

Burning Issues

President's Message

You thought the Super Bowl was a great event? The Super Bowl of Burning Tree is less than

one month away. Team Burning Tree needs your support on March 1 at the Fundraising Auction. Come to a *Taste of Italy* at **Maggiano's** with the same Super Bowl spirit you brought to watching the game. Get ready to compete for fabulous auction items! Plan your strategy now on how you'll be able to win everything you want! You don't want to miss this adults-only evening. It is so nice to get out and mingle with parents, teachers and staff of Burning Tree in a low-impact arena!

Money we raise from the auction helps fund great events for our kids, like *Lunch with a Scientist* and the *Science Fair* last month and upcoming *Math Day* on February 28. These are events that make learning extra fun for the kids. I send a big thank you to all the volunteers who organize and help execute these special days.

If you have not volunteered to help at Math Day, you definitely should! The All Purpose room is transformed into a Math Carnival, with 14 booths designed to challenge and entertain all ages through various math games. This year's Math Day is a celebration of math and the Leap Year. I can tell you from experience that it is a lot of fun to run one of the booths for just one hour and see the excitement on kid's faces!

Keep up that Super Bowl spirit and send it our way! Go Team Burning Tree!

-Lisa Sanfuentes, PTA Co-President

Adult Fundraiser – March 1, 2008 A Taste of Italy

Enjoy great food!

Live Entertainment

Be there!



Fantastic Wines

Friendly folks

Lunch with a Scientist - Thank You

Our "Lunch with a Scientist" was a huge success! More than 450 students had lunch in their classrooms listening to our guest scientists' presentations and asking them probing questions.

Our scientists, Daniel Appella (Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry, NIDDK, NIH), Margaret Bash (Infectious diseases and vaccines, FDA), Clara Brando (Immunologist, infectious diseases), Alan Greenberg (Epidemiologist and Clinician, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, GWU), Michele Greenberg (Epidemiologist), Lisa Kammerman (Biostatistician, FDA), Zhongchi Liu (Gene regulation in plants, professor at University of Maryland), Nitin Mehrotra (Software Engineer), Susan Norton (Ecologist), Jamie Pierce (Chemical Engineer), Robert Samit (Optometrist), Carl Schaefer (Biomedical Informatics, Director, National Cancer Institute) and Alex Slepoy (Physicist, computer scientist), shared very generously their time and knowledge with our students!

We express our gratitude to all our guest scientists for coming to our school and making this event a great success! We also want to thank our principals, Dr. Chaset and Mr. Tark for their support and help, and our teachers who stayed in their classrooms and assisted the scientists anyway they could. Finally we'll have to congratulate our students who listened attentively to the scientists' talk, participated in the presentations and asked many thoughtful questions.

Special thanks are also due to Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Giant and Dunkin Donuts for their generous donation of food, coffee and drinks for our lunch.

Katerina Papaioannou & Michele Greenberg

Inside This Issue:

Calendar.....	3
Fix n' Feast.....	2
FUNdraising Updates.....	2
Math Day Flyer.....	4
President's Message.....	1
Spring Fair Returns!.....	2

FUNdraising Updates....

The Adult Fundraiser, *A Taste of Italy*, is just 3 weeks away....on March 1st at Maggiano's Restaurant in Chevy Chase. Thanks to the families that have already made a donation (silent auction, wine, or money) and to the parents who have helped with class art. We appreciate your help! Now with the school's largest fundraiser just around the corner, it's time to check your BTES "To Do" list.

Have you:

- ☑ **Made a donation to the auction.** Whether it's a silent auction item, wine, or cash, the deadline is TODAY (2/8)! Please call or email me *immediately* if you have something you were planning to donate. (Cindy Campbell 301-469-0252, CampbellHannegan@comcast.net)
- ☑ **Signed-up to volunteer.** We need at least 50 volunteers the day/night of the fundraiser! If you can help, please contact Marci Ruderman at marci411@gmail.com/ 301-469-0205 or fill in Volunteer Form in last weeks Update.
- ☑ **Sent in your RSVP.** You should have received your invitation in your child's backpack this week (if not you should get next week). Don't delay. Please send your check and RSVP to school right away (in an envelope marked Adult Fundraiser). **Make sure you also buy some raffle tickets for the Plasma TV** we are raffling that night. Buy your tickets now, even if you can't make it to the event, because you don't need to be present to win!
- ☑ **Booked a babysitter.** Don't miss out on this enjoyable evening when you get to mingle with other BTES parents and our wonderful Burning Tree staff. There will be a delicious Maggiano's buffet, food, drink and lots of terrific items to bid on. You don't want to miss this fun and lively adult's only event!

Remember, almost HALF of the PTA's entire budget comes from the Adult Fundraiser. The PTA funds much-loved programs such as Science Fair, International night and needed classroom supplies. This past year, your PTA dollars were responsible for a brand new front playground and a climbing wall for the back playground. Help us fund many more worthwhile programs next year by supporting and attending this year's Adult Fundraiser.

Dine Outs

Thanks to Nancy Sandler for organizing a great Dine-Out at Parker's American Bistro last month! And thanks to the families who ate at there or ordered take-out. We raised over \$200 for BTES! Make sure to mark your calendar for the last Dine Out this year at Ledo's Pizzeria on River Road on April 14th and 15th.

Fix n' Feast

Back by popular demand--one more Fix N' Feast at **Dream Dinners** in Rockville is now scheduled for Thursday, March 13th. If you missed the last one, don't miss this one! You'll have a relaxing evening with friends and in less than two hours you'll prepare 2-3 delicious dinners to take home, and eat right away or freeze for those busy weeknights. Best yet, a portion of the money you spend benefits Burning Tree! Mark your calendar now and be on the lookout for more information and to sign up! Thanks Jamie Pierce for organizing this!

Spring Fair

Yea! Hooray! Returning this year to BTES is our beloved Spring Fair! Mark your calendar's now for **Saturday, May 17th** from 12:00-4:00pm. If you've never been to BTES' Spring Fair, it's a terrifically fun-filled family day full of carnival games, moon bounces, prizes, great food and a giant slip and slide! Ellie Abramowitz, Kristen Farren and their co-chairs are working hard to make this day a great success. To help with this popular event, contact Ellie at 301-365-0543 or Kristen at 301-229-2472.

Thanks for all your fundraising support!

Cindy Campbell, VP for Fundraising

Science Fair – Thank You

The 2008 Science Fair was a smashing success! We had **213 students** participating with **162 projects**, 26 kindergarteners (26 projects), 29 first graders (29 projects), 42 second graders (30 projects), 38 third graders (27 projects), 37 fourth graders (27 projects) and 41 fifth graders (23 projects).

First and foremost our thanks and congratulations go to the students for making such high quality projects. Their presentations were superb and their interaction with the visiting scientists was outstanding. For this success, we would also like to thank our principal, assistant principal and teachers for encouraging the

students to participate, promoting this event and helping them with ideas and ways to make a science fair project. Many thanks are due to Mr. Paul Hazan and his colleagues from the Washington Academy of Sciences (Suzeeta Bhatt, Blanche Catalino, Chuck Dorsey, Judy Jarrell, Peggy Kauders, Robin McEntire, Steve Wolf, Marlies Hazan), who, with their enthusiasm and expertise magnified the event and encouraged our students to pursue further their scientific interests.

Also, our thanks to all parent volunteers for their tireless work in setting up and commenting on the projects. Special thanks are due to Clara Brando, Brenda Conroy, Agnes de Gonneville, Karen Espana, Ilissa Flamm, Julie Garcia, Santi Karamchetty, David Korn, Pi-Yu Kuo, Olivia Lai, Amy Lenkin, Kelly Levy, Alin Mirestean, Utae Miura, Mark Rasch, Dorene Rosenthal, Nic Ryba, Misako Sano, Lisa Sanfuentes, Delia Tetelman, Delia Tang, Georgina Val Mas, Karen van Loon, Laura Weiss, Wendy Weinberg, Berta Wengle, Reno Wright, and Robin Wright.

Special thanks are also due to **Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts**, and **Bethesda Bagels** for their generous donation of coffee and food for our breakfast.

Finally, our thanks to all of you, the parents, who embraced and supported the 2008 Science Fair and helped to make it such a great event! We truly hope we remembered everyone.

Katerina Papaioannou & Michele Greenberg

From School-Based Programs

A HUGE thank you to Katerina Papaioannou and Michele Greenberg for putting together yet another brilliant *Lunch with a Scientist* and *Science Fair*. I know it is a huge job, but everybody kept saying "this is absolutely amazing!" Thank you, BT could not have done it without you!

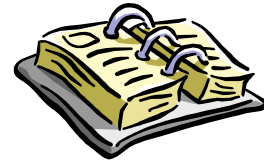
- Karen van Loon, VP school-based programs

Principal's Coffee Downtown
Brown Bag Lunch
Wednesday, February 20, 2008



Details on time and place to
follow!

Calendar of Upcoming Events



- Tuesday, February 12 – No School**
Election Day
- Thursday, February 14 – Valentine's Day**
Classroom Parties – 2pm
- Monday, February 18 – No School**
President's Day
- Wednesday, February 20**
Principal's Coffee Downtown
- Tuesday, February 26**
MCCPTA Meeting 7:30pm
- Wednesday, February 27**
Early Release Day -- 12:55pm
- Thursday, February 28**
Math Day
- Friday, February 29**
PTA Executive Board 9:30am
- Saturday, March 1**
Adult Fundraiser – Maggiano's

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

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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, March 4.**



Math Day is Coming - the Math Day Frog Needs More Pennies!

The Math Day Carnival is coming to Burning Tree on Thursday, February 28th. We need pennies for Math Day! The penny collection began on Wednesday, February 6, and will continue until February 27th. Students can bring pennies to their classroom each day, and feed the Math Day Frog. Each class has its very own Math Day Frog bottle. At the Math Day Carnival, there will be a fun math day activity using the bottles from each class. The pennies will be donated to charity when Math Day is over.

Also, please join in the fun at Math Day and help make it a success by volunteering an hour or two of your time. We need volunteers for one or more time slots during the Carnival, or to help during lunch time supervising children in their classrooms.

Please fill out the form below and return to school in an envelope marked Math Day, or e-mail Amy Lenkin, amylenkin@millerandlong.com, Nic Ryba, nicryba@hotmail.com, or Sheryl Isaacs, BobSherylIsaacs@aol.com.

Math Day Volunteer Form

Name:

Home Phone:

E-mail Address:

Child's Teacher and Grade:

Circle one or more of the time slots below (time slots correspond to when various grades visit the carnival):

9:25-10:05 (5th Graders)

10:10-10:50 (K)

10:55-11:35 (1st Graders)

11:40-12:20 (2nd Graders)

12:25-1:20 Lunch

1:25-2:05 (4th Graders)

2:10-2:50 (3rd Graders)