

Burning Issues

President's Message

“At Burning Tree we celebrate our community” -- so starts the Burning Tree song. And

celebrating community was very evident in October's programs and events. More than 95 parents, students and alumni weeded, mulched, planted and spruced up our school at the first Beautify Burning Tree day. Lisa Baker and her hard working gardening committee did an amazing job of organizing tasks for even the novice gardeners and providing yummy and nutritious snacks. It was heartwarming to see so many people giving up their Saturday morning to make Burning Tree look as inviting on the outside as it is on the inside.

A few days later, our students and staff gathered inside the construction fence (someplace they are no longer allowed to be). The candidates for SGA office worked the shovels for the official groundbreaking ceremony of the new gymnasium. Ms. Drake led them in singing the Burning Tree song before the students departed for lunch or recess. What a great way to start this exciting renovation to our building.

International Night is one of my favorite demonstrations of the amazing community we have at Burning Tree. More than 50 countries were represented in the Parade of Nations and set up booths where families shared their culture, food, and how to say hello. Karen van Loon, Jo Chang, Felicia Jung and Samia Ahmad did an awesome job allowing all of us to travel around the world without leaving the building. It is an honor to be a part of this diverse and exciting place.

October also had several opportunities for our students to contribute to the larger world community. We distributed boxes for collections for UNICEF (thanks to Joe Okon) and are beginning a winter clothing drive for our sister school, Broad Acres ES in Silver Spring.

My best wishes to you and your families for a festive (and stressless) holiday season as you get ready for Thanksgiving. I look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair on November 30, if not before.

Dorene Rosenthal

Seven Days, Seven Wonders: The 2006 Book Fair



Explore the wonder of books with your friends and family at the 2006 Burning Tree Book Fair. For seven days, from Thursday, November 30th until Wednesday, December 6th, every dollar you spend at

Barnes & Noble in Rockville will earn 25cents for BTES. All you have to do is show the **2006 Book Fair** voucher that will come home in backpacks after Thanksgiving.

To kick off the Fair, please join us for a special celebration at Barnes & Noble Rockville from 6pm until 9pm on Thursday, November 30th. There'll be games, prizes and readings by the children's favorite teachers.

A special feature this year will be presentations by four local children's authors: Mary Quattlebaum, Erica Perl, Dr. Howard Bennett and Burning Tree Mom, Jeanne Pettenati, author of "Galileo's Journal". Starting at 7pm, these wonderful authors will read from their books and answer questions about writing. Their books will be available for sale and autograph!

Also available will be the 2006 Wish List Books. Each teacher has nominated 15 books he or she would love to have in the classroom. These books will be prominently displayed and available for sale. Purchase a book, fill out a dedication sticker, then hand the book in at the Burning Tree table at checkout, and we will ensure the books are in the classroom by the end of the Fair.

For further information or to volunteer to help stage this fun event, please contact Brenda Conroy at 301-229-1703 or brenda.conroy@gol.com

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Beautiful Burning Tree

The weather was gorgeous on Saturday, October 14th for our first Beautify Burning Tree day. Nearly 100 people participated! As a group, we weeded and planted lirioppe around the kindergarten playground, transplanted bushes from the construction area to the fenced section of the kindergarten playground, weeded and mulched the garden beds, cleaned up the area near Kiss & Ride, spread new pine straw to prevent erosion of the slope, planted flowers by the school sign, and raked leaves. Congratulations to Rachel Gillcrist, winner of the 141 pound giant pumpkin!

Special thanks go to the following people: Allison Ellis, Agnes de Gonneville, Yvonne Van Lowe, Maureen Ballock, Olivia Lai, and Greg Baker for being crew leaders and helping to direct all the wonderful volunteers; Loretta Garcia for obtaining gloves, tools, and trash bags from Montgomery County; Kim Nordheimer for providing kid-sized rakes and shovels; Burning Tree Dads for transplanting shrubs and stacking large bags of mulch; and second grade Brownie Troop 6709 for planting bulbs, weeding, and mulching the demonstration garden beds.

Thank you to the local businesses who donated items on October 14th: Glen Echo Hardware and Home Depot provided garden tools, Safeway donated bottled water and snacks, and Starbucks gave us the coffee that warmed us up in the morning.

Last, but not least, thank you to all parents and caregivers who use Kiss & Ride for being patient while a large area was roped off to let the new grass grow. The county re-graded the area from the sidewalk to the curb and laid down sod in an effort to prevent water from pooling and creating hazardous mud puddles. Thank you also to Burning Tree staff who adjusted quickly and directed children and cars efficiently in the small area that was available for drop-off and pick-up.

*Lisa Davenport & Lisa Baker,
Gardening Committee Co-Chairs*

Talent Show

Twenty Burning Tree students totally "wowed" the residents of Springhouse Manor Care during our Talent Show there on October 20th. It was both the most performers we've ever had and the most residents in the audience we've ever played to. Our

Burning Tree students were wonderful good-will ambassadors and amazingly talented as well! There were singers, pianists, trumpeters, and a recorder player. At the end of their individual performances, the students regaled the audience with an impressive round of the Burning Tree song. Then, the children handed out flowers and cookies to the residents. The residents were very responsive, polite, and even joined in singing along with a pianist's rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame!" Many thanks go out to our talented students: Catherine DiGiammarino; Aidan Doran; Kate Feinerman; Nicole Fleck; Hanalei Fong; Hannah Franklin-Gillette; Sara Franklin-Gillette; Amal Haque; Jennah Haque; Becca Haven; Ryan Howe; Sean Howe; Alex Jaramillo; Daniel Jaramillo; Sam Shapiro; Sean Silvia; Aliza Sitrin; Chloe Sitrin; Samantha Zambri; and Sophia Zambri.

Gail Haven

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

During this Thanksgiving season, let's give thanks to our wonderful Burning Tree staff. The Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 12 noon. We need as many people as possible that day for set up at 11:00 & cleanup afterwards. Soda & dessert (bar cookies, brownies, cookies, NO CAKES or PIES PLEASE) are also appreciated. Please RSVP to Kathy Chelst at kchelst@comcast.net or Julie Goodman at ggood1992@aol.com if you can help. In your e-mail let us know if you can come for set up, clean up, serving, desserts, drinks or all of the above! Also, if you could let us know what you are going to bring/make we can assure a nice variety. You can drop off desserts or drinks the morning of the 16th in the lounge. Let's show the wonderful Burning Tree staff how much we appreciate all that they do for our children.

Julie Goodman

Box Tops for Education

Please help us collect Box Tops for Education to benefit our sister school, Broad Acres. Simply clip the Box Top coupon off of any General Mills product. Each coupon is worth ten cents, so don't throw money away! It couldn't be easier to make a difference. Box Tops may be placed in the PTA box in the lobby. Questions? Call Anne Ruskowski (301) 229-2393.

Health Corner

Did you know ...



...Fruit juice does not always 'count' as a serving of fruit? Six ounces of juice a day (only enough to fill a small juice glass) counts as one serving - any more counts as sugar intake. When serving juice, choose 100% juice

with no added sugars!

Cindy Nickerson

Fundraising News

SALLY FOSTER—Our Sally Foster sale has wrapped up for the year and an enormous thanks goes to Cindy Campbell and Ellie Abramowitz who made this sale a success. Due to a last minute surge of orders, the sale will net Burning Tree slightly over our goal of \$7,500. Thanks Cindy and Ellie!

BINGO—Wow, what a night! Thank you to everyone who attended and to those volunteers who helped us throughout the evening. A special thank you to Dr. Chaset, our fabulous emcee Joan Wolf-Chiavarini and emergency pizza delivery driver, Michael Chelst (if you were there you know what I mean!). Also, a heartfelt thanks to Lisa Sanfuentes and Christine Brake who joined me in planning and presenting this fabulously successful event.

DINE OUT—Thank you to everyone who attended, ordered take out or bought gift certificates for the Ledo Dine Out on Wednesday, November 8th. Ledo Westlake will generously donate 20% of their evening's sales to our BTES PTA. Thanks also to Amy Brown for her efficient organization of our Dine Out fundraisers this year. Our next Dine Out will be January 9th at Parkers.

BOOK FAIR—Brenda Conroy, Susan Meadows, Jeanne Pettanati and Debby Rubin are busy planning what promises to be another successful Book Fair at Barnes and Noble in Rockville on Thursday, November 30th. They are busy filling teacher wish lists, scheduling teacher readers and planning other fun events for the evening. Keep an eye out for more information in future Friday Updates!

ADULT FUNDRAISER—*CALL TO ACTION!* This year's adult fundraiser will be held at the BCC Volunteer Firefighter Ballroom (it's really nice!) on March 24th. We really need a few parents to help us

contact businesses for donations. If you can help (even with just a few contacts) please contact Laura Weiss (info below).

GIANT/SAFEWAY—*HELP!* Only 68 families have designated BTES on their Giant Bonus cards this fall, which is significantly less than the 100-plus we usually get. If you haven't registered your card yet, please do! It won't cost you a thing and it all adds up to a great deal of money that goes straight to BTES. Register your card at <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus> and use our BTES school code of 0666. If you would like to support our sister school, Broad Acres, include their code of 0867 as a second school. Safeway cards can be registered on www.escrip.com.

SCHOOLPOP—If you are shopping online this holiday, consider shopping through Schoolpop. Many merchants participate and will donate a percentage of your purchases to BTES. Find out more about Schoolpop at www.schoolpop.com.

INK RECYCLING—Our ink-recycling program has successfully been taken over by our very own environmentally responsible SGA. Continue to bring in your used ink and toner cartridges to the school lobby and the SGA will take care of the rest. Thanks SGA!

Laura Weiss, VP Fundraising, PTA,
lauradweiss@msn.com 301-365-1268

Volunteer Corner

Thank you to all the parents, children and friends of Burning Tree who turned out for the "Beautify Burning Tree Day" on October 14th. An enormous amount was accomplished thanks to the organizational efforts of Lisa Baker and Lisa Davenport. The school grounds really looked fabulous for International Night.

Special thanks to all the parents who helped Mrs. Bouhafa perform the student lice inspections. Checks will be done again in January after the holidays. Please let me know if you might be available to help. Helping to check is the most effective way of preventing your child from getting lice. Even an hour of your time would be greatly appreciated.

Brenda Conroy, VP for Volunteers
brenda.conroy@gol.com



THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting our school's Sally Foster fund-raiser this year. Because of your order and many others like yours our profit from Sally Foster this year will exceed \$7,500! Just a reminder if you did not pick up your orders and PRIZES on the 9th and 10th please pick them up on Monday in the All-purpose room.

Reminder...Continue to Shop!

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! SallyFoster.com is open through January 15, 2007, and our school can still earn 50% profit on all orders placed on our behalf. It is simple. Just go to www.sallyfoster.com to view the products and place your order. At the checkout screen, key in our account #498966 so BT gets credit. Thanks again for supporting Burning Tree!

Ellie Abramowitz and Cindy Campbell

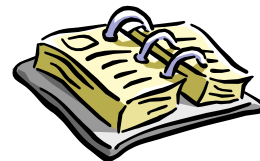
Under Construction – Gym Update



Construction is under way for Burning Tree's gymnasium. While the student's school day is proceeding uninterrupted, there are several changes around the building and grounds. To start, parking spaces, which were never plentiful, are now at a premium. Parents visiting the school are asked to please park on the streets around the school so as to allow teachers to park in the lot. In addition, as your children may have reported, they have to choose the upper field or the playground for outdoor recess as it is not easy to transfer between the two because of the fenced off construction area. This is likely to continue throughout the construction. Currently, the area is fenced off to work on a water drain. Even when this phase of the project is completed, the area is likely to remain fenced to allow for storage of construction materials. Another change is that emergency exit routes have been altered to go through the All-purpose room. The fire marshals have been by to approve the revised exit plans. Also gone are the storage sheds. PTA materials are now

stored in the storage closet downstairs by the instrumental music room. Some large items are stored in other spaces around the building. Committee chairs, if you are having difficulty locating materials you thought were in the shed, please contact Dorene Rosenthal and she will help you locate them. Many thanks to Eve Schenker who has agreed to serve as "construction historian" to document this excited time through photos. The architectural plans for the building are in the conference room in the office. You may drop by and review them when the conference room is not in use. Thanks for your continued patience and cooperation.

Calendar of Upcoming Events



November

Tuesday, November 14

Principal's Coffee 9:30am & 7:00pm

Thursday, November 16

Staff Appreciation Lunch

Friday, November 17

PTA Executive Board 9:30am

Thursday, November 23 & Friday, Nov 24

Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

Friday, November 30 – December 7

Book Fair at Barnes & Noble (Rockville)

***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, December 1.**