Improving Our School Program Outreach

The Burn Prevention Network (BPN) has long been proud of the Burn Prevention programs we annually provide to each and every school in our service area. “Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool & Call” and “The Great Escape” have proven themselves time and time again to be engaging, fun, and effective in teaching children crucial burn prevention, fire safety and home escape skills.

However, in today’s increasingly busy education system, classroom teachers are finding they have less and less time to “fit in” lessons that do not in some way assist with fulfilling the demands of the Academic Standards for Education. We had to ask ourselves, regardless of how important the lessons are, what good do these programs do if they are not being taught? And what can we do to encourage teachers and schools to incorporate them into their school curricula?

We employed a team of educators and curriculum experts and took a long hard look at every aspect of both of these programs…content, layout, availability, and age appropriateness. We are excited to announce that starting in 2019, our programs will be more functional, attractive, easier to use, more age appropriate, and will fulfill several of the mandated academic standards for education, which will encourage teachers to make them a regular part of their curriculum!

WHAT’S NEW?

Starting next year, instead of the “one size fits all” method that we have implemented in the past, (the same program for grades 2-5, as well as grades 6-8), EACH GRADE LEVEL will now receive a kit with all of the educational materials designed specifically for them. In addition to classroom posters, activity sheets, and take home items, each grade level will now have a full, age-appropriate curriculum which includes an entire week’s worth of lessons, ideas for guided and independent practice, resources, and suggestions for accommodating students with special needs, all tied to specific, state mandated academic standards. While in the past, we’ve started these programs with second grade, the revamped SDRCC program will begin with first grade.

The official launch of the brand new materials will take place in January of 2019 to all schools in the Burn Prevention Network service area, just in time for Burn Awareness Week, February 3-9, 2019.
Camp Susquehanna Is New And Improved!

The Burn Prevention Network is working hard to make sure Camp Susquehanna is all of this and SO MUCH MORE in 2018! Our new venue, Camp Westmont in Lakewood PA, is one way we hope to make the days spent at camp some of the best days of the year for our campers!

- Camp Westmont has many more amenities than we have had in the past, including kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, paddle boating, water slides, heated pool, water skiing, water tubing, zip-lines, climbing tower, high and low ropes courses, kitchen stadium, go-carts, deck hockey, volleyball, fitness center, campfires, fishing, and an outdoor amphitheater!
- Westmont provides us with smaller cabins which will facilitate easier bedtime and more connection between peer groups.
- We will have our choice of private spaces just for us! Our campers will have the entire camp to themselves during our stay!
- We will enjoy customized meals just for our campers and staff!

We are also adding A BONUS DAY! Campers will arrive a full day earlier than they have in the past (Wednesday June 13th), giving them more time to enjoy camp and each other!

Despite all the scenery, schedule, and programming changes that will be coming in 2018, we remain committed to providing a safe, encouraging place for our campers to grow, and to develop new skills. Our culture will continue to be focused on acceptance, support, and learning together.

We will still be recruiting and using amazing, caring, dynamic counselors...if you are interested in applying, donating or learning more, please visit www.campsusquehanna.org.

For these kids, Camp Susquehanna is a place where they feel “normal”... a place where they have fun and learn new skills. It is a place where they learn to cope with the aftermath of their burn injuries and make lifelong friends.

- A seven year old boy with burn scars on his legs from a pot of boiling water holds a fishing rod in his hands for the first time and experiences utter joy when he catches his first fish.
- A fifteen year old burn survivor scared of heights is encouraged by the members of his pod to leap off the zip-line platform. He feels the thrill of the wind on his face as he flies through the air, the entire time hearing the cheers of his friends.
- A fourteen year old girl who was burned when she tripped and fell into a campfire shares a conversation with another young burn survivor. This may not seem like a big deal – but it’s the first time she’s met another burn survivor. It’s the first time that she has talked to someone who really understands what she has gone through.
- A nine year old boy who has been terrified of fire ever since the accident which left him with burns to 35% of his body, sits confidently around a campfire, singing songs and eating s’mores beside friends and mentors.
BPN On The Move!

The Burn Prevention Network is not only a leader in burn prevention and burn survivor support in Eastern Pennsylvania, it is an acknowledged leader in North America. Recent examples of how we are influencing advancement of scar management, and burn prevention advocacy include the following:

**Boswick Burn & Wound Care Symposium, Maui, HI**– BPN representatives both presented and manned a feature exhibit at this prestigious event in late January. Dr. Sigrid Blome Eberwein, LVHN Regional Burn Center Surgeon spoke on positive outcomes resulting from a laser needling study to normalize scar formation that she has conducted partially funded by our Scar Physiology, Research and Treatment (SPiRiT) Fund. Matt Ferdock, CEO, DataCeutics, our SPiRiT Fund founder, presented on the establishment, goals and operation of this Fund, and Dan Dillard, CEO, Burn Prevention Network, presented on “The Role of Prevention in Quality Burn Care.” Our guest presenter, Tim Zoltie, Leeds University, London, England, presented on Medical Photography 101. Mr. Zoltie’s presentation focused on how securing improved photographic documentation of burn wounds, treatment and healing aids in advancing research to improve care and long-term outcomes for survivors.

**American Burn Association National Leadership Conference, Washington, D.C**– During National Burn Awareness Week (February 4 – 10), Dan Dillard joined 75 colleagues from the American Burn Association (ABA) to advocate to Congress for the passage of H.R. 919, the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act. This legislation would mandate the inclusion of a mesh flame arrester in all portable fuel containers sold in the US. The flame arrester, would cost under $0.05 per container and will prevent a heat source from allowing ignited vapors from entering the container resulting in an explosion. Over 18,000 persons per year are injured by these flash back explosions! The ABA delegates also requested continuation of Department of Defense funding for Military Burn Research for injuries occurring on the battlefield. This research translates into better surgical care for burns to the civilian population as well.

**New BPN Board Member**

Please welcome the newest member of the board of directors of the Burn Prevention Network (BPN), Edward Mann!

Many of you know Ed as the former Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, a position he held with great distinction and accomplishment for 14 years. During his tenure as State Fire Commissioner, Ed instituted the “Every Person Comes Home”, program to train firefighters in proper use of personal protection gear and fire ground best practices. When a fire fighter was injured or lost on the job, it was a personal loss to Ed. His mission was to achieve zero deaths and a reduction in both the number and severity of on-duty injuries.

Ed also placed great emphasis on reducing the number of youth participating in fire misuse and arson in the State. He established the Fire Commissioner’s Youth Fire Setting Task Force which helped to coordinate the efforts of local/regional Youth Fire Misuse Prevention Interventions throughout Pennsylvania. During his tenure as State Fire Commissioner, Ed proudly and enthusiastically embraced his role as the Honorary Chairman of the Valley Preferred Spirit of Courage, an event conducted by the Burn Prevention Network each year.

Since leaving the position of Fire Commissioner of PA, Ed accepted the position of Director of Education and Training of Provident Insurance. Provident is an industry leader in serving the fire service community.

Welcome to the board of the Burn Prevention Network, Ed Mann!
What do you call a person who places the needs of others ahead of those of himself/herself? At the Burn Prevention Network, we call them heroes! We celebrate these extraordinary, every day citizens each year at the Valley Preferred Spirit of Courage event, scheduled for October 2, 2018.

When the very best of the human spirit is recognized for noteworthy service, all of us are lifted up. The human race is reminded that we have the potential to change the world one unselfish act at a time.

Where do we find these heroes? The answer is simple… from you! Without your nomination of a person who risked his/her own life to save another; or a group/person who has invested their time and energy in educating others about how to avoid becoming a victim of a serious burn injury, there would be no Valley Preferred Spirit of Courage.

The process is easy. Simply log onto the Valley Preferred Spirit of Courage page of our website and complete a nomination for a deserving candidate. The 2018 nomination period is now open and will remain so until May 4, 2018. All submitted nominations will be reviewed by a selections panel and our 2018 award recipients selected.

Nominate a Hero and help us celebrate the true Spirit of Courage!

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Thanks for Your Support!

People find the most interesting and creative ways of engaging others to support the programs and services of the Burn Prevention Network. Allow me to give you a few examples.

The Nozzlemen MC PA Chapter 1 is a club of firefighter motorcycle enthusiasts from Northeast Pennsylvania who care about young burn survivors. This coming Spring they are planning a ride of about 150 motorcycles across the northern part of the State to raise money to support Camp Susquehanna for children with burn injuries. Club President, Mark Nedbordosky, commented, “We may carry people out of fires, but we want these kids to know that we still care for them after the fire is out.” Also, Lancaster County motorcyclists annually conduct the Neidinger Memorial Motorcycle Ride in support of Camp Susquehanna.

Recently, Custom Diesel Service, Allentown, PA, and Harry's U-Pull-It hosted a Christmas Tree Toss contest between the Allentown Fire and Police Departments. Allentown Fire Department chose the Burn Prevention Network as the charity of their choice. This good-natured and very jolly competition captured much of the spirit of its Norwegian origin plus financial support for the BPN.

In western Pennsylvania, Santo Piccolomini, a burn survivor and counselor for Camp Susquehanna, and his partner of H. H. Seiferth Signs, Inc., conducted a Turkey Shoot to help send children from his area to Camp Susquehanna. That event raised nearly $9,000! Our condolences to the turkeys! (Just kidding!!!)

Speaking of turkeys, Turkey Hill, Inc., in celebration of the Grand Opening of their new store on 15th Street, Allentown, hosted an ice cream cone stacking contest. Once again, contestants from the Allentown Fire Department directed proceeds from the event to go to the BPN. This was truly a “sweet” fundraiser!

Camp Susquehanna Leaders in Training Co-Director and Burn Nurse, Jenn Nagle, organized a Paint Party fundraiser and Tricky Tray to support the young adult program of Camp Susquehanna. The event was a sell out! Participants walked away with great gifts and a self-made masterpiece. Camp Susquehanna benefited as well!

Several individuals planned and conducted charity auctions on behalf of the BPN. Notable among these were Todd and Lisa Kupper from Philadelphia, founders of Heal the Burn Foundation, who generated $7,000 from their event held at Pagano’s in Center City. Kudos also to Tom Principe and Mike Bauguess who, in the past have hosted a Support Camp Susquehanna Party and Silent Auction in Lancaster County. Tom and Mike also approach businesses and social organizations for support. Thanks to their efforts over $20,000 was raised for Camp in 2017.

Finally, we must applaud the M. Byler Memorial Sertoma Club of Lancaster County who founded Camp Susquehanna 20 years ago and now, after ceding the program to the BPN, donate $25,000 per year from Club proceeds to support Camp operations.

Regardless of whether it is $250 or $25,000, we sincerely appreciate the individuals and organizations that are motivated to financially help the Burn Prevention Network to continue to deliver its lifesaving programs and services. If you, or your organization would like to conduct an event on our behalf, please contact Dan Dillard at 610-969-3930 or at burnprev@fast.net.

Thanks to all who help us help others!