter Chorus Concert

2 Shows -- Daytime and 7pm

Monday, Jan. 19 – No School

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Instrumental Music Concert

2 Shows -- Daytime and 7pm

Wednesday, Jan. 21 -- Lunch with a Scientist

Friday, Jan. 23 – 2nd Marking Period Ends

Monday, Jan. 26 – No School

Professional Day

Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Science Fair

Thursday, Jan. 29 – Science Fair Snow date

PTA Membership

A big thank you to the 314 Burning Tree families who have joined the PTA so far! We now have several new families in the school and we invite them to join the PTA, get the directory and participate in the school's events and activities. A membership form can be downloaded from the PTA website, www.burningtreepta.org.

Katerina Papaioannou, PTA Membership

***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:

Lisa Sanfuentes 301-320-6214

Cindy Campbell 301-469-0252

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, February 6.**

