

## Burlington Township Elementary Schools Receive an Education in Fire Prevention

The Burlington Township Fire Department (BTFD) Bureau of Fire Prevention visits the township elementary schools annually. Each year students attending B. Bernice Young School and Fountain Woods School are reminded of the importance of fire safety and guided in how to make smart decisions and keep themselves and their family's safe in the event of emergency.

This year on April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Fire Official Matthew Tomaszewski and other representatives of the BTFD brought a special treat to the students in the form of a Magic Show. Fireman Ed the Magician performed illusions that spotlighted several fire prevention messages. One of the messages was reminding the students that having an escape plan in the event of fire emergency is critical. Fireman Ed discussed the importance of knowing three ways out of their home if there were to be a fire. He also expressed to the children that safety in the kitchen is important. He showed them the need to have supervision when cooking, and also the value of smoke detectors throughout the home. Additionally he reminded the children that should they need to vacate their home due to fire that the family should always have a designated meeting place once they got outside. These are just some of the valuable lessons that Fireman Ed the Magician imparted on behalf of the Burlington Township Fire Department.

Fireman Ed picked several volunteers from the student body to help demonstrate the Bureau of Fire Prevention's message of fire safety. Each student, as they helped Fireman Ed the Magician, recounted the safety message they were currently discussing and at the end of the illusion reviewed what had been presented to that point; all the while being delighted by the performance.

The Burlington Township Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Prevention knows how important it is to ensure that children are informed and proactive when it comes to fire safety. Statistically it has been shown that although children five and under make up about 9% of the country's population, they accounted for 17% of home fire deaths. This is a figure that hopefully education can affect. According to 2008 statistics fire departments, in general, responded to a home fire every 82 seconds. Our goal is to educate children and their families so they can be more prepared on how to respond in the event there is a fire emergency.

