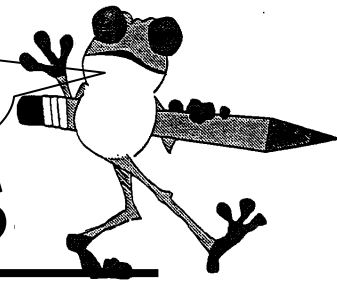


Books make great presents.
 Can you guess what my
 favorite book is? (See page 5
 for the answer.)



Burning Issues

President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to thank many people who have organized great events at

Burning Tree over the last month. It is truly a monumental task to take on these events and we should all give them a round of applause.

Laura Weiss, Tracey Fitzsimmons, Barb Butrica and Sharon Tompkins for a fabulous **Bingo Night!** (Is BINGO still ringing in your ears?) Joan Wolf Chiaverini for being a great master of ceremonies. And, all of the parent volunteers who sold food and pulled Bingo numbers!

Karen van Loon, Agnes de Gonneville, Allison Ellis and Santi Karamchetty for a wonderfully uniting and delicious **International Night!** And, all of the Burning Tree families who generously provided artifacts, information and food from their countries.

Robin Rosenblum for an exhilarating **Walk to School Day**

Kristin Farren and Jamie Pierce for organizing **Sally Foster sales**. All of the parents who organized the Halloween Parties. Wynne Sitrin, Sheryl Isaacs and Minki Chatterji for organizing the **Halloween Costume drive** for our sister school Broad Acres.

Julie Zbrak for coordinating the **Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless**, and, all the families who donated money for the walk. **Burning Tree raised \$2,200!** And, thank you to the Burning Tree Community for participating in all of the events. You are a great group of people.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Erdrich for hosting a very interesting Principal's Coffee a few weeks ago about "The Secret to Raising Smart Kids". **Mrs. Erdrich's next Principal's Coffee** is at the **Bethesda Barnes & Noble** at 1:30pm during the **Book Fair on Tuesday, December 2**. And, speaking of the Book Fair, please make sure you stop by! **We've changed the location this year, from Rockville to Bethesda**, and it's for only one day. Shop by yourself or with the kids; bring them by right after school, or in the evening. And, make an even greater event of it and

dine at one of the three dine-out locations. So many options! Make sure to come and check out all the teacher wish-list books!

Lisa Sanfuentes, PTA President

Book Fair – Hop into a Good Book



Hop into a Good Book! That's the theme of this year's Burning Tree Book Fair, which will be held at Barnes & Noble in Bethesda December 2nd.

During this one day event, 20% of the money you spend at Barnes & Noble goes directly to our school.

NEW THIS YEAR: you, your friends & family can shop at ANY Barnes & Noble—any Barnes & Noble in the country on December 2nd and our school can get credit if shoppers present a voucher or mention our specific Book Fair Number: 395426.

So please plan ahead and do your holiday shopping at the Book Fair—and tell your friends and family, too! Remember Barnes & Noble has a great selection of games and music as well as books.

During the day of the Book Fair, Barnes & Noble in Downtown Bethesda plays host to many special Burning Tree events. The fun begins at 9:00 am and runs to 11 pm.

Come early to get a glimpse of the teacher "wish list" books. Our teachers and staff have selected books that will enrich their classrooms. Burning Tree families will have an opportunity to purchase "wish list" books, inscribe them, and donate them to our school.

Hop on over to B&N Starbucks Café at 1:30 for The Principal's Coffee. At this event, Mrs. Nancy Erdrich will be in the Café chatting with parents over coffee and treats. Everything you purchase at the Café will also benefit our school. Mrs. Erdrich is always ready to discuss the importance of reading in our children's lives. (Continued on page 4, column 1)



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FUNdraising Events Under Way...

Sally Foster Catalogue Orders Arrived This Week

Make sure to stop by the All-Purpose room to pick up your Sally Foster order and prizes if you have not done so already. 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! Our school can still earn 50% profit on all online orders placed on our behalf through June 1, 2009. Just go to www.sallyfoster.com to view the products and place your order online. At the checkout screen, key in our account #498966 so BTES gets credit.

Congratulations to the following families who were entered into a raffle for every \$50 raised: The Bernasconi family – iPod nano; the Valianatos family - \$50 Target gift card; and the Rose family – Sally Foster gift basket.

As we wrap up the official part of our Sally Foster sale, I want to give a huge thank you to Kristen Farren and Jamie Pierce for their hard work on our biggest fall fundraiser. And thanks to the many families who bought and sold Sally Foster - we raised **\$5,000 for BTES!**

Fill Our Pond Update

Our check-writing campaign continues to leap many bounds. Thanks to the many generous families in our BT community, we have already raised **\$20,000!!** We hope YOU will help us reach our goal – only \$5,000 to go! If you have not already made a donation, please consider making one today - remember your donation is 100% tax deductible and year-end is quickly approaching. Be on the lookout for an updated Fill Our Pond letter to be distributed later this month with more information.

Bingo Night

We kicked off our fall community-oriented FUNdraisers with a bang at Bingo Night! Enormous thanks to Laura Weiss, Tracey Fitzsimmons, Barbara Butrica and Sharon Tompkins for organizing and running a fabulously fun and successful event! There are two things you can always count on at Bingo Night... it will be loud and it will be a blast! Thanks also go to the parent and student volunteers who helped throughout the evening. And special thanks to Melinda Gray for organizing our parent volunteers and to our fabulous emcee Joan Wolf-Chiaverini. Congratulations to the Verhoeven family for winning

the iPod touch raffle! With the great planning of Laura, Tracey, Barbara and Sharon and the participation of many BTES families, **\$3,200 was raised for our school!**

Original Artwork

Be on the lookout for Original Artwork packets that were sent home in backpacks this week. Please send in your orders as soon as possible before the November 19th deadline. You will receive your child's original artwork turned into a picture on a pillow, a mug, or a mouse pad - to name a few – just in time for holiday gift giving and in plenty of time to ship to non-local family and friends! Note some new items this year include pocket pads, soap/lotion dispensers, wall clocks and luggage spotters!

Book Fair at Bethesda Barnes & Noble

Start your Holiday shopping list now since our next community-oriented FUNdraiser *Hop into a Good Book* is right around the corner. Sharon Curry, Elizabeth Padgett and Rachel Bottone are busy planning what promises to be another successful Book Fair at Barnes & Noble in Bethesda on **Tuesday, December 2nd**. They are busy filling teacher wish lists, scheduling teacher readers and planning other fun events for the day and evening. Please make sure you plan to join us and read the "*Hop into a Good Book*" article on the front page of this *Burning Issues* to learn more!

Dine out at Mamma Lucia, Baja Fresh or Cosi before the Book Fair

You'll probably be in a rush to get to the Book Fair and be tired of cooking after Thanksgiving, so... plan ahead now to take the night off from cooking! On Tuesday, December 2nd, before you head over to the Book Fair, enjoy cuisine from your choice of 3 delicious Bethesda restaurants - **Mamma Lucia, Baja Fresh** or **Cosi**. Note that Mamma Lucia is donating a portion of both dinner and lunch sales. It couldn't be easier to support BTES this day - eat at one of these great restaurants and then just head over to Bethesda Avenue and join us at Barnes & Noble where you can *Hop into a Good Book*. Thanks to Nancy Sandler for organizing this.

Also, thanks SO much to Nancy Sandler for organizing a great Dine-Out at California Tortilla and

Baskin-Robbins last month! And thanks to all the families who participated and helped raise \$369 for BTES!

Shop for Our School

Many thanks to organizer Amy Lenkin and to the 190 families who have already registered their Giant and/or Safeway cards. That's 70 families more than had signed up at this same time last year! This has **already earned BTES \$470!** 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 or contact Amy Lenkin amylenkin@millandlong.com and she will help you with this process.

Schoolpop.Com: Start your holiday shopping early this year and do it online to raise money for BTES! Just about every store you can think of is located here- stores like Sports Authority, Banana Republic, Children's Place, Barnes & 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 online, BTES gets a percentage of the sale. There is NO extra cost to you - and it can add up to BIG bucks for BTES!

Thanks again to all of these committee chairs for their hard work and thanks to all of our BTES families for their support! Please call or email me if you have questions or would like to help with any fundraising event - ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net or 301-365-0543.

Ellie Abramowitz, VP Fundraising

Volunteer thanks

As anyone can tell who drives by Burning Tree these past few weeks, our Landscape and Grounds Committee members have been hard at work. From the Beautify Burning Tree event at the beginning of the month straight through to the Halloween Parade, school has never looked better. A huge thank you is in order for the Co-chairs of Beautify Burning Tree- Pam Janssen and Allison Ellis. Thank you also to those who helped that day Agnes de Gonville, Lisa Baker, Lisa Norwalk, Joe Okon, Amy Brown, Ana Kiron, Christine Brake, Elizabeth Grimsley, Ellen

Mundell, Erin Derik, Kristen Farren, Kirsten Martin, Matt Wells, Michael Taylor, Olivia Lai, Pam Gibbs, Sharon Curry, and Yumiko Miura. A special note of thanks to Pam Janssen, the Landscape and Grounds Committee Chair, who has put so much effort and energy into her job. She has organized the troops to continuously work at keeping the grounds looking great throughout this school year.

A big thank you is in order to the women who helped out in the front office earlier this month. While the secretaries and admins who usually answer our every question and concern (and phone call) were out at a training class, Karen Strause, Sharon Hwang, Joan Wolf and Paloma Bonaplata held down the fort. Thank you so much for making it possible for the women who help us everyday, get the training they need without worrying about their responsibilities in the office.

Thank you to Debby Rubin and Farish Perlman, our Co-Chairs for Lunch Room and Recess Volunteers. They have worked through a lot of hurdles and created a new and much improved on-line calendar for lunch and recess volunteers to work off of. Thanks to Karen van Loon for making that a possibility. The scheduling seems much more efficient and straight forward than ever before. Thank you to Debby and Farish as well for creating the new Guidelines for Volunteers that appears on the PTA Website. Both of these projects took a lot of time, effort and patience to complete.

Elissa Ginsky, VP Volunteers

Big Thank You from School-Based Programs

Joan Wolf-Chiaverini and Vicki Herson: Thank you for organizing, keeping track of registration and making sure they all run smoothly...the After School Programs wouldn't be such a success without you!

Robin Gonzales, Nancy Samit and all their volunteers: The Back to School Picnic was great fun, we all got to meet new people and put names to faces.

Rosanna Morrison: Congrats on the great start of the Creative Writing Club!

Aparna Gude, Patti Klepp and Liza Fues: Merci, Gracias and Xie xie.

Allison Ellis, Santi Karamchetty, Agnes de Gonville, Karen van Loon: Thank you for organizing a colorful International Night. Also a Big

Thank You to all the families who set up a booth, all the children who walked in the parade, and a special thanks to those performing: you were astounding!

Robin Rosenblum: Walk, Robin, Walk! And we will all walk with you!

Book Fair – (continued from page 1)

New this year will be an After School Special at 4:00 with **Think Fun Games** and a **Scavenger Hunt**. Or join us for the BTES favorite, Story Time, with teachers reading aloud from 6-8 pm. All this plus prize drawings and a few surprises will provide distraction for the kids while mom and dad shop.

Finally, we've paired the Book Fair with a choice of three convenient "Dine Out" locations downtown at **Baja Fresh, Cosi, or Mamma Lucia**. Just mention Burning Tree when you order and a portion of your bill will be donated to school. You won't have to fix dinner, so you'll have plenty of time to shop!

The Book Fair committee is working hard to make this a successful day. Keep your eye out for Book Fair news and shopping vouchers in the backpacks, on BTNet, and the PTA website: www.burningtreepta.org. The Book Fair is an easy way to help our PTA raise money and get more books into our school.

Remember the Book Fair runs for **1 Day only** this year, all day 9am-11pm, at Barnes & Noble in Bethesda. Don't forget to use your voucher or mention our school when you pay. Come hop into a good book and leap into learning this holiday season!

Co-Chairs: Sharon Curry, Rachel Bottone and Elizabeth Padgett

FOOTnotes



Our 8th Walk-to-School Day event was a big success, with exactly one more participant than last year – 236 vs. 235!

We had plenty of children wearing green and white and Burning Tree apparel, great weather, plenty of reflectors from the County and terrific healthy snacks from Trader Joe's, who said they'd love to join us again next year. We were also fortunate to have a large group of VITs (very important teachers), including Mr. Wells and Ms. Loftus who led us in warm-up exercises, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Kunst, Mrs. Granof and Mrs. Rosenberg. Many thanks to Sharon Curry, who provided the walk-themed music again this year.



As much fun as it is to get together on Walk-to-School Day, it is important to try to walk whenever you can. The Day is intended to encourage healthy bodies, a healthy environment and pedestrian safety. Leave cars at home when you can, and ask a neighbor to walk with your child when you cannot. Most importantly, teach your children what it means to walk safely – go to www.usa.safekids.org and click on "safety tips" and "pedestrian" to find out how.

As always, if you have suggestions on how to improve Walk-to-School Day, please email me at robin@buypromos.com. Also, if you walked to school last Wednesday – either from my house or from another location -- but never RSVPd, please let me know how many adults and children walked with your group. Thank you!

Robin Rosenblum

After School Activities:

See attached flyer for the myriad after-school activity choices for the children of Burning Tree. Activities include everything from theater and art to yoga, tennis and golf to gymnastics and marital arts and even a program on community spirit. These activities are held at BTES and run from 3:30 – 4:30pm. Dates, information and enrollment form at the back of this *Burning Issues*.

BTES Frog's favorite book is "*Hop on Pop*" by Dr. Seuss

***Burning Issues* is published monthly by the Burning Tree PTA, 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 5.**

