



Burning Issues

President's Message

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Back to School Picnic. I have to say it is one of my favorite events of the year because it gives everyone a chance to reconnect with friends and former teachers and to begin to establish new friendships and partnerships with teachers. The weather was perfect and Robin Gonzales and her committee did an awesome job pulling it all together.

I am happy to report that MCPS has reversed its earlier decision and has determined that PTAs can send home materials in children's backpacks. We are very fortunate to have our flyer distribution privileges reinstated. However, the process of thinking of ways to distribute materials without the backpacks and what were the essential pieces of information that had to reach each household, gave us the opportunity to take a look at how we communicate and what we send home. This evaluation helped us formulate our theme for the year -- "working smarter, not harder." The volunteers on all of many events and programs, the committee chairs and the executive board work very hard to provide enriching programs for our children and the Burning Tree community (and to raise funds to support those programs). We will attempt to conserve both natural and human resources in our efforts to provide these services. For example, we will aim not to send home the same flyers and forms multiple times. This will save trees, copy time for volunteers, and your time in going through your child's backpack. Extra copies of forms will be available at school for you or your child to pick up, or at PTA meetings and PTA event. Your suggestions on other ways we can work "smarter" are appreciated.

We have terrific events coming up in October. I hope you will join us for our October PTA meeting where the program will focus on the math curriculum. Bingo Night is a blast for the whole family. International Night is a wonderful opportunity for our whole community to share and learn about the diverse cultures represented at our school. I look forward to seeing you at these and other events.

Dorene Rosenthal, PTA Co-President

2006/2007 Cultural Arts Education- Save These Dates!

The Cultural Arts Committee has put together a great line-up of programs for the enjoyment and education of our Burning Tree students this school year, so please mark your calendars and save the following dates:

Assembly No. 1: Wednesday, *October 25, 2006: Karim Nagi-Mohammed will introduce the students to Arabic culture and its people through music, rhythm, and dance. An Egyptian American and teacher at the New England Conservatory of Music, Karim Nagi-Mohammed uses a blend of interactive clapping, hand drums, singing and dancing to engage his audiences. His show emphasizes the importance of learning about a culture and people beyond the framework of politics and religion.

**Please change this date on your PTA calendar from October 26th to October 25th*

Assembly No. 2: Friday, December 1, 2006: Debbie Fink's 'Friends' Program will showcase character building and education that is both fun and meaningful for our students. They will learn the tools to build friendships value-by-value by using a 'Friendship Triangle' and by together building an 8-foot friendship pyramid. Ms. Fink integrates drama, music and children's literature in her presentation.

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Parent Get Togethers

Come along and meet new friends – and the parents of your children’s new friends – at this year’s Parent Get Togethers. (Please note these events are for the adults only, thank you.)

Learning Centre:

Hosted by Tammy and Matthew Pasquinelli.

7:00-9:00pm, Tuesday, September 26
10912 Clermont Ave.
Garrett Park, MD 20896

If your surname begins with:

The letter A-E, please bring an appetizer
The letter F-M, please bring a dessert
The letter N-Z, please bring fruit.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 19th, via email:
mpeqnl@verizon.net or call (301) 962-1822.

Kindergarten:

Hosted by Julie and Jon Garcia.

7:00-9:00pm, Friday, September 29
8517 Beech Tree Rd
Bethesda, MD 20817

If your surname begins with:

The letter A-G, please bring a dessert or fruit
The letter H-P, please bring an appetizer
The letter Q-Z, please bring a beverage.

Please RSVP by Friday, September 22nd, via email:
JulieGarcia@aol.com or call 202 390 4579.

1st Grade:

Hosted by Kathy and Michael Chelst.

7:00–9:00pm, Thursday, October 12
7228 Armat Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

If your surname begins with:

The letter A-F, please bring an appetizer
The letter G-M, please bring a dessert
The letter N-Z, please bring fruit.

Please RSVP by Monday, October 9th, by calling
Kathy between 7-9pm on (301) 365-9613 or by email
atkchelst@comcast.net.

Families New To Burning Tree:

Hosted by Olivia Lai and Walter Gillcrist

7:00–9:00pm, Thursday, October 26
8611 Beech Tree Rd
Bethesda, MD 20817

If your surname begins with:

The letter A-K, please bring an appetizer
The letter L- Q, please bring a dessert or fruit
The letter R-Z, please bring a beverage.

Please RSVP by Friday, October 20th, via email:
laigill@comcast.net or call (301) 365-0417

Please note, all these events are **Adults Only**

Contact: Brenda Conroy VP Volunteers, (301) 229-1703 or brenda.conroy@gol.com

After-school activities

As many of you know, there is a wealth of after school programs for your child to enjoy. We would encourage you to look out for the brochure we produce to register for these programs. In the past, parents have been given several opportunities to sign up for programs but this year we will not be sending reminders and would urge you to respond promptly.

Creative Writing Club starts October 16

The Burning Tree Creative Writing Club welcomes poets, novelists, mystery writers, and humorists in 2nd through 5th grade. We meet every other Monday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. starting on October 16. Club members are given the opportunity to write poems, short stories, songs, puzzles, and more. The kids choose their favorite pieces to include in a magazine published in the spring. The club is led by a Burning Tree mom and is limited to 22 students. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms will be sent home in the *Friday Update* in mid-September. Questions? Call Rosanna Morrison, 301-469-5949.

International Night

Our annual trip around the world to visit the countries represented at BT will be on Thursday, October 19th. If your family would like to showcase their cultural background now is the time to begin thinking about your display. The evening is always one of the most exciting at the school and we hope to see all families there in celebration of our school’s rich and diverse community. Please contact Karen Van Loon (301-320-4223 karenvanloon@verizon.net) or Jo Chang (jochang2@yahoo.com) for information.



Cultural Arts *(continued from page 1)*

Assembly No. 3: Friday, February 2, 2007: Mosaic Fascinating Rhythms reinforces the music-mathematics connection in its show of interactive exercises where students perform equations to music and a musical story problem. Demonstrating how math equations influence the "feel" of a song, Mosaic presents a fun and creative way to learn math and music at the same time.

Assembly No. 4: Tuesday, April 17, 2007: Mark Jaster - Mime will expose the students to classic mime and pantomime arts and style. With live music as his background, Mark Jaster's "Piccolo's Trunk" show, through a series of short wordless sketches, will depict humorous encounters with comic obstacles. This program uses individual audience volunteers and also the entire audience. This show has proven to be wildly popular through its use of articulated gestures, graceful movement, interaction with the audience, and humor.

Weeklong Residency: Monday, April 23 - Friday, April 27, 2007:

Nada Brahma - The World of Music is back by popular demand. After appearing at BTES as a cultural arts assembly in October 2005, Nada Brahma will be back for a weeklong residency that will permit the students a deeper exploration of the communal aspects of music and dance throughout the world by further exposure to the music, instruments and ethnic traditions of different cultures. Nada Brahma will reinforce the important role that multiculturalism plays in today's education and show that one of the most effective ways to experience foreign cultures is through the universal language of music and dance.

Your generous donations of time and funding of the PTA sponsor these events. We appreciate your children getting to school on time. Grades K-2 assemblies begin at 9:30 AM and grades 3-5 begin at 10:30 AM.

*Cultural Arts Co-Chairs: Joan Wolf-Chiaverini,
Linda Adelson and Rosemary Mitchell*

Fundraising

Every year we are charged with the task of raising funds to help support our school's programs, buy needed equipment, assist our teachers with purchasing much needed supplies, give support to our sister school, Broad Acres, and much more. While

we realize that often there is no fun in fundraising, we do continually try to offer events and programs that are fun (Bingo), educational (Book Fair), foster school spirit (Spirit Shop, Dine Outs), create lifelong memories (Original Artwork) or give you something for your money (Sally Foster, Plant Sale). We even have a few programs that don't cost YOU a thing (Giant, Safeway, Target, Schoolpop)! And, of course, we have our major fundraiser in the spring in which we offer you an evening out with other adults (Priceless!) and the opportunity to purchase wonderful auction items in order to raise the bulk of our budget.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated individuals who will be making these events happen this year.

Sally Foster—Cindy Campbell & Ellie Abramowitz

Spirit Shop—Cheryl Yu

Bingo—Lisa Sanfuentes, Christine Brake & Laura Weiss

Book Fair—Susan Meadows, Debra Rubin, Brenda Conroy & Jeanne Pettanati

Original Artwork—Britta Battaile & Marianne Wilson

Plant Sale—Lisa Baker & Mary Kunst

Dine Out With Burning Tree—Amy Brown

Giant/Safeway—Eve Schenker

Adult Fundraiser—Santi Karamchetty, Lisa Sanfuentes, Tracey Fitzsimmons, Kristen Farren & Laura Weiss

Thank you!

Laura Weiss, VP Fundraising

Walk-to-School Day

Join other Burning Tree families on Wednesday, Oct. 4 for International Walk-to-School Day! There will be three convenient sites for families to gather and walk together for this annual event.

Everyone is welcome to walk -- whether your child is designated as a walker, bus rider or Kiss-and-Rider in the mornings, feel free to join us. Each year at Burning Tree, we have had 150-250 adults and children participate!

The current meeting sites are:

Site 1: 7719 Maryknoll Ave -- The Rosenblum Home

Site 2: 8433 Burning Tree Road -- The Fitzsimmons/York Home

Site 3: 7009 Deep Creek Court -- The Samit Home

More details will follow on BTNET and in the *Friday Update*, regarding exact gathering/departure times. Please be sure to RSVP to robin@buypromos.com, including the number of adults and children (even those in strollers) in your group, and at which site number you will be meeting, so I can be sure there are enough giveaways for all children who participate.

Thanks to the Fitzsimmons/York and Samit families for helping to provide sites.

-Robin Rosenblum

Let's Run Together!

Sunday, October 22nd, at West Gude Drive in Rockville in the **Darcars Young Run**.

Ms. Loftus is promoting fitness to our children. She is inviting BTES students to take part in this exciting event. Schools that register 20% or more of their students in the event will be rewarded. Don't forget the **Best School Spirit** award, which is hotly contested every year.

Register on-line www.mcrrc.org/dyr/registration for a nominal entry fee of \$4.72, each runner will get an official runner number, a goody bag and refreshments.

All who finish the shorter distances will receive a commemorative ribbon; those who complete the mile will receive a specially designed medal.

Tee shirts are available for \$8. Mail-in registrations call 301-353-0200. **DEADLINE is October 16th; there is no race day registration.**

In the past seventeen years, the Montgomery County Road Runners Club ('MCRRC'), as part of its program to promote youth fitness, has conducted a non-competitive running event for children 12 and under. The response from the kids, parents and teachers has been wonderful. The Darcars Young Run is now one of the largest children's running events in the country.

The emphasis is on participation rather than competition, MCRRC will not record official times; however, the course distances will be accurately measured in case students wish to time themselves.

The Montgomery County Road Runners Club is an organization of over 3,600 members, whose common

goal is the promotion of fitness through running. As individuals and as a club, MCRRC believes that running is both healthful and fun, and we want to help the children of Montgomery County share in those benefits. This running event gives each child the opportunity to set a personal fitness goal, plan and train for it, and have a good time in the process.

As a parent, you can play a key role in helping your child achieve their goals through motivation, guidance and support. We hope to see you there!
Linda Adelson 301-229-6424

Under Construction – Gym Update



We anticipate that in the near future, MCPS will begin constructing a gymnasium at Burning Tree. Please look here in future editions of *Burning Issues* for important information on construction related issues.

Ongoing Fundraisers

Giant/Safeway: If you shop at these stores (who doesn't?) be sure and register your discount cards with the shopping programs that give our schools a portion of your purchases! Check today's Friday Update for information on how to register your cards.

Target Take Charge Of Education: If you have a Target Visa card, be sure to designate BTES to receive a percentage of your purchases. Visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school.

Schoolpop: Do you shop on line? Why not earn money for BTES while you shop? See today's *Friday Update* for a flier on how to participate.

Ink Recycling: Keep bringing in your used ink cartridges (leave them in the lobby by the PTA bookcase) and this year the BTES SGA will take over the reins of recycling them! Not only will you be helping the SGA earn money but you will also be helping our environment.

Any questions about ongoing fundraisers:

Giant/Safeway contact Eve Schenker at 301-263-0207 or eschenker@earthlink.net.

Target/Schoolpop/Ink Recycling contact Laura Weiss at 301-365-1268 or lauradweiss@msn.com.

Bingo

Bingo night will be held on Friday, October 6th at Pyle Middle School. Pizza, salads and subs will be served starting at 6:30pm and the games will begin at 7:00pm. Our Bingo Committee asked ourselves, “how can we make this a more pleasant experience for our parents” (the kids already get the prizes, right?)? We have decided to shorten the evening to 8 games (to get you out by 8:30pm) with the same total number of prizes (more winners per game). We will add an extra dry erase board so that those of you in the back can actually SEE the numbers. And as far and lowering the noise levels? Well, we would love any suggestions you have! Watch for information on raffle ticket sales (this year it’s an iPod Nano) and if you would like to volunteer to help at the event please contact Christine Brake at brakec@cc.nih.gov or 301-365-4084. If you have a Whitman or Pyle student who would like to help and earn SSL hours contact Laura Weiss at lauradweiss@msn.com or 301-365-1268.

Sally Foster Raises Funds for BT!

Looking for a quick and easy way to support Burning Tree? Then look in your Sally Foster catalog! Burning Tree earns 50% of ALL Sally Foster sales...so buy and sell Sally Foster to support Burning Tree. Ask your friends, neighbors and relatives to order. Bring the catalog to the office. Buy some things yourself! Remember to take advantage of the Internet—send your out-of-town relatives and friends an e-mail to let them know about our fundraiser.

Remember to consider all of your gift-wrapping needs for this coming year and stock up! There are 58 all occasion and Holiday gift-wrap patterns in this year’s catalog. But don’t stop there. Sally Foster has more than 72 beautiful gift items for adults and children, including bath and beauty products, a new line of easy-bake mixes and bake ware, and delicious “Harry London” gourmet chocolates. So think about all the friends, family and teachers (!) you may want to give gifts to this year and buy them now!

We hope every family will participate in our schools biggest fall fundraiser () by buying and selling Sally Foster (the deadline for catalog sales is Friday, October 6th)! **Questions?** Contact Cindy Campbell 301-469-0252 CampbellHannegan@comcast.net or Ellie Abramowitz 301-365-0543 ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net.

Community-Based Programs

We hope to see many of your children participating in this year’s Community-Based Program activities. Thank you to Karen Judson, Betsy Falloon and Sheryl Issacs, who are once again chairing the Sister School Partnership Committee. The annual drive to collect school supplies for Broad Acres Elementary School has been very successful and much appreciated by our sister school community. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Cathy Houston will once again be chairing the Sandwiches for Martha’s Table Committee. Children can help feed the homeless by dropping off non-perishable wrapped sandwiches in the school lobby on the first Thursday of each month beginning October 5.

Look for additional information about community-based programs in future newsletters. We are looking forward to a productive year.

Wynne Sitrin, VP for Community-Based Programs

MCPS’ Wellness Policy: What it Means for Students, Parents and Staff

Research shows eating right and being physically active improve children’s ability to learn. Other beneficial effects include reductions in childhood obesity and other health problems. In response to U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations, the Board of Education approved a new wellness policy, effective this school year, to encourage students to adopt these healthy behaviors.

For students, the wellness policy means:

- A la carte items, which are currently available to Burning Tree 4th and 5th graders during lunch once a week, will no longer include unhealthy items such as Doritos, cookies, brownies or gummy candy (labeled as fruit snacks);
- Fundraisers can not include the sale of candy, doughnuts or other unhealthy items during the instructional day (this is not a new policy, but will be better enforced); and
- More physical activity in P.E. classes;

For parents, the wellness policy means:

- Send only healthy food and beverage items to school for shared snacks, parties and other events, to reinforce the message that healthy eating is important.

- You will receive more information on what food and beverage items are acceptable to send to school. These do not include candy and soda.
- You can find nutritional information on the school menu; nutritional and food allergy information is available on the Division of Food and Nutrition Services website.

For staff, the wellness policy means:

- Candy is not to be used as a classroom reward;
- Schools are encouraged to plan recess time before lunch when scheduling permits;
- Nutrition education will be included in the physical education as well as the health education programs.

Let us all do our part enthusiastically to promote messages that healthy eating and an active lifestyle are important!! For more information on the policy, see

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/boe/meetings/agenda/2005-06/2006-0420/3.0%20JPG%20Memo.pdf>

PTA Executive Board 9:30am

Calendar of Upcoming Events



September

Monday, September 18

Back-to-School Night (Grades K-2)

Tuesday, September 19

Back-to-School Night (Grades 3-5)

Tuesday, September 26

Learning Center Parent Get Together 7-9pm
MCCPTA Meeting 7:30pm

Wednesday, September 27

Early Release Day 12:55pm

Friday, September 29

PTA Executive Board 9:30am
Kindergarten Parent Get Together 7-9pm

October

Monday, October 2

No School – Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 3

PTA Meeting 7pm

Wednesday, October 4

Walk-to-School Day (

Friday, October 6

Bingo Night at Pyle Middle School

Thursday, October 12

1st Grade Parent Get Together 7-9pm

Monday, October 16

Creative Writing Club begins 3:30pm

Thursday, October 19

International Night

Sunday, October 22

Darcars Young Run

Thursday, October 26

Families New to BTES Get Together 7-9pm

The Burning Tree PTA publishes *Burning Issues* monthly, usually the week following each PTA meeting.

Principal:

Dr. Helen Chaset 301-320-6510

Assistant Principal:

Aaron Tark 301-320-6510

PTA Co-Presidents:

Dorene Rosenthal 301-229-4940
Olivia Lai 301-365-0417

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, September 1.**



SPIRIT SHOP ORDER FORM

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
NEW! BTES T-shirt Lime Green (\$10)		
Youth Size Small	_____	_____
Youth Size Medium	_____	_____
Youth Size Large	_____	_____
BTES T-shirt Dark Green or White (\$8)		
Youth Size Medium Green	_____	_____
Youth Size Large Green	_____	_____
Youth Size Large White	_____	_____
BTES Baseball T-shirt (\$15)		
Youth Size Large	_____	_____
Adult Size Small	_____	_____
Burning Tree Water Bottle (\$2)	_____	_____
NEW! Burning Tree Tote Bag (\$10)	_____	_____
"Note to School" Memo Pad (\$2.50)	_____	_____
PTA Calendar 2006-2007 (\$8)	_____	_____
Burning Tree Pencils (3/\$1)	_____	_____
Burning Tree Bracelets (1/\$2 or 3/\$5)	_____	_____
TOTAL ORDER.....	_____	_____

STUDENT NAME: _____ TEACHER: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

Send completed order form and payment (cash or check made out to BTPTA) to school in an envelope clearly marked "Spirit Shop". Items will be send home in your child's backpack.

Questions about Spirit Shop? Contact Cheryl Yu at 301-263-2794 or at cherylyu@hotmail.com. Thank you!