

Dear Burke's Families:

First, I would like to congratulate everyone who had a hand in this year's Dinner Auction. Months of hard work by many, culminated in a wonderful evening where the love of Burke's, of our girls, our faculty and community were evident. Co-chairs Kerri Lehmann and Yvonne Blaxter promised a fun and magical evening and we were not disappointed. Special thanks go to Matthew Perry, a kindergarten dad who stepped up to the plate and delivered a fun-filled performance as auctioneer, Leigh Matthes and Gab Layton, the Live Auction Chairs who put together an incredible array of items that were extremely well received, the Development team who support the Auction every year innumerable ways and of course Katharine Phipps Ram and Suzanne Lee who spear-headed our online auction. The Parents' Association appreciates all of you who helped in any way from leading or working on a committee to buying a ticket on the night, thank you!

The April PA meeting, to be held **Monday, April 11**, in the lunchroom at **8:30 am**, is our second to last and the one where we approve our next Parents' Association Board. The year seems to be rushing to a close but I encourage you to join us for our last two meetings. Several topics will be under discussion this month including the new lunch program and an update on the progress our Sustainability Committee is making in our initiative towards a greener Burke's.

Dr. Steven A. Foreman, a former Burke's parent and Child and Adult Psychiatrist, will join us to focus on why our kids do the things that drive us crazy. From the back cover of our book, *Breaking the Spell: Understanding Why Kids Do the Very Thing That Drive You Crazy*: Kids always provoke parents by doing the very thing that irritates them. Sometimes, when things get difficult, you start to think your kids are out to get you while your kids may come to believe you hate them because they are fundamentally bad. Using scores of clinical examples, Dr. Steven Foreman helps parents step out of the cycle of misery and discipline more positively, effectively, and comfortably.

Our Parent Education Committee invites you to a presentation on **Wednesday, April 6**, by Dr. JoAnn Deak. Dr. Deak has spent decades learning how best to help children develop into confident and competent adults. As both an educator and a psychologist, she focuses on understanding the environmental, school and family patterns that lead to healthy children. Her work provides a practical and reassuring guide for helping girls and their parents work through the difficulties of adolescence. Thrive. It's the one word that captures all of the things you would want for a girl you love to have while growing up," states Dr. JoAnn Deak, noted author and educator.

This lecture is presented by *The Great Girls Deserve Great Schools Symposium*. The Speaker Series is sponsored by Burke's Parents' Association. Learn more about Dr. Deak at [www.deakgroup.com](http://www.deakgroup.com).

Bike to Burke's week is **April 4 – 8** and will coincide with the city-wide Bike to School Day, Thursday, April 7 and our Earth Weeks at Burke's. New this year: we will have a bike caravan down the excellent bike lanes on Lake Street! It will begin at Arguello at 7:45 am and will arrive at Burke's by 8:00 am. Join anywhere along the easy two mile stretch. Middle school girls can join on their own; lower school girls should have a parent riding with them. John Roberts (parent) will also lead a Lower School bike caravan down Lake Street to Burke's. It will leave from Lake and 12th Street at 8:05 am and get to Burke's by 8:20 am.

May brings our final PA meeting on Monday, May 9, and also the Burke's Dash, a wonderful Sunday, May 22.

Have a wonderful April,

[Michelle Hackett](#)

2010-2011 Parents' Association President