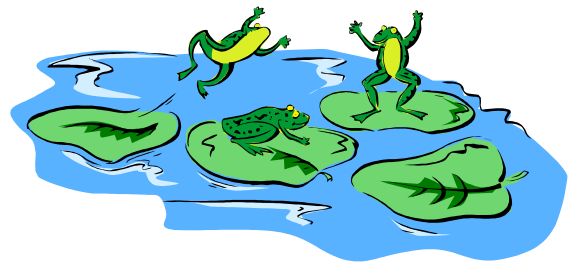


Burning Tree PTA
Fill Our Pond Campaign



March 11, 2010

Dear Burning Tree Families,

Would your child love to have dinner with his or her classroom teacher? Go to Dave and Buster's with Mrs. Whalen or watch the Washington Mystics practice with Ms. Loftus? How about being principal or assistant principal for a day?

Then you'll want to bid on these and other outings and items to be auctioned at the upcoming Fill Our Pond party, set for Saturday, March 20, 7:30-10:30 p.m., at the home of Julie and Jon Garcia, 8517 Beech Tree Road in Bethesda. At the party, you'll have a chance to mingle with friends, teachers, and staff and get to bid on a variety of fun and exciting teacher and staff donations through a sealed-bid auction.

Attached are details on how to bid as well as a complete list of the staff outings and other auction items. As you'll see, there are all kinds of great opportunities for your child to spend some special time with a favorite teacher or staff member outside of school—plus a few to appeal to grownups too!

If you haven't yet told us you're coming to the party, please don't delay! You can return the RSVP card included in the invitation sent home with your child, or send a message to FillOurPond@aol.com. If you cannot come to the party, you can still bid. Just follow the attached instructions.

Let the bidding begin!

Best Regards,

Cristina Arumi, Elise Browne Hughes, Julie Garcia, Lisa Lerner, Lisa Norwalk
Fill Our Pond Co-Chairs

2010 Fill Our Pond TEACHER/STAFF OUTINGS & OTHER AUCTION ITEMS

KINDERGARTEN:

Join the kindergarten teachers at Build-A-Bear to pick out one Lil' Bear and two accessories. Teachers participating: Ms. Backenstoe, Ms. Bernstein, Ms. Choe, and Ms. Merritt. (1 winner per class: high bidder)

FIRST GRADE:

Celebrate summer with a pool/pizza party at Mrs. Friedman's house! Hang out with the first-grade teachers, swim, play water games, and enjoy some yummy pizza on a weekday afternoon in June to be determined. (Sorry, but due to space and safety considerations, the party is for the auction winners only; please don't bring along a friend.) Teachers participating: Ms. Askin, Ms. Carone, Ms. Friedman, Ms. Lopez, and Ms. Wolny. (2 winners per class: high bidder and random bidder)

SECOND GRADE:

Join the second grade teachers for an afternoon of fun with ceramics at All Fired Up. A total of six students—one from each teacher's homeroom class plus one from Mrs. Rhodes's reading/writing group—will each choose a piece of pottery and paint it to their heart's content on a date in May to be determined. Teachers participating: Ms. Curry, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Evans, Ms. Kiviat, Mrs. Rhodes, and Ms. Salcetti. (1 winner per class or reading group: high bidder)

THIRD GRADE:

Join the third grade teachers at California Pizza Kitchen at Montgomery Mall on a mutually agreeable date to be determined. Teachers participating: Ms. Hill, Ms. Levenstein, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Walker. (2 winners per homeroom classroom: high bidder and random bidder)

FOURTH GRADE:

The fourth grade winners will dine with their teacher. We'd love for you to join us for dinner at Mongolian BBQ—special treat included! It will be a blast, so come grab a seat! Teachers participating: Ms. Granof, Ms. Jones, Ms. Kunst, and Ms. Whitby. (2 winners per homeroom classroom: high bidder and random bidder)

FIFTH GRADE:

Come for bowling and dinner with your fifth grade teacher! It will be a fun night to remember. Teachers participating: Ms. Driscoll, Ms. Flicker, Ms. O'Donnell, and Ms. Shapiro. (2 winners per homeroom class: high bidder and random bidder)

MS. STEIN:

The winning student and two friends in any grade will join Ms. Stein, a 2nd grade paraeducator (and 4th grade mom), for a couple of hours of fun at Chuck E. Cheese on a mutually convenient date and time. Pizza, tokens, and drinks included; you supply the transportation for the students to and from the Rockville Chuck E. Cheese. (1 winner: high bidder)

MS. PARROTT:

Like to draw? Then you'll love these after-school lessons for you and one friend on any drawing skill you would like to learn. The highest bidder among the 4th and 5th graders gets two half-hour lessons, and the random bidder—who can be in any grade—will receive one half-hour lesson. (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

MS. SIEGEL:

You and a friend will head out to Georgetown Cupcake with Ms. Siegel to pick out a yummy after-school treat. Will it be chocolate, vanilla, red velvet, or one of the specialty flavors?!? Ms. Siegel and the winners will agree on a date. (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

MR. HART:

Get a one-hour private music lesson on the instrument of your choice (band or orchestra) with Mr. Hart. The winning student can choose from a variety of music styles including classical, jazz, rock, or bluegrass. (1 winner: high bidder)

MS. LOFTUS:

Golfing Fun—Ms. Loftus will take you and a friend of your choice for an afternoon of golf at a local driving range. Date and time will be agreed upon mutually. (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

Washington Mystics Practice—One adult and three children will get an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at the WNBA Washington Mystics. Physical Education teacher Ms. Loftus and group will attend a practice at the Verizon Center during the summer season. Time and date to be determined in consultation with Mystics Management. (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

T-Shirt Design and Screen Print Experience—Ms. Loftus will work with the winning student to design a T-shirt on the computer, and then help him/her print the shirt at SOOZN Design & Print's workshop. Date and time will be agreed upon mutually. (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

MRS. WHALEN:

Build Your Bear—Ready for a big “bear hug”? Mrs. Whalen will take you and a friend to Build-A-Bear (at Montgomery Mall). After we make our bears, we’ll go to the food court for something to eat. We’ll have a “beary” good time! (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

Gaming Afternoon—It’s time for some laughs and lots of fun! Mrs. Whalen will take you and a friend of your choice to Dave and Buster’s to eat, play games, and have a great time together! (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

THE SPECIALISTS:

You and a friend of your choice will enjoy food for thought with the specialists—Ms. Finberg, Mrs. Grossman, Mrs. Richter, and Mrs. Shaffer. We will go out for lunch and then take a trip to the bookstore to select a book to take home! (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

MRS. BARRY:

Librarian for the Day (for grades K-2)—Assist Mrs. Barry during your Media class time. Sit in the rocking chair, check out books using the barcode scanner, stamp some book due dates, and read a story to the class. Souvenir photos will highlight this day. (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

Library Lunch (for grades 3-5)—You and three friends will enjoy a pizza lunch in the Media Center on a date to be determined. The winning student will also receive a book selected for him or her by Mrs. Barry. (2 winners: high bidder and random bidder)

MS. SHaub: Pet Sitter Extraordinaire!

Our fabulous, multitalented administrative secretary, Ms. Shaub, will watch your house and/or pets for a weekend AND will have fresh baked cookies waiting for you upon your return! (1 winner: high bidder)

ALICE IN WONDERLAND:

Front-row seats!—Want to be sure you’re up-close and personal at Burning Tree’s upcoming production of *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*? Thanks to Ms. Siegel, Mrs. Erdrich, and Mr. Tark, the winners will each receive a pair of reserved front-row tickets to one of the performances on Friday, April 30, or Saturday, May 1. (4 winners: the two highest bidders and two random bidders)

MRS. ERDRICH:

Principal for a Day—Spend the day making decisions, answering questions, observing teachers, solving student problems, and all the other things that a principal does. Invite a friend to join you and Mrs. Erdrich for lunch. The winning students will experience what it is like to have the rewarding job of being principal of Burning Tree. (3 winners: the high bidder from grades K-2, the high bidder from grades 3-5, and one random bidder from all grades)

An “Artful” Experience with Mrs. Erdrich and Mrs. Finch (for grades K-2)—You and two friends are invited for a 1½ -hour art lesson. You’ll learn techniques that real artists use: how to think like an artist, how to properly use the materials, and how to create something that is truly a “masterpiece.” (Did you know that Mrs. Finch is a *real* artist?) The students will then take their art materials home so they can continue their work. (3 winners: two highest bidders and a random bidder)

An “Artful” Experience with Mrs. Erdrich and Mrs. Finch (for grades 3-5)—You and two friends are invited for a 2-hour art lesson. You’ll learn techniques that real artists use: how to think like an artist, how to properly use the materials, and how to create something that is truly a “masterpiece.” (Did you know that Mrs. Finch is a *real* artist?) The students will then take their art materials home so they can continue their work. (3 winners: two highest bidders and a random bidder)

MR. TARK:

Soccer Camp—What does Mr. Tark do when he is not at Burning Tree? He is defending goal for his soccer team! He has been playing soccer for 25 years and has also coached several youth teams. Mr. Tark will give you and five of your friends a 1½-hour soccer lesson. Not only will you get to spend time with your favorite assistant principal but you will also learn valuable soccer strategy. (2 winners: the high bidder from grades K-2 and the high bidder from grades 3-5)

Assistant Principal for a Day—Spend the day making decisions, answering questions, observing teachers, solving student discipline problems, and all the other things that an assistant principal does. Make a souvenir photo album of your day and end with a treat with Mr. Tark. (3 winners: the high bidder from grades K-2, the high bidder from grades 3-5, and one random bidder from all grades)

How to Bid on the Staff Outings/Auction Items

Staff outings and other auction items will be awarded in a “sealed-bid” silent auction and raffle. Please follow these steps to place a bid:

1. Complete and sign the official bid form available at the auction table on the evening of the Fill Our Pond celebration. (If you will not be at the event, please follow the instructions below for placing an absentee bid.) There is a minimum bid of \$20 and it costs nothing to place a bid, unless you win. In the past, these outings have gone for \$20 to more than \$400 each.
2. Fold the bid form in half and give it to the volunteer working at the auction table. He or she will put it in the appropriate auction envelope.
3. The winners will be selected after the bidding closes at 9:30 p.m., and results will be posted at approximately 10:30 p.m., possibly later. Payment is by cash or check only.
4. The number and type of winners is listed for each outing/item. The high bidder is just that—the person placing the highest bid for a given item/outing. (In the event of a tie for the high bid, the winner will be chosen by lottery.) The random bidder will be randomly selected from all of those who have bid on an item/outing and will pay whatever he or she has committed to pay.

Placing an Absentee Bid

If you cannot attend the Fill Our Pond party you can still place a bid! Here are three ways to do so:

1. Send an email to absenteebid@gmail.com by midnight on Friday, March 19. In your email, include the following information for each item on which you are bidding:
 - the name of the auction item/outing,
 - your bid amount (the amount you agree to pay if you win),
 - your name,
 - your student’s name and grade,
 - your phone number and email address, and
 - the words: “I have read and understand the bidding rules. If I win an item, I will promptly pay.”
2. Complete an Absentee Bid Form (on the back of this page) for each item on which you are bidding and send to school in an envelope marked “Fill Our Pond Party—Absentee Bid” by Friday, March 19, at noon.
3. Ask a friend who will be there to place your bid for you.

In all instances, you will be notified by Wednesday, March 24, if you have won.

General Bidding Rules

1. There is a minimum bid of \$20 for each staff outing or other auction item.
2. A bid will not be considered valid if the bid form or absentee bid form is not filled out completely and legibly, or if the absentee bid by email does not include all requested information.
3. You may place one bid per item per student. You may place an additional bid to increase the amount of your previous bid, but only the larger bid will be entered when selecting the random winner (if applicable). In the event that more than one bid is entered by an individual, the larger bid will stand.
4. Bidders will not be able to check the amounts of other bids at any time.
5. Winning bidders can pay by cash or check only. (No credit cards accepted.)