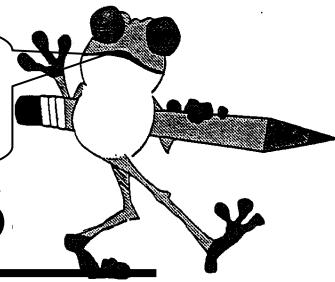


What does Sally Foster have
to do with Valentine's Day?

See page 2!



Burning Issues

Serve On The Nominating Committee!

The Burning Tree PTA is now forming a Nominating Committee to nominate a slate of officers for the **Burning Tree PTA Executive Board for the 2009-2010 school year**. The nominating committee is one of the most important committees of our PTA yet it requires a limited time commitment from its members. The committee members will most likely meet on two occasions in the early spring. We are looking for experienced as well as newer PTA members and are seeking representation from all grade levels for this committee. If you are interested in joining this committee or would like more information, please contact Olivia Lai at 301-365-0417 or laigill@verizon.net.

FUNdraising Update

Hop to the **Fill Our Pond Party**, Saturday, March 14th
7:30 – 10:30pm



Reserve your babysitter now – the **Fill Our Pond** celebration is right around the corner! Hosted by the

gracious Garcia family, you won't want to miss out on this fun evening when you get to mingle with other BTES parents and our wonderful Burning Tree staff. There will be light hors d'oeuvres, dessert, drinks and the ever-popular teacher and staff outings to bid on. (For those of you new to Burning Tree, each year teachers and staff donate wonderful "outings." This is a time for your child to have special (after school) time with his or her teacher or a BTES staff.)

Thank you to the families in our BT community who have already generously donated. If you have not already made a donation, please help to "fill our pond" by making a donation today or at the party. This check-writing campaign is the primary source of PTA funding. The PTA funds much-loved programs such as the Science Fair, International Night and Cultural Arts Assemblies as well as needed classroom supplies. This past year, your PTA dollars were responsible for the beautiful lobby renovation and colored hallway tiles,

gymnasium enhancements, science equipment for the classrooms and a host of other educational tools.

You will be receiving your invitation in your child's backpack this week. Don't delay – RSVP right away! **We will also need volunteers during the day and night of the party.** Refer to the Weekly Updates for more information. If you can help, please contact Cindy Campbell at CampbellHannegan@comcast.net. We hope to see you there!

Come to Skate Night!

An exclusive night at **Cabin John Ice Rink** for



Burning Tree Families!

February 20, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Reserve your tickets ahead of time - the walk-in ticket price is more!

Cost for admission: \$6.00

Cost for admission plus skate rental: \$9.00

Email Lisa Sanfuentes your ticket order at Lisa.Rizzolo@verizon.net. Please send a check made out to BTPTA to school labeled "Skate Night"

Or, simply send in the order form sent home in backpacks or go to the PTA website.

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Science Fair

A very big Thank You to Katerina Papaioannou and Celine Barker for their dedication to the Science Fair. Undoubtedly hours and hours of work went into the organization and it was absolutely amazing. Seeing, reading and trying the science fair projects makes me realize how much I actually don't know! Again, Thank You, brilliant job!!

Karen van Loon, VP-School-Based programs

Staff Appreciation Lunch

We really appreciate all the volunteers who took the time to help us at the Staff Luncheon & all the amazing parents with their generosity of delicious desserts & plenty of drinks. We could not have done it without you!

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

Photocopy Thanks

Special thanks this month to all of our volunteers who help to copy both *Burning Issues* and the *Weekly Update*. There have been problems with the copy machine and it is hard enough to find the time to get to school for our volunteering. It is really complicated when the time you have set aside to help, ends up getting postponed. Thank you for your continued help through the year-Amy Lenkin, Wynne Sitrin and Jill Hazan.

Happy Valentines Day and enjoy all of the class parties. Elissa Ginsky

Sally Foster and Valentine's Day

Consider Sally Foster for all your Valentine gift giving! Order delicious chocolates for that special someone with fast delivery in only 5-7 days. Or 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 and see you at the Fill Our Pond party!

Ellie Abramowitz, VP Fundraising

Dine Out at BD's Mongolian Barbeque, Wednesday, February 18th

Tired of deciding what to make for dinner or don't feel like cooking? Your family can spend a yummy evening out together as you join us for the first Dine Out Night of 2009 at **BD's Mongolian Barbeque** on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda. Create your own stir-fry from their menu featuring fresh meats, seafood, vegetables, sauces and spices. You're sure to enjoy the meal in a fun, kid-friendly atmosphere while benefiting Burning Tree! Be on the lookout for more information next week.

Popcorn and Prizes – Mark Your Calendars -- Spring Fling/Movie Night!

Announcing exciting big changes this year to the Spring Fair! Update your calendars - the fair will still be held on Saturday, May 16th, but will start at 5:30 pm instead of noon. There will be fun games and prizes, super new inflatables, yummy food and the ever-popular Burning Tree Bag-O-Mania and Cakewalk. Immediately following the fair, it will be time for popcorn and a movie at 8:30 pm. The kids will be amazed as we transform the blacktop into an outdoor movie theatre with an incredible giant movie screen! Stay tuned for more details in April.

Healthy Ways to Start the Day

My name is Dawson MacKay and I am in Ms. Whitby's fourth grade class. I am a youth adviser for a group called **The Alliance for a Healthier Generation**. Our goal is to lower the number of overweight and obese children throughout the U.S. I am giving the school this list (below) so they can look at it to get ideas for healthier breakfast, lunches and snack. For more information go to <http://www.healthiergeneration.org>.

Breakfast: always make sure there is some protein

1. Egg on whole wheat toast with a piece of fruit
2. Oatmeal: try adding raisins, apples and/or nuts
3. Waffles and fresh fruit
4. Cereal with milk with a banana cut up on top
5. Pancakes with fresh fruit on side
6. Whole wheat toast with nut butter and a piece of fresh fruit
7. Whole wheat bagel and cream cheese and fresh fruit. (Continued on the next page.)

Healthy Snacks

1. Fresh fruit
2. Trail Mix
3. Nuts
4. Cheese stick
5. Yogurt or yogurt drink
6. Cheese and crackers
7. Veggie sticks (cut up carrots, celery or peppers)
8. Snap peas
9. Ants on a log (celery with PB and raisins)
10. Dried fruit when fresh is not in season (Trader Joe's has a great selection)
11. Apple sauce
12. Popcorn
13. Chips and salsa

Lunch: always choose whole wheat bread and any snacks can be added to lunches

1. Turkey and cheese sandwich
2. Soup in a thermos
3. Sushi
4. Peanut butter and banana or jelly
5. Tuna sandwich or tuna with crackers
6. Whole wheat bagel and cream cheese
7. Bean and cheese burrito (refried beans in whole wheat tortilla with cheddar)
8. Leftovers from dinner

Burning Tree Neighborhood Party to Support Pyle Education Foundation

Join us for an evening of fun and fundraising for Pyle! This adults-only cocktail party benefits the Pyle Education Foundation. Get to know the principal, Michael Zarchin, and the other administrators in an informal setting. We especially welcome fifth-grade parents who want to know the inside story on Pyle from current parents. Donations are not required, though contributions in any amount will be gratefully accepted at the door. It's a great way to see your friends and meet other Pyle parents!

Saturday, March 7 -- 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Home of Elaine & Rodger Currie
8201 Burning Tree Road
301-365-0201**

Please **RSVP: homecurrie@aol.com**. Your investment in the PEF underwrites these and other important projects that enrich your child's experience at Pyle:

- The popular Shakespeare program for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders
- State-of-the-art computers, software, and AV equipment
- Community outreach within Montgomery County

Science Fair – Thank You

The 2009 Science Fair was a huge success! We had 275 students participating, 33 kindergarteners, 46 first graders, 36 second graders, 29 third graders, 33 fourth graders and 98 fifth graders.

This year, Mr. Paul Hazan, on behalf of the Washington Academy of Sciences, presented Burning Tree an award cup which lists the "Students-Staff-&-Volunteers" and is for "Innovation, Dedication and Teamwork." We thank Mr. Hazan for the honor, and also, for coming again to our Science Fair, along with his fellow members of the WAS, who, with their enthusiasm and expertise magnified the event and encouraged the students to pursue further their scientific interests.

We also thank the scientists from the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, Jennifer Wolk and Tyler Sullivan who came with their press representative, talked to our students, and will write an article about our Science Fair in their paper.

Most of all 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.

The Science Fair could not be done without our wonderful volunteers who worked tirelessly in setting up and commenting on the projects. Special thanks are due to Ellie Abramowitz, Barry Cantor, Brenda Conroy, Tracy Crittenberger, Sharon Curry, Marna Deleon, Mila Eijbergen, Karen Espana, Nina Fisher, Ilissa Flamm, Julie Garcia, Alan Greenberg, Michele Greenberg, Aparna Gude, Michael Herson, Vicki Herson, Michelle Hughes, Jennifer Katz, Nikola Koritz, David Korn, Olivia Lai, Kelly Levy, Cheryl Liu, Anna Mandigo, Keri Marshall, Rosanna Morrison,

Robin Owens-Wright, Dorene Rosenthal, Lisa Sanfuentes, Soody Schneider, Dale Sorcher, Delia Tetelman, Karen Van Loon and Laura Weiss. Many thanks to all parents who helped with lunch coverage!

Special thanks are also due to Giant, Trader Joe's and Dunkin Donuts for their generous donation of food and drinks for our breakfast. Finally, our thanks to all of you, the parents, who embraced and supported the 2009 Science Fair and helped to make it such a great event! We truly hope we remembered everyone.

Katerina Papaioannou & Celine Barker, Science Fair Co-Chairs

Lunch with a Scientist – Thank You

On January 21st, almost 100% of our students had lunch in their classrooms listening to our guest scientists' presentations and asking them probing questions.

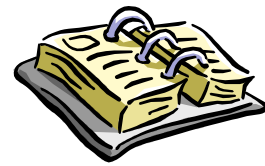
Our scientists, Alan Greenberg (Epidemiologist and Clinician, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, GWU), Michele Greenberg (Epidemiologist), Lisa Kammerman (Biostatistician, Food and Drug Administration), Marian Tanofsky-Kraff (Clinical Psychologist, NIH), Deviprasad Karnik (Electronics Engineer / Space Counselor, Embassy of India), Stella Korre-Souvalioti (Chemical Engineer, Exxon Mobil), Zhongchi Liu (Gene Regulation in Plants, Professor, U of MD), Anu Mehrotra (Pathologist, Armed Forces Institute of Technology), Alexandra Paulson (Biologist), Toby Ratcliffe (Engineer, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC)), Rita Schuh (Environmental Engineer, NSWC), Mark Thomas (Commander, NSWC), and Jennifer Wolk (Materials Engineer, NSWC), 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, Ms. Erdrich and Mr. Tark for their support and help, our teachers for assisting the scientists anyway they could, and all parent volunteers who helped with lunch coverage. Finally, we'll have to congratulate our students who listened attentively to the scientists' talk, participated in the presentations and asked many thoughtful questions.

We also want to thank Giant for its generous donation of food for the lunch.

Katerina Papaioannou & Celine Barker, Lunch with a Science Co-Chairs

Calendar of Upcoming Events



Friday, February 13 – Valentine's Day

Class Parties in the afternoon

Monday, February 16 – Presidents Day

No School

Wednesday, February 18 – Dine Out

BD Mongolian BQ

Friday, February 20 - Skate Night

6:30 – 8:00pm at Cabin John Ice Rink

Friday, February 27 – PTA Exec Board Mtg.

Early release day 12:55pm

Tuesday, March 3 – PTA Meeting 7pm

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 5 – 1,000 Sandwiches

For Martha's Table

Saturday, March 14 – Fill our Pond Party

7:30 – 10:00pm

Cocktails, light hors d'oeuvres, desserts

Saturday, May 16 – Spring Fling\Movie Night

Fair starts at 5:00pm – Movie at 8:30pm!

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

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- 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, March 6.**