

Burning Issues

President's Message

Well this winter surely will be a memorable one! We hope you all are beginning to enjoy the glimpses of warmer weather. Because of all the snow and school cancelations our school and PTA calendar changed quite a bit. Please take a moment, if you haven't already, to look at the many events that are happening over the next two months. Please read further in this *Burning Issue* and be on the look-out in upcoming *Weekly Updates* for more information about these events.

Upcoming March Events

- 8th MSA Testing Grades 3-5 (3/8-3/12)
- 11th Board of Education & Cluster Reception (7-8:00 pm at Bradley Hills ES)
- 15th MSA Testing Grades 3-5 (3/15-3/18)
- 20th "Fill Our Pond" Cocktail Party
- 23rd Family Science Night -- Air and Space Museum
- 24th 2nd Grade Concert (1st Grade concert date TBA)
Lunch with a Scientist
- 26th Third Marking Period Ends
- 29th Spring Break (3/29-4/5)

Upcoming April Events

- 6th No School (Professional Day)
- 7th School Resumes
- 9th PTA Board of Directors Mtg. 9:30am
- 10th Skate Night 6:30-8:00
- 13th PTA Meeting 7pm
- 14th Report Cards Distributed & Science Fair
- 19th SIPAC Meeting 3:45pm
- 20th Dine Out – Ledo's Pizza (20th & 21st)
- 21st 5th Grade Concert (am & pm)
- 22nd New Kindergarten Parent Coffee
- 24th Beautify Burning Tree & Plant Sale 9 - noon
Walk For Water Weekend
- 26th 3rd Grade Concert (daytime)
- 28th Terra Nova Testing Grade 2
Hearing & Vision Screening K-1
- 29th Terra Nova Testing Grade 2
Hearing & Vision Screening K-1
- 30th PTA Board of Directors Mtg 9:30am
Alice in Wonderland Musical

Speaking of calendars, make sure our **Fill Our Pond cocktail party** is on yours for next Saturday, March 20th and that you have a babysitter lined up! The party is at the lovely home of BTES parents (and our VP for Fundraising!) **Julie and Jon Garcia** at 8517 Beech Tree Road. Don't miss this fun night of mingling with other BTES parents and our wonderful Burning Tree staff and get a chance to bid on the ever popular teacher outings (please see the related article on page 2, for more information on the party).

Special thanks to BTES parent **Dave Abramowitz**, Manager, Partner Enablement for Trend Micro, for giving a very informative and helpful presentation about Internet Safety, at not one, but two PTA meetings! After several people expressed their disappointment in not being able to make it to the February PTA meeting because of the bad weather, Dave agreed to give the presentation at the March PTA as well! There is a lot of "scary" stuff out there, but it is also good to know there is a lot we can do as parents to protect our children and ourselves as well. We are hoping to arrange for Dave to come and talk to our children in the Spring about internet and computer safety. Parents will also be welcome to attend so stay tuned for information.

I hope to see you all at the party next week and also wish you all an enjoyable Spring Break.

Cindy Campbell, PTA President



Skate Night – April 10th

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April 24th is Walk for Water Day

“Walk for Water” is an opportunity for children to learn about helping other people in developing countries by providing them with clean water – and, at the same time, teaching them about the importance of physical activity for their own health. Each child will be provided with a pedometer (that he/she may keep) and taught how it works and the importance of physical activity.

Burning Tree will have a “Walk for Water” day during which children will be able to walk, run, exercise, and have fun while keeping track of the number of steps they take. Each child will have a 5,000 step goal while at school. (Typically, girls need 12,000 steps/day and boys need 15,000 steps/day to stay healthy.) Prior to “Walk for Water” day, children will be given sponsor forms so that they can have their family members and friends sponsor them a penny per step. In addition, parents who work for corporations are encouraged to talk with their Charitable departments to determine if the corporation is willing to match the amount of money that their children earn.

All money earned will be sent to a town in India where clean water is desperately needed. The community is Sanganguna Village (Kutch) in Gujarat, India. The construction of a new well with a pulley system will provide all 110 villagers (35 families) with drinking water by constructing the only well and source of water for the village. Village families will no longer have to walk 2 kilometers to collect water from a nearby well, and will have enough water for drinking, cooking, cleaning, and feeding their farm animals.



Availability of clean drinking water will decrease cases of water borne disease and infections. This project will greatly improve the hygiene and health of the entire Sanganguna community. Working with the non-profit company, **Citizen Effect**, the Burning Tree students will be able to see pictures of the children and families they have helped and correspond with these individuals.

Citizen Effect staff will come to Burning Tree prior to “Walk for Water” day to teach the children how clean water helps other kids stay healthy, go to

school, and have a future. This is a great learning opportunity because the kids will be doing the project directly linked to this community, as opposed to passively learning about it!

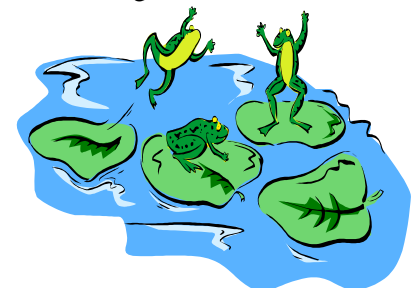
Fill Our Pond

Hop on Over to the **Fill Our Pond Party**, Saturday, March 20th -- 7:30 – 10:30pm. Reserve your babysitter now – the Fill Our Pond celebration is right around the corner!

You won't want to miss this chance to mingle with other BTES parents and our wonderful Burning Tree staff at the home of Julie and Jon Garcia while supporting our school. There will be light hors d'oeuvres, desserts, drinks and the ever-popular auction for teacher and staff outings. For those of you new to Burning Tree, each year teachers and staff donate wonderful “outings,” contributing their own time, creativity, and resources to help the PTA raise funds for the school. There may even be a reprise of last year's late-evening musical extravaganza!

The Fill Our Pond fundraiser is the primary source of PTA funding, and we appreciate the contributions of 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. The \$20 per person door charge will cover the costs of the party, but your donation will go entirely to funding much-loved programs at our school such as the Science Fair, International Night and Cultural Arts assemblies as well as needed classroom supplies. In the recent past, PTA dollars have funded the lobby, hallway and library renovations, and purchased cutting edge technological equipment for classrooms and the media center.

Every family should have received an invitation in your child's backpack last week. Don't delay – RSVP right away to FillOurPond@aol.com! We will also need volunteers during the day and night of the party, and you should be receiving information shortly via backpack mail and on BTNet on how to volunteer. We hope to see you there!



Lunch with a Scientist & Science Fair

The Lunch with a Scientist is on March 24, and will be as previously planned. The students will stay in their classrooms for lunch and the guest scientist will visit and talk to them. Changes in the scientists' schedule will be made, if needed.

The Science Fair is on April 14, with set-up date on April 13, 5:30-7:30pm. Science Fair Entry Forms should be returned by Thursday, April 8th. We still have show boards available for sale. If you need one, please send a note or a show board order form with \$5 and we will deliver it to your child's classroom. Dates when BT teachers will be able to meet with students and help them with their Science Fair project will be announced later on.

We will need to make a new list of volunteers, so, if you had signed up, please let us know if you can still come. If you hadn't, please check your schedule and consider coming. No science expertise is required!

Attached please find an entry form, a volunteer form, and a show board order form. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Katerina Papaioannou --michaelkaterinap@gmail.com

Celine Barker at celine.maryland@gmail.com

Skate Night Rescheduled!

Burning Tree Skate Night will be Saturday, April 10th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. If you have already paid for your admission and skate rental tickets, you are good to go! If you have already paid, and cannot attend on April 10th, please contact Lisa Sanfuentes at 301-320-6214 or Lisa.Rizzolo@verizon.net

If you would like to attend and have not reserved your wrist bands, please fill out the attached form and send in to school.

Volunteer Corner

Hope you all survived the snowfall in February. It sure took us all by surprise and we've been playing catch up ever since. Due to the inclement weather, our Staff Appreciation Day had to be postponed. It was rescheduled on March 2nd. Many thanks to our committee members **Kathy Chelst**, **Beth Martino** and **Anne Ruskowski** for working through the



changes and coordinating with the volunteers who contributed donations of desserts and drinks, helped set up/clean up and provide the teachers and staff of Burning Tree with a well deserved treat!

Once again, **Thank You** for keeping track of your volunteer hours worked from home and submitting them to me each month. If you sign in at the school for any volunteer work, please make sure you use the purple **Volunteer Sign In** sheet and don't forget to sign out so I know how long you were at the school. These hours help MCPS recognize all the hard work that Burning Tree parents contribute to our school.

Lisa Segert, VP of Volunteers, lbsegert@verizon.net

Fifth Grade DVD & Yearbook

Parent Volunteers are working on the 5th Grade DVD and the Yearbook and we need your help with **videos and photos**. **For the DVD**, we need highlights from each year. Below is the list of events, but if you have something else to add, please feel free to contribute.

K-Kindergarten Circus

1 - National Aquarium, Pumpkin Patch, Nutcracker, Concert

2 - Trip to the Moon, Butterflies, Concert

3 - Wax Museum (artists), Medieval Banquet, Concert

4 - Colonial Wax Museum, Annapolis Trip, St Mary's Trip, Concert

If you have any **video or photos** to share, here are the options:

- -Upload them at <http://public.me.com/muddymudpie> You need a password, which is: btmovie (case sensitive). You will see folders - please upload to the appropriate folder.
- -Drop them at the home of Lisa Sanfuentes (7504 Westfield Drive)
- -Backpack them via Claire Sanfuentes in Mrs. O'Donnell's class.

For the yearbook, we need the following **photos**:

Class photos from each class K-4th grade.

Any school function, like Halloween parties, spring fair, field trips.

To share photos for the yearbook either:

- -Email them to field88quail@photos.flickr.com
- -Backpack to them via Devon in Mrs. Shapiro's class.

QUESTIONS?

For the DVD, contact:

Lisa Sanfuentes (lisa.rizzolo@verizon.net) or Seemeen Hashem (seemeen@patriot.net)

For the Yearbook, contact:

Elisa Bragale (elisa@danevon.com)

Community Building

What a wonderful and generous community we have! This past month alone we had three programs to benefit our community and our world (for that matter!). **Many thanks to Vicki Herson for organizing our second food drive of the school year.** The kids contributed almost 300 boxes of macaroni and cheese to the Food for Kids program run by the Capital Area Food Bank. Last month was particularly difficult for area children who are regularly served by the Food for Kids program. Over 1,000 kids in our area receive lunch, dinner and weekend snacks from the food bank. With the snow school closures, many children did not have access to adequate healthy food. The mac-n-cheese you provided will help re-stock their pantries at home.

Also many thanks to Britta Battaile and Ruth McDonald for organizing our first ever Thousand Healthy Snacks drive! With their great organizing, the donations of healthy snack mixes from BTES families, and the help of several parents and all of our Burning Trees kids, we were able to make 1,300 healthy snacks! Children in the Washington Metropolitan area who receive free and reduced lunches during the week often go hungry after school and during the days that school is not in session. These snacks were donated to Capitol Area Food Bank's "Food for Kids" campaign for distribution to needy area children in after-school programs.

And last but not least, **hats off to our SGA for organizing the very successful "Hats for Haiti" fundraising campaign.** We raised \$2,000 for the families in Haiti who were devastated by the recent earthquake. The money was donated to Save the Children.



Be on the look-out for more ways to be involved in our community in the weeks ahead!

Cindy Campbell, PTA President

Board of Directors Position Available

Want to get more involved in the school and help our community at the same time? Then consider filing a vacancy on our BTES Board of Directors as the VP for Community Building. Co-Chairs are already in place for all of the amazing school programs under Community Building but we really need a VP to make sure these events are properly promoted. Please contact me to find out more about this position. Thanks! Cindy Campbell, PTA President (CampbellHannegan@comcast.net)

Snow Update

For the record, the School Administration and the PTA have not passed any rules banning the singing of the "Snow Day, Snow Day" song however, they are encouraging all the children to start singing the "Sunshine on my Shoulders" song by John Denver.



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 President:** Cindy Campbell 301-469-0252
- PTA President Elect:** Ellie Abramowitz 301-365-0543
- 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, April 2nd**.

Entry Form
Science Fair 2010
Wednesday, April 14th

Science Fair projects are on the topic of your choice. They can be investigations of scientific questions, demonstrations of scientific principles, or displays of scientific collections. You can do a project about things you already know, or learn something new. A project can be something that takes a long time or can be done in a few days. It can be something to look at, like a collection or demonstration, or it can be a report on the results of an experiment you have done at home.

We look forward to seeing your projects!

NAME _____ PHONE _____

TEACHER and GRADE _____

PROJECT TITLE _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

If you are working on your project with another student, please list his or her name and grade:

NAME/GRADE _____

Thanks for participating and have fun!

Please return this form to your teacher by

Thursday, April 8

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Parents:

____ Yes! I can help out. Name: _____

I'd prefer to ____ help with set up; ____ be a Science Fair Official;

____ help during the classroom visits; ____ help as needed.

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Science Fair 2010
Show board order form

Student's Name, Grade and Teacher: _____

Parent's Name : _____

How many show boards do you want? _____

The cost is \$5 per show board. Please pay by check payable to Burning Tree PTA and deliver with this form in an envelope marked "Science Fair" to your child's teacher.

News from the Whitman PTSA for the Cluster Schools

If you have an opinion about or want to have input on the T-Mobile proposal for a cell tower on the Whitman HS baseball field, you are encouraged to attend the TUESDAY, MARCH 16 PTSA Meeting, 7:30 pm in the Whitman Cafeteria.

At this March 16 meeting, after a brief PTSA business session, one hour will be allotted for community members to make 2-minute statements in support of or in opposition to the proposal. This will be followed by a yes or no vote by PTSA members on the proposal. The results of the vote, a summary of the public discussion at the meeting, and public comments received from late November 2009 through March 16, will be sent to the MCPS Office of the Superintendent as reflecting the input from the Whitman PTSA community regarding the proposal.

Are you a member of the PTSA? A link to the Roster of the approximately 1,100 current members is on the PTSA's main page of the school's website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/whitmanhs/parents/ptsa/ptsa.shtml>

If you are not a member but wish to vote at the March 16 meeting, you must become a PTSA member. PTSA membership is open to any individual. Membership forms and a drop box are available in the school's main lobby. Membership forms and instructions are also available on the school website. Using the same link as above, select the Membership Forms tab on the PTSA page. Questions about membership may be directed to PTSA Membership Vice President Debbie Flack at hfdt@aol.com.

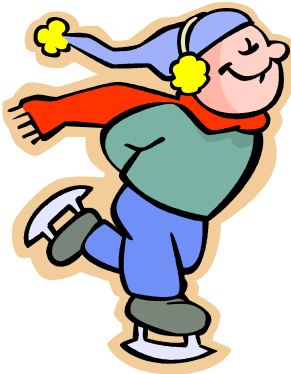
Documents related to the proposal (including T-Mobile's proposal and a community open letter from opponents) are also available on the PTSA's school website page. To access these, use the above link and select the Community tab on the right hand side of the page.

Questions or comments about the PTSA meeting or the cell tower issue may be directed to whitmanmdptsa@yahoo.com. Since November 2009, we have encouraged all those who wish to register an opinion or discuss the issue to send comments to this PTSA mailbox or to use Whitcom, the Whitman parents' discussion list serve.

We encourage you to attend the March 16 meeting and take part in this community discussion.

Vicky Strella and Sue Kanter,
WWHS PTSA Co-Presidents

Burning Tree Skate Night!



**Saturday, April 10
6:30-8:00pm
Cabin John Ice Rink
10610 Westlake Drive
Bethesda, MD
301-365-2246**

Cost:

Rink Admission Only: \$6.00

Skate Rental and Rink Admission: \$9.00

Burning Tree has reserved the large ice rink, The snack bar will be open.

Admission and Skate Rental Order Form

Name (s) _____

Number of people needing admission and skate rental: ____ x 9.00=_____

Number of people needing admission only: ____ x 6.00= _____

Total Check Amount: _____ Check Number _____

Please make checks payable to BTPTA and return this form to the school labeled Skate Night.

