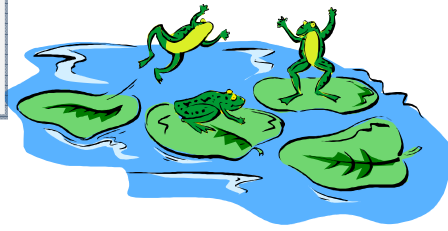


Fill Our Pond Fundraising Campaign



Dear Burning Tree Family,

For many years, the Burning Tree Elementary School PTA has held a variety of events to raise money for activities and purchases that benefit our school community. Your financial contributions to the PTA through these fundraisers make a significant difference for our children and help enrich their academic experience at BTES. Your contributions are used to purchase books for the media center and provide teachers with funds to attend enrichment seminars and purchase special items for their classrooms. In addition, annual programs such as International Night, the Science Fair, artists-in-residence programs and cultural arts assemblies would not be possible without the critical financial support of the BT community.

This year there will be a change in how you can contribute to our school. Instead of holding the Adult Fundraiser /Auction, we are kicking off the Burning Tree “Fill Our Pond” Fundraising Campaign. In addition to this check writing campaign, we will continue to have our other popular fundraising events such as the Sally Foster gift wrap sale, Bingo Night and the Book Fair.

Why a check writing campaign? Why not an auction this year? It began with many parents who asked whether they could “just write a check” during some of our fundraising efforts. In addition, the auction, while popular and effective as a fundraiser, requires literally hundreds of volunteer hours and months of preparation. As you might imagine, a check writing campaign is easier to administer and has proven successful for many public schools in our area. **The auction normally provides nearly 50% of the PTA budget and has brought in almost \$30,000 each year. We hope to raise a similar amount with your support of our check writing campaign.**

In addition to funding important programs for our children, the auction provides an enjoyable opportunity for BTES parents, teachers and staff to gather outside of a school setting. We therefore plan to maintain a social, adults-only element by hosting an informal gathering in March where our BTES community can socialize, and also still bid on the ever popular teacher and staff outings.

The financial contribution we are now seeking will allow us to continue to fund programs like the ones listed above and even more. Some of the items that your contributions have recently purchased or will purchase this coming school year include:

- Digital equipment for the Media Center
- New science equipment, including microscopes, prepared slides and magnifying glasses
- State of the art equipment for the gym, a new playground and climbing walls
- The new mural near the gym
- Conversion of all blackboards to whiteboards in the classrooms
- New paint and furniture in the lobby
- A portable air conditioner
- Teacher supplies like paper cutters and die-cut tools

Please take a moment today, while you are filling out your PTA and school forms, to fill in the Contribution Form on the reverse page and write your check to “BTES PTA – Fill Our Pond”. Keep in mind that the ticket price alone of the Adult Fundraiser is usually \$50/person. The financial contributions we are now seeking are tax-deductible and 100% of your donation goes to fund programs that benefit our children and our school.

Thank you for your continued support of BTES!

Sincerely,

Lisa Sanfuentes
PTA President

Cindy Campbell
PTA President- elect

Burning Tree Elementary School 2008 "Fill Our Pond" Campaign

Confidential Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name(s) of Child(ren) **Grade**

Please check your confidential level*:

Lily Pad	_____	\$50
Water Hyacinth	_____	\$75
BT Frog	_____	\$100
BT Bull Frog	_____	\$250
Prince	_____	\$500 and above
	_____	Other

You can:

Mail your check to Burning Tree, along with the other PTA forms

Bring it to school at the August 26th open house

Send it to school via your child's backpack

Please remember to label your check and the envelope "Fill Our Pond"

Thank you for your continued support of BTES. If you have any questions or would like to be involved with the fundraising campaign, please contact Erin Deric, ErinDeric@yahoo.com, Julie Garcia, JulieGarcia@aol.com, or Surya Shah, SuryahShah@ix.netcom.com.

**The names of donors and the donation amount will not be made public.*