

Fill Our Pond Campaign and Cocktail Party: *Frequently Asked Questions....*



What is the Fill Our Pond Campaign? The Burning Tree “Fill Our Pond” campaign is a check-writing campaign whereby we raise funds for our PTA through a combination of donations and a silent auction for the very popular teacher and staff outings. This is our second year for doing this type of campaign which has proven successful for many public schools in our area.

What is the Fill Our Pond Cocktail Party? We are having a party where BTES parents and staff can mingle in a relaxed and informal setting. Light hors d’oeuvres, desserts and drinks will be served. We will again have bidding available on the much sought after teacher and staff outings (see below). The party will be held at the lovely home of BTES parents Julie and Jon Garcia (8517 Beech Tree Road) on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 7:30-10:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person to help cover the cost of food and beverages. The dress code is festive casual.

What about donations to the Fill Our Pond Campaign? We are excited about and very appreciative of the positive response we have received toward the check-writing campaign thus far. We are well on our way to reaching our financial goal but we’re not there yet and *we need the help of every family in our BT community*. To date, we have had about 30% participation from Burning Tree families. Thank you very much to those of you who have already made a contribution to the “Fill Our Pond” campaign! If you have not yet made a donation, we hope you will consider writing a check today - no matter how big or small – or you may do so personally at the event.

Why do we need a check writing campaign? This major annual fundraiser raises nearly *half* of our PTA budget! The PTA pays for many of Burning Tree’s important programs such as International Night, the Science Fair and Cultural Arts Programs as well as Professional Development programs for our teachers and staff. Your support will enable BTES to continue to allocate funds for its ambitious educational programs, and state of the art equipment and materials. The PTA also purchases needed equipment and supplies for the school and classrooms such as computers and books. One of our goals for this year is to continue to update our school’s technology.

What are teacher/staff outings? Each year, teachers and staff donate wonderful “outings” for Burning Tree students. This is a time for your child to spend some special time with a favorite teacher or other staff member outside of the regular school day. A list of these outings is included with this pamphlet and will also be included in an upcoming BTNET and Weekly Update. Copies will also be available at the party.

How do I bid on teacher/staff outings? At the party, these outings will be auctioned off in a “sealed bid” silent auction. There is a minimum bid of \$20, and of course it costs nothing to place a bid. The winners for each item will be selected after the bidding closes at 9:30 pm. And will be announced at approximately 10:30 p.m. In most cases, there will be two winners for each donation: the highest bidder and a randomly-selected winner. The number and type of winners will be listed for each auction item. Winners do not need to be present to win. Further information about how to place a bid will be sent home with the staff outings list, and will also be available at the party.

What if I can’t go to the party but still want to bid on the teacher/staff outings? Directions on how to place an absentee bid page (including directions on how to place an absentee bid) will be included with the staff outings list and will also be distributed on BTNET. You may also ask a friend who is attending to place bids for you. You will be notified mid-week if you have won.

Do we need volunteers? We have had a great response to our call for volunteers, however, there are still a few opportunities remaining! All of the volunteer “jobs” are available in half-hour shifts during the party (or feel free to volunteer longer!). If you are interested in helping on that night, please contact Christina Arumi at acarumi@hhlaw.com .

Who do I contact with questions? Please feel free to contact any of the co-chairs with questions: Julie Garcia (juliegarcia@aol.com); Ellie Abramowitz (ellie.abramowitz@verizon.net); Cindy Campbell (campbellhannegan@comcast.net); Elise Brown Hughes (browne.hughes@gmail.com); Christina Arumi (acarumi@hhlaw.com); Lisa Norwalk (lnorwalk@gmail.com) or Lisa Lerner (lislerner68@yahoo.com). We hope to see you there!