

Burning Issues

President's Message

As we say goodbye to warm weather and say hello to the crisp days of fall, the children and staff

are settling into the rhythms of the school year. The Burning Tree PTA is also busy planning many terrific programs for everyone to enjoy. Please make sure to read further in this issue to see what fun events are around the corner.

One of the highlights of September was Back to School Night. The PTA would like to thank the teachers and staff for inviting us into their classrooms. A wonderful aspect of Burning Tree is that the teachers, staff and parents work so closely together and the teachers and staff make the parents feel so welcome.

We hope many of you were able to attend the informative PTA meeting this week. Many thanks to Mrs. Erdrich, Mrs. Richter and Mrs. Dieckman for providing us with helpful reading and writing strategies for working with our children at home and when volunteering in the classroom. We are also excited about these additional wonderful speakers that we have scheduled for our upcoming **PTA meetings** this year, which are held the 1st Tuesday of almost every month at 7pm:

November 3rd

"Meet the Specialist"

Mrs. Parrott/Art, Ms. Siegel/Music and Mrs. Barry/Media

January 5th

"MSA FAQs"

presented by BTES staff

February 2nd

"Internet Safety for Kids"

presented by Dave Abramowitz

March 2nd

"What's For Lunch"

presented by Carol Simpson,
MC Food Service Supervisor

Make sure to mark your calendars and don't miss out on these informative meetings!

Ellie Abramowitz, PTA President-Elect

Bingo Night

Prizes! Food! Friends! Fun! Get ready for **Bingo Night** coming up **Thursday, October 15th**. This family fun event will be held in the **Pyle Middle School cafeteria**.



Potomac Pizza will start serving pizza, subs, and salads at 6:15 pm and the games will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. We will have a ton of great prizes for the kids and will be selling raffle tickets for an 8GB iPod Touch! No child will

go home empty handed—those who don't win a round of Bingo will be given a terrific surprise at the end of the evening!

Upcoming Fannie Mae Walk

We're so excited for our upcoming **Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless** on **October 14th** - we have had many donations on behalf of the children and are expecting a great turnout on the walk route!

Dine-Out -- October 20th

Join us for the first Dine-Out of the school year **Tuesday, October 20** at **California Tortilla and Baskin-Robbins 31 Flavors** at **Cabin John Shopping Plaza** 5 - 9 p.m. Dine in or dine out and remember to mention the code words **'Burning Tree'** to turn your bill into dollars for our PTA! Hope to see you there!!

Inside This Issue:

International Night.....	2
Library Gift Program.....	2
President's Message	1
School-Based Programs update	2
Student's with Accommodations Survey.....	Flyer

A Big Thank You from School-Based Programs

Thanks to Joan Wolf-Chiaverini, for all your continuing hard work on the many wonderful **After-School Programs** we now have. Our kids are lucky to have so many enriching opportunities, and the program would not be such a fabulous success without you!

Mireya Rossi and Theresa Fong, thank you both for organizing the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) programs in French, Spanish and Chinese. You had on-line registration for the first time this year and have been very busy keeping track of everything and making sure FLES has a smooth start at Burning Tree this week and throughout the school year. Merci and gracias, Mireya! Xie xie, Theresa!

The **Burning Tree Creative Writing Club** welcomes writers in grades 3 through 5. We will meet in the Media Room on October 14, October 21 and then every other Wednesday thereafter from 3:30-4:45. At each meeting, students will have the opportunity to write and share poems, stories, songs, and more. In the spring, we will work together to publish a magazine containing our work. The club is limited to the first twenty-four students to register. There is a \$15.00 fee to cover the cost of supplies and copying.

There is a link to a registration form under the school based programs on the PTA website www.burningtreepta.org. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Bowers at mjbowers11@hotmail.com or (301) 469-4898.

Coordinator needed for school newspaper (**Ribbit Report**) **Ribbit Report** is all set up to go this year with a teacher in place and the photocopying all donated and taken care of. All that's needed is a generous parent willing to coordinate it. If you are interested or have any questions at all, please contact Patti Klepp, 301-320-0029, pb.klepp@verizon.net.

Patti Klepp, VP School-Based Programs

Library Gift Program

Looking for a great way to honor a special occasion or person? Consider making a donation to the Burning Tree Media Center! After receiving your donation, our Media Center staff will purchase a book in your child's area of special interest to be

added to the library collection. The book will display a bookplate acknowledging your gift. Through this program you can honor your child, expand our library collection, and benefit everyone at Burning Tree. If you are interested in participating in the Library Gift Program, complete the attached form and return it in an envelope marked **Media Center**. This can be done anytime throughout the year, and additional forms are available in the PTA box in the workroom, under Media Center/Birthday Books. Forms are also available at www.burningtreepta.org under "**Library Gift Program**." All donations are tax-deductible and 100% of your donation will be spent on the purchase of books for our Media Center. Questions? Call or email Tanya Kreter (301-229-1766 or email kreter@verizon.net)

International Night - Thursday, November 19th

On Thursday, November 19th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm, we will travel the globe! **Burning Tree's International Night** is a celebration of our diverse school community, our world, and our desire to understand and appreciate our differences and similarities. International Night gives our children and families a chance to explore the cultures from around world through the eyes of Burning Tree families who, last year, represented over 50 different countries. All of you are invited to join the parade, to perform, and/or to set up a booth representing your country. For registration form please go to www.BurningTreePTA.org

For more information please contact one of the co-chairs:

Europe:

Allison Ellis allison_ellisuk@yahoo.co.uk

The Americas:

Agnes de Gonneville aedego@hotmail.com

Africa & Middle East:

Santi Karamchetty abasu19@starpower.net

Asia & Oceania:

Tracy Knighton rrectknighton@yahoo.com

Back to School Picnic

After waking up to a wet gloomy morning, how much more perfect could the night have been at our Back to School Picnic? Although we were all disappointed when it had to be postponed because of

bad weather, it surely was worth the wait. Thanks so much to co- chairs Barb Butrica and Rachel Bottone for organizing this fun-filled community-building event. It was so nice to see the kids having so much carefree fun with their friends - and even nicer for the adults to have a chance to talk to other BT parents and our great staff. Thanks Barb and Rachel for a great night!

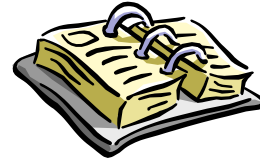
International News

In line with our theme "*One World Coming Together*" we would like to announce in the *Burning Issues* newsletter international events that take place in the DC area and that might be fun for BT families to attend.

If you know or organize such an event and would like to announce it to BT parents, please send me before every last Tuesday of the month a paragraph with the description of the event at colabewalavreven@msn.com. Looking forward to your mail and suggestions.

*Line Vreven, PTA At-Large Representative,
International Community*

Calendar of Upcoming Events



Monday, October 12 -- Columbus Day

Parent Visiting Day 9:30-10:30pm

Wednesday, October 14 – Walk for the Homeless

Thursday, October 15 – Bingo Night

7:30 at Pyle Middle School

Friday, October 16 – No School

MSTA Conv.

Tuesday, October 20 – Dine Out Night

California Tortilla & +Baskin-Robbins

Wednesday, October 28 – Principal’s Coffee

Survey attached!

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 Co-Presidents:

Cindy Campbell 301-469-0252

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, Nov. 4th**.



BINGO NIGHT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15TH
PIZZA, SUBS, & SALADS!
PRIZES! RAFFLE!

DETAILS: Join us **Thursday, October 15th** at **Pyle Middle School** for a night of family fun! Bingo games will run from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. Our wonderful emcee **Joan Wolf-Chiaverini** will entertain us again this year with her fabulous wardrobe and hilarious jokes! There's **no school on Friday**, so stay as long as you like!

DELICIOUS FOOD! Come hungry—Potomac Pizza will be serving pizza, subs, and salads starting at **6:15 pm**.

PRIZES FOR ALL! All children will win a prize—either during the Bingo game or at the ending of the evening! No child will go home disappointed!

GREAT RAFFLE PRIZE! You can win a brand new **8GB iPod Touch** valued at \$199! It holds 1,750 songs or 10 hours of video!

"AVOID THE LINE" PRE-SALE! You can purchase Bingo card packs and raffle tickets at the event OR avoid the long lines and buy your cards and raffle tickets in the BTES lobby on **Tuesday October 13th** and **Wednesday October 14th** before school (8:45-9:15 am) and during lunch.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! If you can volunteer at Bingo Night, please contact Tracey Fitzsimmons at tracey.fitzsimmons@emc.com or Melinda Gray at mgray40@verizon.net

We hope to see you all there!

Barb Butrica, Kristen Farren, Tracey Fitzsimmons, and Laura Weiss
(Bingo Co-Chairs)



The Students with Accommodations Committee Survey:

The Students with Accommodations Committee (SAC) is a new committee in the Burning Tree PTA that is a voice for students with accommodations, their parents and their teachers in the PTA and the school. The SAC will gather feedback from parents and teachers and develop practical action items to help our students navigate the extra challenges they face. We will build a community of support and dialogue among parents and staff. The Committee needs your feedback. Please complete this survey and return it in your child's backpack, drop it in the PTA box or call SAC Chair, Delia Tetelman, 301-502-1904 deliatetelman@gmail.com,

♥ Students with accommodations include those with IEPs, 504s, ESOL, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, severe allergies and any other concern for which accommodations are necessary in school.

How can the PTA help Students with Accommodations?

1, 2, 3 - Please number the top 3 most important items. ✓ Check others of interest.

- Special needs books in library for parents and teachers
- Social get-togethers, coffees, evening parties, book club, parent-buddies
- Opportunities to discuss behavior challenges / strategies with other parents.
- Outreach to families – How can the SA Committee help you?
- PTA sponsored speaker – Topic ideas: _____
- SAC discussion groups, Q & A – Topic ideas: _____
- Principal’s coffee - Circle 3 Topics of Interest: IEP & 504, Inclusion, Accommodations, How do teachers address learning difficulties in the classroom? The role of technology at home & in the classroom, Where Can I go for help? Preparing for Middle School - Additional Topics:

- Recess coach - Teaching outdoor games, running activities at recess. Would you like your child to participate?

Are you able to volunteer? Yes / No – How Often? Weekly?

- Lunch bunch – Join small group of students for a quiet lunch. Would you like your child to participate?
Are you able to volunteer? Yes / No – How Often? Weekly?

Comments, Questions, Suggestions: (___ Parent ___ Teacher ___ Other)

Optional:

Your Name: _____ Your email address: _____
 Your phone number: _____

Would you like someone to contact you? YES / NO

**Feel free to drop your comments in the PTA box, put in your child's backpack,
 Email: DeliaTetelman@gmail.com or call 301-502-1904.
 Students with Accommodations Committee (SAC)**

Burning Tree Creative Writing Club

The Burning Tree Creative Writing Club welcomes writers in grades three through five. We will meet *every other* Wednesday from 3:30-4:45 starting on October 7th. At each meeting, students will have the opportunity to write and share poems, stories, songs, and more. In the spring, we will work together to publish a magazine containing our work. The club is limited to the first twenty-four students to register. There is a \$15.00 fee to cover student the cost of supplies and copying.

Name _____ **Grade** _____ **Teacher** _____
Parent's Name _____ **Phone No.** _____
Parent's email _____

Parents: *Please* circle any of the following you are able to do:

- Assist with a club meeting (or two!)
- Act as the club's treasurer (can be done from home)
- Assist with production logistics in the spring (can be done from home)

Please mail or email this form to: Meredith Bowers, 7203 Bradley Blvd. Bethesda, MD 20817
Any questions? Contact Meredith Bowers at (301) 469-4898 or mjbowers11@hotmail.com