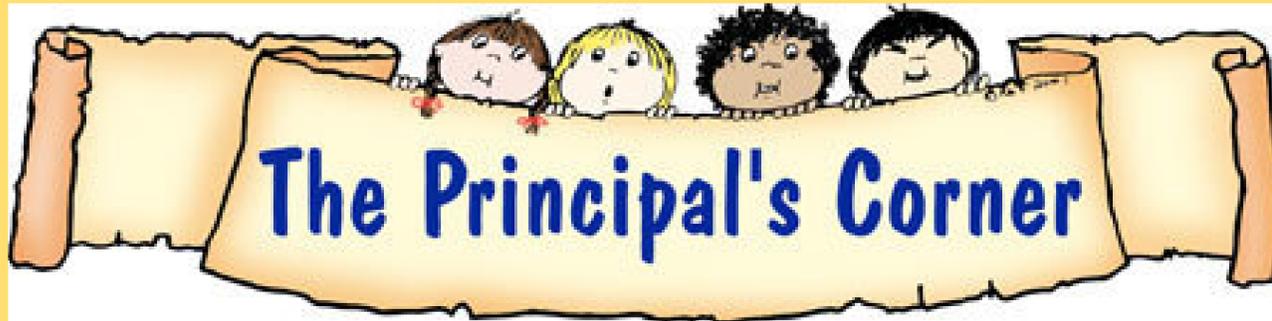




Burning Tree Elementary School



Dear Burning Tree Families,

This is the month that we give thanks and reflect on everything in our lives in which we are thankful. Our leadership team is so thankful for our well organized parents, the partnership between staff and teachers and for the caring support we see daily for our community members.

The picture days were a huge success. We had 371 students show for their class portrait on these beautiful sunny days. Information about how to select and purchase your pictures can be found in this month's newsletter. I would like to send a shout out to our amazing PTA for providing bagels, muffins, and bottled water for staff on student materials pick up day. This was a very kind and much appreciated gesture.

The PTA welcomed back Phyllis Fagell, who presented an interactive session on how best to support our children during these challenging and unknown times. The session was well attended by both BTES and Leleck families and included real-time Spanish translation. Mrs. Fagell shared some great ideas and strategies to support our children. Thank you to everyone who attended!

I am looking forward to moving into marking period two which will begin on Tuesday, November 10th. One of the most important events this month is parent conferences. More than ever, we rely on your partnership to see how your child is able to engage in the work during virtual learning. We want to ensure that all of our students are able to have a productive school year where they can learn and thrive. Your input and supports are crucial.

In closure, I am so thankful to be working among a wonderful and professional staff and I am blessed to have found a wonderful, supporting, and welcoming community. I am honored to be your Principal.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR UPDATES

- No School on the following dates: November 3, 4, 9, 26, and 27, 2020
- November 6, end of marking period 1
- November 10 first day of marking period 2
- November 24 Report cards
- November 23 - 25, 2020 - Parent Conferences / Early Release Days
- HAPPY THANKSGIVING November 26



**Mary Kunst
Team Leader**

This is my twentieth year of teaching and my eighteenth year here at The Tree. I love 4th graders and have spent the majority of my time teaching at this grade level. While teaching was not my original career - I spent the first part of my professional life as a buyer for a large (now defunct) department store - I have never regretted my decision to leave the business world. Each day, even with teaching online, I am reminded how lucky I am to be doing something that I absolutely love and feel so passionate about. There's nothing that brings me more joy than working with my students and watching them grow. I feel fortunate to be a part of such an amazing school community and working with such a supportive group of parents and fellow staff members.

I have 2 children, my son who is 24 and my daughter, age 21. I am also lucky enough to be married for almost 29 years to my best friend, my husband. We are a proud UMD Terp family and follow all of Maryland's sports closely. In our spare time, my husband and I enjoy gardening, reading, hiking, cooking, traveling to sunny places, and spending time with family and friends.

While this year is certainly different for all of us, I'm looking forward to another great year working with my students and their families.

November 2020

This month meet our fabulous 4th grade team of dedicated professionals.



Heather Whitby

Over the years you may have seen me around the halls of Burning Tree. This is my 22nd year teaching the fourth grade at Burning Tree. I grew up in a military family and moved around quite a bit when I was younger, which helped to foster my love of learning. I was born in Japan and I have lived in many places in the U.S. and overseas including, Maine, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Spain, and Canada. I graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. While at St. Mary's I took Human Development classes and had an opportunity to work with students in elementary schools in St. Mary's County. It was there that I developed a love for teaching. I love to help others learn and discover new things. After completing my studies at St. Mary's College of Maryland, I went on to the University of Maryland at College Park where I earned my degree in Elementary Education.

My goal is to help foster students intellectual curiosity and instill a love of learning. When I'm not at school, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I love to travel and explore new places. I love sports and played both soccer and lacrosse when I was younger. Today I am a big fan of the Baltimore Ravens. I'm looking forward to exciting adventures ahead at Burning Tree this year.



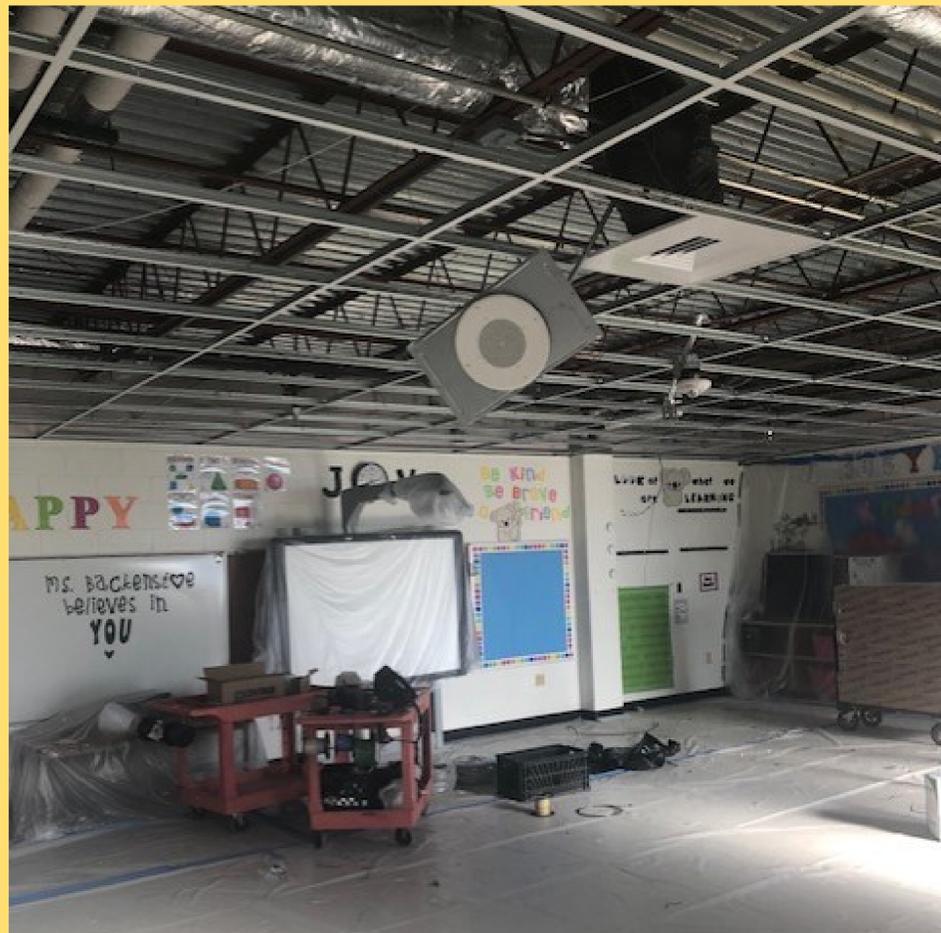
Scott Sutton

I am very excited to have joined the Burning Tree Community this year! This is my first official year as a teacher and I have already loved every minute I have spent "in the classroom." I have been a lifelong resident of MCPS and have attended public schools here from 1st through 12th grade. I graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a Bachelors degree in English and a Masters degree in Elementary Education. In my free time, I like to read and go on hikes in the woods or up mountains. I am an avid basketball fan, but my favorite sport to play is volleyball. I also have two cats named Donut and Avery who love to watch me play video games and who like to get into as much trouble as possible! The Burning Tree community has been so kind and welcoming thus far, so I can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds.



Sam Kratz

I come to you with extensive teaching experience specifically in special education. I have over 20 years of experience including Baltimore County Public Schools, Kennedy Krieger Partnership Project, The Children's Guild School, and Department of Defense School System to name a few. I have been active with Special Olympics, Commission on Disabilities and have conducted numerous workshops in the field of behavior management and inclusive practices. I have been married for 25 years and have three boys. I enjoys running, swimming and spending time with my family.



Construction Update

We have so many projects and updates going on at BTES! Our newest project just started on Monday 11/2/20. We are getting all of our lighting and ceilings upgraded school wide! This will create a huge energy savings and will allow us to have clean and fresh ceiling tiles and structures throughout the building. We hope to have the project fully completed by December 31, 2020.

November

- ▶ Aviation month
- ▶ American Diabetes Awareness month
- ▶ National Stamp Collecting month
- ▶ National Peanut Butter Lovers month

Parent Tips for participation in Teacher conference

1. Be on time
2. Honor your time so that other families are not waiting
3. Come with an open listening approach
4. Be willing to share your observations from behind the screen
5. Come prepared with questions you would like to ask and have answered
6. Bring a sample of a graded assignment that you would like to review
7. If you need more time ask the teacher to schedule an individual parent teacher conference

Curriculum and Instruction

The end of marking period 1 is Friday November 6, 2020.

The first day of marking period 2 is Tuesday November 10, 2020.

Report Cards: will be available via ParentVue on Tuesday November 24, 2020. If you have yet to set up your ParentVue account report cards will be mailed on Wednesday November 25, 2020. You should expect it to arrive to your home the following week.

Parent conferences are in the process of being scheduled with your child's teacher. If you have not signed up for a time slot please contact your classroom teacher directly. You may also refer to the tips above in preparation of the conference.

Child Portrait Information

To view the portrait galleries, go to

[FREEDPICS.ONLINE](https://freedpics.online)

Enter the password: **BTS2021STU**

Questions? Please contact us at

support@freedphoto.com or call 301.652.5452

Contact Carla Freed directly to schedule a makeup session or to discuss a retake of photos not liked.

Technical Issues?

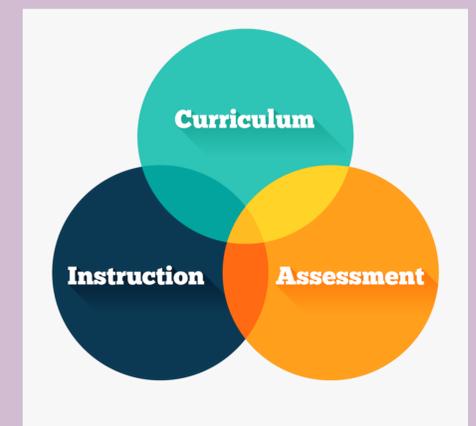
Contact the parent help desk 240-740-7020,
240-740-7022 or email

communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org

or contact Charlene Parilla, Assistant Principal at
Charlene_M_Parilla@mcpsmd.org

Click the following link:

[Parent Academy Website](#)
[Compiled Synergy Guides](#)





EUREKA MATH

Eureka Math Parent Resources: Eureka Math Models

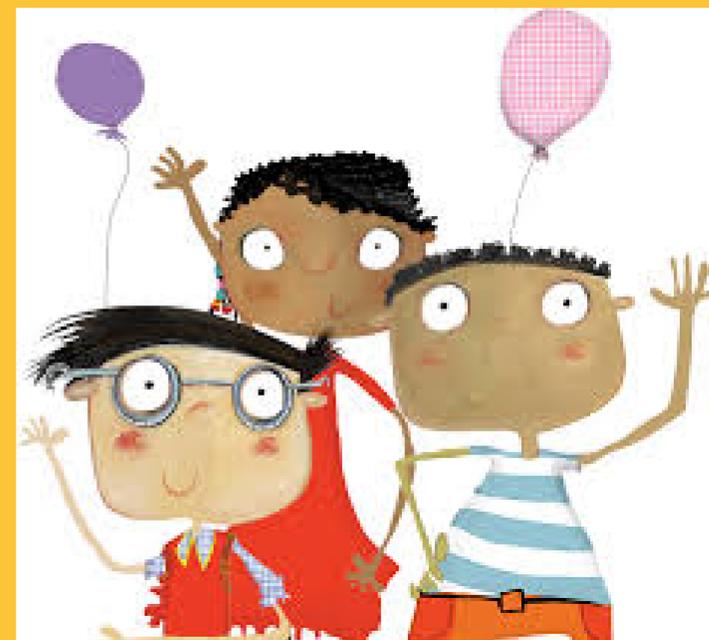
Students learn a variety of math strategies to deepen their conceptual understanding and ability to think flexibly about numbers. As they advance in math, they will also engage in evaluating the efficiency of strategies and building connections to standard computational algorithms. Eureka Math introduces and develops consistent strategies from Kindergarten through Grade 5. Two common strategies are number bonds and tape diagrams.

- **Number bonds** help students to break apart and join numbers in a variety of ways to help them recognize relationships between numbers.
- **Tape diagrams** are visual models that help students look at units of numbers. These are very helpful for comparing numbers, visualizing fractions, and solving word problems.

To learn more about Number Bonds and Tape Diagrams and see examples of how students use them, click on this [Eureka Math Resource](#).



Unit 1 in Benchmark, Government and Citizenship, has now come to an end. All grade levels are now beginning Unit 2, a focus on Characters. During this unit, each grade level will explore an essential question to learn all about characters, how they face challenges, and how they shape stories. Students will continue to build independence through shared reading and writing, close reading, phonics and word study mini-lessons, and small group experiences.



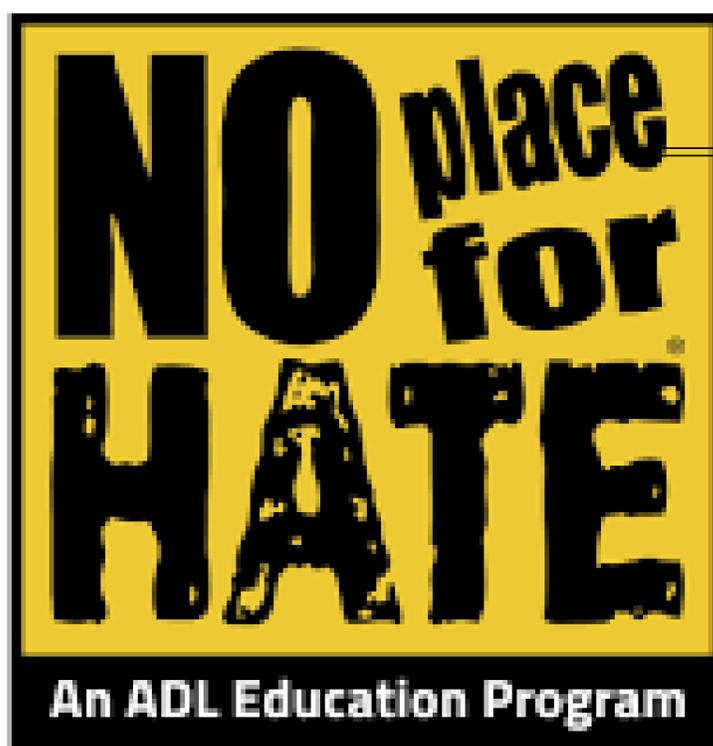


No Place for Hate/Wellness Committee Meetings

This year we will meet once a month on the first **Tuesday** of each month from **3:30-4:30 pm**. I hope you're able to join me! Reminder this is a joint staff/parent/student venture but just the 'grown-ups' again for this meeting. Please note since we are using MCPS' Zoom you will have to login with your *student's MCPS account!* The reoccurring zoom info is as follows:

Dates:

- Nov 3, 2020 03:30 PM
- Dec 1, 2020 03:30 PM
- Jan 5, 2021 03:30 PM
- Feb 2, 2021 03:30 PM
- Mar 2, 2021 03:30 PM
- Apr 6, 2021 03:30 PM
- May 4, 2021 03:30 PM
- Jun 1, 2021 03:30 PM



Meeting ID: 951 5850 7909

Passcode: 278799

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,95158507909# US (New York)

+13017158592,,95158507909# US (Germantown)



Books about Resilience can be found at the below link

<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/top-childrens-books-resilience>

- nearly all of the Personal Body Safety Lessons (PBSL) have been completed in each classroom. These lessons focus on building student's awareness of their rights and steps to stay safe if they get "uncomfortable" feelings. Lessons are differentiated by grade.
- Thank you for everyone who participated in red ribbon week
- Last call for student applications to the Student No Place for Hate Committee. Please apply here [-https://forms.gle/ByRcYRXfm5W38rLs6](https://forms.gle/ByRcYRXfm5W38rLs6)

If you have any questions about the lesson content or how I can help your child please reach out to me at:

Jennifer_L_Fleming@mcpsmd.org

