

Burning Issues

President's Message

The Burning Tree Elementary School PTA Bylaws state that our purpose is "to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth, and to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education. " In order to accomplish this, we need your presence. Thanks to all of you who attended the first PTA meeting last week. Please continue to come to the meetings. The PTA Executive Board and Committee Chairs don't want to work in a vacuum. Join the PTA so you can vote at the meetings, which are the first Tuesday night of almost every month. I promise we won't rope you into extra volunteer hours if you come to the meeting. We simply want to hear your opinion! We always provide babysitting, and the business portion of the meetings generally does not go over one hour. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00pm, and after the business portion of the meeting, we'll have a presentation by Mrs. Erdrich on the math program at Burning Tree. I would like to thank everyone who has an active voice in the PTA, because it does make a difference to our kids.

Sincerely,
Lisa Sanfuentes, Burning Tree PTA President

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 Jan Hauck (301-469-7790 edhauck3@aol.com).

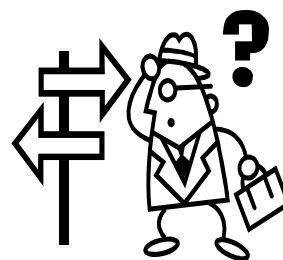
Burning Tree Handbook and Directory

All data from the new-student/changed information forms have been entered into the system. An e-mail has been sent out to all families currently in the directory, with the request to check the information, and e-mail us back with corrections.

If you did NOT get that e-mail, it means you are NOT in the directory (OR we have an incorrect e-mail address for you)! Please contact us immediately (karenvanloon@verizon.net) so that we can enter/correct your information. The deadline for all corrections and/or adding information is September 19 (carved in stone).

Thank You!

Marci Ruderman, Marijn Verhoeven
Karen van Loon



What is 235?

See page 4 to find out!

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Putting the FUN in FUNdraising...

Did you know that a majority of the fundraising programs at Burning Tree Elementary School are FUN, friend and family-oriented events? Whether you help organize these events or participate in them, or both, they are a great way to get more involved in the Burning Tree community. AND, they are critical to raising funds for the many special programs we have here at Burning Tree. Thanks to the hard work of BTES's former VP of Fundraising, Cindy Campbell, last years fundraising program co-chairs, and of course your donations and PTA dues, this year the PTA will purchase new science equipment, state of the art equipment for the gym, classroom whiteboards and teacher supplies like paper cutters and die-cut tools.

Below is a list of our 2008-2009 fundraisers, the dates, co-chairs and a brief description of each event. Please mark your calendars now and plan to get involved! If you have questions, or would like to help with these events, please contact me (ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net or 301-365-0543) and I can forward your email to the appropriate co-chair. Thanks in advance for your involvement!

Ellie Abramowitz, VP of Fundraising,

"Fill Our Pond" Fundraising Campaign

On-Going; Cocktail Parties on March 21st

Co-Chairs: Erin Deric, Surya Shah, and Julie Garcia

This is Burning Tree's largest fundraiser! This year it is replacing the annual Adult Fundraiser, an adults-only event where BT parents bid at the silent and live auctions on items donated by local businesses and the BT community. In the beginning of the year, parents are asked to make a donation to the PTA as part of our check-writing campaign. On March 21st, join Burning Tree parents and staff at an adults-only party held at the homes of Burning Tree families. Enjoy delicious food, good company, a chance to bid on the ever popular teacher and staff outings, and if you haven't already made a donation, do so that evening!

Sally Foster Gift Wrap Sale

Wednesday, September 17th to Friday, October 10th

Co-Chairs: Jamie Pierce and Kristen Farren

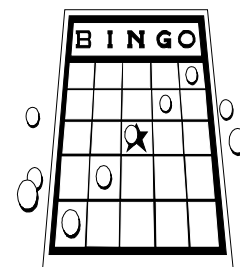
Our biggest fall fundraiser begins next week! Burning Tree gets 50% of all Sally Foster sales, so

please support BTES by buying and selling Sally Foster! Please read "Sally Foster Raises Funds for BT!" in this newsletter to learn more about this current fundraiser.

Bingo Night

Friday, November 7th

Co-Chairs: Laura Weiss, Tracey Fitzsimmons, Barb Butrica and Sharon Tompkins



This is a fun-filled community activity for Burning Tree families! Bring the family to Pyle Middle School where you and your kids can play several rounds of Bingo with other BT families and your kids can win lots of cool prizes! Come hungry- Armand's Pizza will supply lots of their delicious food!

Original Artwork

November

Co-Chairs: Britta Battaile and Marianne Katinas

We'll turn your child's original artwork into a picture on a pillow, a mug, or a luggage tag - to name a few - and then we'll all see the proceeds grow for BTES! These make perfect keepsakes as well as wonderful holiday gifts.

Book Fair

Tuesday, December 2nd, 9am - 11pm

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

For one day only, Barnes & Noble in Bethesda will donate a percentage of their sales to the BTES PTA. (Note that this year differs from the past when the fair lasted for a week.) This is the perfect place to start your holiday shopping, with Barnes & Noble's wide selection of adult and children's books and gift items. And make sure to start your evening at our "Dine Outs" - choose from Mama Lucia, Baja Fresh and Cosi in Bethesda, where they will also donate a percentage of their proceeds to BTES!

Dine Out With Burning Tree

October 21st - California Tortilla in Cabin John;
December 2nd - Mama Lucia, Baja Fresh and Cosi in Bethesda; February 18th - bd's Mongolian Barbeque

in Bethesda; April 21st and 22nd - Ledo Pizza on River Road

Co-Chair: Nancy Sandler

Leave the cooking to someone else for a night! Dine out with other Burning Tree families at area restaurants who will donate a percentage of that night's proceeds to Burning Tree.

Spring Fair

Saturday, May 16th

Co-Chairs: Tami Chambers

Looking for a fun way to spend the day with the kids?

Then head on over to Burning Tree's annual Spring Fair. There's so much to do for children of all ages – an inflatable obstacle course, a moon

bounce, slip 'n slide, lots of prizes and carnival games, crafts, and lots of yummy food and desserts. A fun-filled day when BTES is turned into a carnival! There are still some volunteer opportunities available – please contact Ellie Abramowitz if you are interested.



School Spirit Shop

On-Going

Co-Chair: Laura Weiss

Shop at the August Open House and other specified days at our School Spirit Shop, whose proceeds go to BTES. Items for sale include spirit items like tee-shirts and sweat shirts, important supplies like pencils and school planners and of course the ever-important PTA calendar which lists important school events and holidays.

Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25th

Co-Chairs: Lisa Baker and Mary Kunst

Make your yard beautiful and at the same time help out the Burning Tree PTA! Buy your spring and summer annuals at this fundraiser. The plant sale offers the highest quality plants and flowers for less than area nurseries charge, and your purchases benefit our school!

Shop For Our School

(Giant/Safeway/Target/SchoolPop)

On-Going

Co-Chair: Amy Lenkin

PLEASE read the related article in this Newsletter to learn more about these programs.

Sally Foster Raises Funds for BT!

Looking for a quick and easy way to support Burning Tree? Then look in your Sally Foster catalog coming home soon in your child's backpack! 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 great things for yourself too!

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! Sally Foster offers high-quality wrapping paper and there are dozens of all-occasion and holiday gift-wrap patterns in this year's catalog. But don't stop there. Sally Foster has LOTS of beautiful gift items for adults and children, including bath and beauty products, kitchen essentials 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 10th)! QUESTIONS? Contact Jamie Pierce 301-320-6801 Jamiemaray@yahoo.com or Kristen Farren 301-229-2472 farrens5@comcast.net.

Creative Writing Club Begins on October 14

The Burning Tree Creative Writing Club welcomes poets, novelists, mystery writers, and humorists in 3rd through 5th grade.

We meet every other Tuesday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. starting on October 14. Club members are given the opportunity to write poems, short stories, songs, puzzles, and more, and we publish a magazine



in the spring. The club is led by Rosanna Morrison, a Burning Tree mom, and Mrs. Flicker. The club is limited to 24 students. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations are sent out in the Thursday Update in mid-September. Questions? Call Rosanna Morrison, 301-469-5949.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Thank you to all the volunteers & their kids who helped set up, serve & cleanup at the first Staff Appreciation Luncheon of the school year. We would also like to thank all the families who so generously donated drinks. The staff had a wonderful time!

*Kathy Chelst, Beth Martino, Anne Ruskowski
Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs*

What is 235?

Those of you who are not new to Burning Tree might remember that this was the number of walkers we had last year to celebrate International Walk-to-School Day. Can we beat it this year?

This year, we will walk together on Wednesday, October 8. Bus riders, kiss-and-riders walkers and younger siblings are all welcome to join us (children must be accompanied by an adult). The County will again provide safety-related giveaways for the kids.

This is a great opportunity to meet other families, get exercise, teach pedestrian safety and help protect the environment, all of which are goals of Walk-to-School Day.

Look for details in the coming weeks. See you October 8!

FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary Schools) Registration due September 12

Registration forms have gone out for FLES classes in French, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. FLES is a unique and exciting language and culture program sponsored by Burning Tree's PTA. Let your K through 5th grade child experience the adventure of learning another language at an early age! Native speakers from around the world teach fun, lively classes. Children talk, play-act, imitate, play games and sing - completely immersing themselves in the foreign language. And there's no homework! Come join the fun before and after school. If you did not receive a form,

Please go to the website, www.BurningTreePTA.org. Go down to FLES and click on the age group appropriate to your child. For more information, please contact:

French - Aparna Gude -- apagude@yahoo.com, 301-320-3431

Chinese - Liza Fues -- fues@verizon.net, 301-320-0917

Spanish -Patti Klepp -- pb.klepp@verizon.net, 301-320-0029

Join Your PTA Today

If you haven't joined the PTA already, please do it now! We already have 280 BT families who have sent their membership forms, along with their contributions. Our goal is 100% participation!

None of our educational and fun programs like Science Fair, Lunch with a Scientist, Cultural Arts, International Night, Arts Festival, and Spring Fair could be done without your support. Further, PTA fundraising activities help fund many important programs at BT, including the purchase of books and equipment for the Media Center, science equipment and extra supplies for our kids' classrooms. In previous years, the PTA funded the purchase of new computers, an extra copy machine for the school office, gym equipment, and much more. We encourage you to send your membership form and dues as soon as possible, and help the PTA anyway you can. As part of your membership, you will receive in October the indispensable Burning Tree Directory with addresses, phone numbers and other valuable information. Also, as a member, you can vote at all PTA meetings and benefit from special discounts and fundraising opportunities offered exclusively for PTA members – www.pta.org/benefits.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (301) 229-4286.

Katerina Papaioannou, PTA Membership

From School Based

A VERY big "Thank You" to Julie Zebrak and Sujata Pasic for running the Kindergarten and New Family-to-Family programs so absolutely brilliantly.

Karen van Loon

THANK YOU

Beautify Burning Tree

Please join us for a wonderful morning outdoors on October 4th 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bring the whole family - and friends and neighbors too! All ages and levels of experience welcome- we have plenty of jobs for everyone! We rely on volunteers to mulch, prune and weed our grounds, so please do your part - and have fun at the same time! Watch for more details in the weekly *Thursday Update*, or contact Pamela Janssen (pamela@janssenbrown.net).

Join the Intercultural Committee!

Our first order of business this school year is to determine what holidays should be placed on the Burning Tree PTA Calendar. We want to make sure we list all appropriate religious holidays for our community. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Aisha Ahmad at aishaahmadJD@gmail.com or 301-263-9460.

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:

Lisa Sanfuentes 301-320-6214

Cindy Campbell 301-469-0252

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, October 3.**

----- End of *Burning Issues* – Advertisements and Flyers follow -----

Come Join the Cub Scouts!



**Cub Scout Pack 817
Invites Boys Grades 1-5
to it's annual**



Join Scouting Night Ice Cream Social

Friday, September 19th

7:00pm-8:30pm



at Burning Tree Elementary School
in the Multipurpose Room

Contact Mike Schecter at mschecter@yahoo.com for details

First and Second Graders especially needed!!

This information on the Cub Scouts is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, the PTA or this school.



Burning Tree Library Book Gift Form

Please fill in this form as you wish the information to appear on the bookplate:

Donated by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Special interest areas of honoree, if known: _____

Donated by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Special interest areas of honoree, if known: _____

Donated by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Special interest areas of honoree, if known: _____

Please find my check or money order made payable to Burning Tree PTA for \$_____ (\$20.00 minimum) to purchase book(s) for the Burning Tree Media Center.

Person responsible for payment: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please return this form in an envelope marked **“Media Center.”**
Thank you for your donation to the Burning Tree Library Book Gift Program.

Shop for Our School....

Want to make a financial contribution to BTES without spending a dime?

Many of the places that you already shop at will donate a percentage of your purchase to BTES and our sister school, Broad Acres. These programs don't cost you a thing and if every BTES family participated BTES could earn thousands of dollars! Please don't miss out on this easy way to financially support our school! Read below and see how easy it is to sign up and participate...

Schoolpop.com—Just about every store you can think of is located here- stores like Sports Authority, Banana Republic, Children's Place, Barnes and 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 on line, BTES gets a percentage of the sale. There is NO extra cost to you- and it can add up to BIG bucks for BT! Attach the Schoolpop reminder to your computer to remember to shop there.

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks— Register at Giant or on www.giantfood.com/aplus and every time you buy groceries BTES will get a percentage! You can register up to three schools and Giant will divide the contributions. BTES's code is #666; you can also help Broad Acres by entering #867 as a second school. Remember, even if you designated your school(s) last year, YOU MUST REDESIGNATE AGAIN THIS YEAR. (You can also fill out the SHOP FOR OUR SCHOOL...Giant A+ BonusBucks Program flyer on the PTA website and Amy Lenkin will register for you!)

Safeway eScrip— Earn money for BTES by signing up for eScrip and registering your Safeway card. Register at www.escrip.com and specify BTES (#6480304). Broad Acres school number is 151722171.

Shop on-line at eScrip.com—Earn up to 10%, or more, when you shop at the eScrip OnLine Mall. Make your online shopping count! Go to the eScrip Online Mall at www.escrip.com to see all of the great stores that participate!

Target Take Charge of Education Visa Card—Do you use a credit card that doesn't give you anything back? Get a Target Visa card and a portion of your charges will be donated to BTES! Application forms for the card are available at Target stores and at www.target.com.

For more information contact Amy Lenkin at 301-365-4123 or by e-mail at amylenkin@millerandlong.com.