

Burning Issues

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful winter break and are ready for the new year. Let's be

honest, many of us make New Year's resolutions every January and then find it hard to keep them throughout the year. Well here are a few ways that you can keep up with your resolutions by getting involved at Burning Tree!

Get More Exercise. Volunteer for playground duty or help out with Fitness Frogs (the program during recess in which each student who participates has a goal of running or walking a certain number of laps). The fresh air and energy of the children will certainly inspire you to keep moving.

Give Back to the Community. The first Thursday of every month make sandwiches for Martha's Table shelter. Help out with **Thousand Sandwiches Day** or **Cooking for the Homeless** coming up later on in the spring. Don't forget our **Spring Clean up** where we come together to beautify the grounds at Burning Tree.

Read More. Volunteer to help out during reading or literacy block in your child's classroom. Help out in the Media Center. Encourage reading at home, and read together as a family.

Get Out More (without the kids!). On March 1st, come on out and get *A Taste of Italy*, at **Burning Tree's Adult Fundraiser**. This will be a fun night out with friends, BTES staff, good food, great auction items to bid on, and you'll be contributing to the PTA's largest fundraiser of the year.

Eat More Meals Together as a Family. Attend the Burning Tree **Dine Out at Parker's** on January 15th and the **Dine Out at Ledo's** in April. The family can spend a nice evening out together, and there's no cooking to be done.

Get More Involved with the PTA. The opportunities listed above are just a sample of the wide range of activities and programs our PTA provides for the Burning Tree community. Volunteering to work on an activity or event not only benefits the program but gives you the opportunity to meet new people, hear more about what is going on

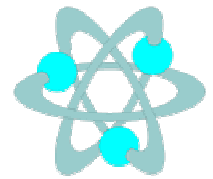
and feel more connected to the community. Even if you have a limited amount of time to volunteer, you can still make a difference.

If you have any questions about how you can get more involved at Burning Tree, don't hesitate to contact me. You'll find that volunteering at school or for PTA programs will enhance your child's education, the school community and will benefit you as an individual. So let Burning Tree help fulfill some of your New Year's resolutions. Have a safe, happy and healthy new year!

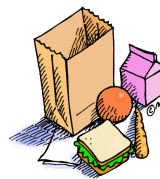
Olivia Lai, PTA President

Lunch with a Scientist day is coming!

January 24th is our **Lunch with a Scientist** day. Our wonderful scientists from different disciplines will talk with the students about their work, what they try to accomplish and what their daily jobs entail. This is an excellent opportunity for students to be exposed and get a sense of the various areas of the participating scientists' work. If you are a scientist and you wish to come and talk to our students, please contact us as soon as possible.



Sign-up papers for students interested in having lunch with a scientist will be given to the teachers next week and we encourage all students to participate.



If you have any questions please contact Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or at mkpapaioannou@yahoo.com or

Michele Greenberg at (301) 320-4480 or at mimizg@verizon.net.

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Tired of deciding what to make for dinner?

Join us for Dine Out Night at Parker's in Bethesda on Tuesday, January 15th, 2008!

Whether you choose:

Smokehouse Chili,
Margherita Pizza,
a Bayou Burger
Fresh Grilled Fish,
or Honey Chicken Salad

you're sure to enjoy the meal while benefiting Burning Tree School!

Dine In or Dine Out!
Parker's Classic American Bistro
4824 Bethesda Avenue
Bethesda, MD
(301) 654-6366

The Science Fair is almost here!

January 30th is our Science Fair day. Get ready and prepare to be informed and amazed by the fantastic projects on display at the 2008 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 **2008 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. Flyers and information about the Science Fair can be found on the PTA website as well. 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.



Our wonderful teachers will once again offer Science Fair sessions during recess in the Media Center on the following days: January 14, 16, 17 and 23. During these sessions students can talk with a Burning Tree teacher about their science project or get ideas and plan a scientific investigation.

Finally, we invite parents to volunteer and help make the 2008 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 or Michele Greenberg at (301) 320-4480 or at mimizg@verizon.net.

FUNdraising Update...

Your PTA Dollars at Work!

Question: What do all of the following have in common?

- A Brand New Front Playground
- A Climbing Wall for the Back Playground (and soon to be another Climbing Wall added)
- Computers for the students
- Cultural Arts Assemblies
- International Night
- Math Day
- Science Fair
- Books for the Media Center
- Professional Development for Teachers
- Gymnasium enhancements
- Digital TV studio equipment
- Classroom and office supplies
- Before and After School Programs
- Spring Fling – Movie Night and the Spring Fair
- Community Service activities
- Support for our sister school, Broad Acres Elementary School, in Silver Spring.

Answer: These are some of the many important programs, materials and equipment funded by your PTA dollars at Burning Tree!

Question: How does the PTA raise the funds to support these programs and others?

Answer: Almost HALF of the entire budget comes from the Adult Fundraiser. The programs listed

above would not be possible without the support of the PTA and every Burning Tree family!

Question: *What can I do to help right now?*

Answer: The answer is simple...we need donations from EVERY Burning Tree Family for the upcoming Adult Fundraiser, A Taste of Italy, which will be held on March 1, 2008. And we need those donations now. Your donation can be a restaurant or a store gift card or may reflect your special skills (offer a knitting lesson, computer services). Share a one of a kind experience (an afternoon fishing, an ice cream making party) or donate tickets to a sporting event or the theater. Donate a bottle (or two) of wine for our Wine Auction. The possibilities are endless! Stay tuned for more information and go to www.BurningTreePTA.org to download an auction donation form. To offer your help (no matter how big or how small) contact me, Cindy Campbell at CampbellHannegan@comcast.net or 301-469-0252.

New Year's Resolution...I will take 5 minutes to support BTES.

Start the year off right, if you have not already done so, take 5 minutes to register your grocery cards or credit cards at some of the places that you already shop. The following vendors will donate a percentage of your purchase to BTES and our sister school, Broad Acres. These programs don't cost you a thing and if every BTES family participated BTES could earn thousands of dollars! Read below and see how easy it is to sign up and participate!

Schoolpop.com—Just about every store you can think of is located here- stores like Sports Authority, Banana Republic, Children's Place, Barnes and Noble- to name a few! Just register at www.schoolpop.com (it takes about 3 minutes!) and every time you make a purchase at a participating retailer on line, BTES gets a percentage of the sale. There is NO extra cost to you- and it can add up to BIG bucks for BT! Attach the School pop reminder to your computer to remember to shop there.

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks-- Register at Giant or on www.giantfood.com/aplus and every time you buy groceries BTES will get a percentage! You can register up to three schools and Giant will divide the contributions. BTES's code is #666; you can also help Broad Acres by entering #867 as a second school. Remember, even if you designated your school(s) last year, YOU MUST REDESIGNATE AGAIN THIS YEAR. (You can also fill out the blue SHOP FOR OUR SCHOOL...Giant A+ BonusBucks

Program flyer sent with your child's teacher assignment and Amy Lenkin will register for you!)

Safeway eScrip--Earn money for BTES by signing up for eScrip and registering your Safeway card. Register at www.escrip.com and specify BTES (#6480304). Broad Acres school number is 151722171.

Target Take Charge of Education Visa Card--

Do you use a credit card that doesn't give you anything back? Get a Target Visa card and a portion of your charges will be donated to BTES! Application forms for the card are available at Target stores and at www.target.com.

Join Us at Our Next BTES Dine-Out

Mark your calendar for January 15th and join us at our next BTES Dine Out at Parker's American Bistro in downtown Bethesda (4824 Bethesda Ave.) Bring your hungry kids and leave the cooking to someone else for a night! Remember that 20% of your purchase will benefit BTES. See you soon!

Thanks to all our BTES families for their support! Please call or email me if you have questions or would like to help with any fundraising events CampbellHannegan@comcast.net or 301-365-0257.

Cindy Campbell, VP Fundraising

Wine Collection for Adult Fundraiser coming next week...



We will begin collecting fine wines next week for unique wine collections to be sold at the adult fundraiser. We are asking Burning Tree families to consider donating a special bottle of wine (suggested price range \$10 - \$25) to enhance one of the creative wine collections.

The number and variety of the wine collections will depend on how many bottles are donated. Last year, considerable funds were raised for BT through the sale of the wine collections. We welcome all donations. We would love to arrange the offerings in connection with the Italian theme of the evening, so please keep this in mind as you consider your donation. Sara Lacombe and Teresa Halabi will be accepting donations at their homes between January 4th and January 21st. You

do not need to arrange a time, however if you leave a donation at either home please leave your name on the bottle(s)! Address and contact information for Sara and Teresa are: Sara Lacombe, 6907 Bradley Boulevard, 301.365.0371; Teresa Halabi, 7508 Leesburg Place, 301.229.4805. Please do not bring donations to the school as we are not allowed to collect any alcoholic beverage on school property. We will continue to collect bottles of wine up until January 21st. Let's keep those bottles of wine "pouring" in! Thanks so much for your support and generosity!

Pyle's Musical Brings "Honor to Us All"

Disney's *Mulan Jr.* comes to Pyle's stage on January 30th, 31st and February 1st. Mark your calendars now! Adapted for the stage from the Disney movie, "*Mulan Jr.*," it's the story of a young woman, Fa Mulan, who disguises herself as a soldier to fight the invasion of the Huns into China. With her mischievous sidekick Mushu and the friends she makes along the way, Mulan demonstrates honor, loyalty, strength, destiny and love in her determination to save her father and her country.

Bring the family out to see some former BTES students and show your support for Pyle Middle School. With a cast of over 60 students, this year's musical production about ancient China is a "celebration of culture" directed by drama teacher Mrs. Cox and Chorus teacher Mr. Liddle, and choreographed by Health teacher Amina Gyau.

Disney's *Mulan Jr.* will be showing Wednesday through Friday, Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$7.00 for general admission or \$15.00 for a limited number of reserved seats. On the nights of the production, ticket holders for general admission seats may line up outside the cafeteria until doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Janice Huey at hueyjb@verizon.net.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 15

Dine Out at Parker's

Monday, January 21

No school –Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tuesday, January 22

No school – Professional Day
MCCPTA Meeting 7:30pm

Thursday, January 24

Lunch with a Scientist

Friday, January 25

PTA Exec. Board 9:30am

Wednesday, January 30

Science Fair

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, February 1.**

