



# Burning Issues

## President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break and is back to school

refreshed as we start the new year. Here are some popular new year's resolutions and ways that volunteering at school can help you keep them.

- (1) **Get More Exercise.** Volunteer to do recess duty or be fitness frogs volunteer – the cool fresh air and watching and channeling the energy of our little ones is sure to inspire anyone to get moving.
- (2) **Read More.** Volunteer to help out during reading or literacy block in your classroom. Volunteers are also needed to help out in the media center. See what your children are reading. Remember the favorites of your youth. Find your favorite classic to read out loud as a family.
- (3) **Do Social Action.** There are many opportunities at Burning Tree to give back to the community. Make sandwiches for the first Thursday of the month's Martha's Table collection. Participate in **Thousand Sandwiches** day or **Cooking for the Homeless** coming up later this spring. Don't forget our Spring clean up day at Burning Tree to spiffy up our grounds.
- (4) **Make More Family Time.** Go to dine out nights. You don't have to cook and the family can spend an evening eating together and catching up on the day's happenings.
- (5) **Get Out More.** Save March 24th for the **Burning Tree Adult Fundraiser.** Socialize with friends, have a bite to eat, bid on great items and help the PTA with its biggest fundraiser of the year.
- (6) **Get More Involved With PTA.** Our PTA provides a wide range of activities and programs for the Burning Tree community. The opportunities listed above are just a sampling. Volunteering to work on an activity or event not only benefits the program, but allows you the opportunity to meet new people, hear more about what is going on and feel more connected to Burning Tree. You don't need to volunteer a lot of time to have an impact and make a positive change for yourself. Have an hour a week? Or even just an hour a month (or less). Volunteering

at school or for PTA programs will enhance your child's education, will benefit you as an individual and will be a great help to the school community.

If you have any questions about any of the programs mentioned here or want to get more information about how to get involved, please don't hesitate to call me. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

*Dorene Rosenthal, PTA Co-President*

## Reach For The Stars Auction Fundraiser



Our annual auction fundraiser, this year themed "**Reach for the Stars**" will be held March 24th at the Anastasi Room (BCC Rescue Squad Ballroom) in Bethesda. This is our primary fundraiser and is needed to cover nearly half of our PTA budget. An Auction Information Booklet will be coming home soon in your youngest child's backpack and will outline ways in which you can help!

## Book Fair Thanks

Our Burning Tree Book Fair was held at Barnes and Noble in Rockville on November 30th and was a huge success. If you see them please thank co-chairs Susan Meadows, Debby Rubin, Jeanne Pettanati and Brenda Conroy for all of their hard work! The Book Fair made over \$16,000 (Barnes & Noble will generously donate 25% of that to us) and over 300 books were purchased for BTES teachers and staff and for our sister school, Broad Acres. Thank you also to the parent volunteers who helped to make it happen and to our wonderful speakers and authors.

*Laura Weiss, VP Fundraising*

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## The Science Fair is almost here!

January 31st is our *Science Fair* day! Get ready and prepare to be informed and amazed by the fantastic projects on display at the **2007 Burning Tree Science Fair**. Wondering how fast do fish breathe?



Why does a rubber ball bounce? How science solves crimes? Where rainbows come from? Learn all about it and much more at the 2007 Burning Tree Science Fair.

The Science Fair is a fun, non-competitive way for students to explore science and the world around us. On the morning of the Science Fair, our young scientists will meet with members of the Washington Academy of Sciences and parent volunteers to discuss with them about their projects.

The packet with an entry form, schedule of events, project ideas, a volunteer form and a show board order form has been sent home. It is time now to work on a science fair project. Get books, read the news or watch our world to find something interesting to work on. Students can work alone or with a friend. Show boards have already been delivered to students. Additional deliveries will be made, as needed.

We invite parents to volunteer and help make the 2007 Science Fair a big success for our kids. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or at [mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com](mailto:mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com) or Lisa Anthony at (301) 320-4585 or at [lisasteveanthony@yahoo.com](mailto:lisasteveanthony@yahoo.com).

## Under Construction – Gym Update



Our gymnasium is coming along. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather so progress can continue at a great pace (maybe hold off the inside out pjs for snow days until next year). The Burning Tree Foundation will be meeting on January 10 to discuss fundraising ideas for special gymnasium equipment not covered in the county's construction budget. We hope to have a showing of Mrs. Granof's slide show

of construction progress at our February 6 PTA meeting. Come by school and see the excitement building!

## Lunch with a Scientist day is coming!

January 25th is our *Lunch with a Scientist* day! We have a wonderful group of scientists from different disciplines who will talk with the students about their work, what they try to accomplish and what their daily jobs entail. It is an excellent opportunity for the students to be exposed and get a sense of the various areas of the participating scientists' work. Sign-up papers for students interested in having lunch with a scientist are already in the classrooms and the deadline is January 16, 2007. If you have any questions please contact Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or at [mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com](mailto:mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com) or Cynthia Rosenberg at (301) 263-1267 or at [rosenbergcynthia@yahoo.com](mailto:rosenbergcynthia@yahoo.com).



## Community Parent Education Opportunities

The following information has been sent to us about lectures and parenting courses in the community that may be of interest to Burning Tree parents.

**Internet Safety With An FBI Agent** for all Pyle/Whitman Cluster Parents and Students. Monday, January 29, 2006, from 6:30-7:30 pm at Thomas W. Pyle Middle School Cafeteria. Learn about statistics of Internet safety, signs that a student may be at risk online, being safe online, and what to discuss with your student.

**PTA Night In Annapolis** Monday, February 12, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Legislative Services Building – Joint Hearing Room, Annapolis. Meet with the Legislators and be the voice of the PTA! Please call your legislators and let them know you will be in attendance. Remind them that education is the #1 priority of Maryland PTA. More information coming soon at [www.mdpta.org](http://www.mdpta.org).

## Mental Health Resources

JSSA (Jewish Social Service Agency) is a community resource that offers mental health  
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**Health Corner**

**Did you know ...**



*... that nasal zinc products claim to reduce the length or severity of colds, but Consumer Reports found that only half the clinical trials they reviewed provided supportive evidence? Also, CR found more than 200 complaints*

*were made in 2006 to the Food and Drug Administration about loss of smell, taste, or both in consumers who had used nasal zinc products - and CR reports that the Federal Trade Commission is investigating the makers of Zicam.*

**Mental Health Resources** *(Continued from p.2)*

services and programs and on-going support for children, teens, individuals and families. Some of these services take the form of free workshops led by JSSA professionals on various topics (e.g., strategies for dealing with students having ADHD, bullying, homework resistance) and can be offered on site at schools and/or libraries. Other, more long-term focused services (e.g., social skills therapy groups, parenting and teen groups, individual counseling) are offered at JSSA's various locations throughout Montgomery County.

To inquire about JSSA's services and programs please call 301-816-2716 or email: [info@jssa.org](mailto:info@jssa.org). [JSSA (Jewish Social Service Agency), a non-profit, non-sectarian, family social service agency has provided excellence in child, family and aging services high to the metropolitan Washington community for more than 100 years. JSSA is the first place to turn for child, teen and family counseling and special needs services, adult counseling, career and employment services, adoption services, older adult and independent living services, hospice care and a wide scope of community services.]

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**



**January**

**Monday, January 15 – No School**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Monday, January 22 – No School**

Professional Day

**Thursday, January 25**

Lunch with a Scientist Day

**Friday, January 26**

PTA Exec Board Meeting 9:30am

**Wednesday, January 31**

2007 Burning Tree Science Fair

**February**

**Thursday, February 1**

Martha's Table Sandwiches

**Tuesday, February 6**

PTA Meeting 7pm

***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](mailto:jbusch@urban.org) or call him at 202-261-5569. The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday, February 2.**

