

## **Burning Tree Elementary School – Who are we?**

- Burning Tree is a diverse and inclusive community. Students come from over 50 countries, and our ESOL and learning center students, teachers and families are included in every aspect of school life. We recognize and celebrate our differences every day and our Pillars of Ethics define who we are and how we act toward one another. Our instructional focus is to provide rigorous and differentiated learning opportunities for every child. This year our newest PTA committee, Students with Accommodations, has brought parents of students with special education and ESOL accommodations together to discuss relevant educational and social/emotional issues. Our students, staff and parents live by the principle, “Include don’t exclude”.
- The Burning Tree staff and community work closely together to focus on the whole child. Recent grants include a *Poet in Residence* and an *Artist in Residence* from the Maryland State Arts Council, and this year Burning Tree will become a *National Audubon GreenKids* school. Our non-competitive *Science Fair* provides a venue for judges from the National Academy of Sciences and other scientists to provide feedback to the students. *Lunch with a Scientist* brings doctors and scientists to every classroom to discuss their work. *Arts Night, International Night*, numerous choral, instrumental music and physical education activities and an incredible assortment of before and after school activities enable our students to develop their creative and physical skills right at school. Last year we put on our first musical, “Alice in Wonderland”, to a standing room only crowd.
- Burning Tree was the first elementary school in Montgomery County to have a First Lego League team. Now in its third year, our fourth and fifth grade members meet weekly (or more) with engineer mentors from the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Carderock to conduct research and build and program robots that solve problems. Lego League team members have competed in both the First Lego League Maryland State Competition and the Southern Maryland Robotics Challenge and have won numerous trophies in the following categories: overall achievement, technical interview, programming and team work. Outreach efforts have been made to include more girls, and our present Lego League team includes over thirty students.
- Burning Tree prides itself in the open relationship that exists between parents, staff and the administration. Our parents are active, involved, and ever present throughout the school, adding up countless volunteer hours. The school/PTA partnership includes parent coffees, cultural arts assemblies, numerous community service activities that provide food, resources and money to charitable organizations and our sister school, Broad Acres ES. Last year the SGA donated nearly \$5000 to Save the Children in both Haiti and Chile, and to the National Brain Tumor Association. Over 85% of our families are members of the PTA.