



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*"We're Building a Better World...
One Child at a Time!"*

Seth Kennard,
Principal

Friday
SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

The "Buzz"

The Alexandria City School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a parent, or pregnancy in its programs and activities. Please direct all inquiries regarding ACPS non-discrimination policies to Executive Director of Human Resources, 2000 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria,

ACPS MISSION STATEMENT

Alexandria City Public Schools will provide the environment, resources, and commitment to ensure that each and every student succeeds-academically, emotionally, physically, and socially.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Children's birthdays are recognized and celebrated through special announcements. Birthday "parties" are not permitted during the instructional day. In keeping with the ACPS Student Wellness Policy (File: JHCF) and allergy concerns, outside food will no longer be permitted. We ask that birthday celebrations are recognized through other means. Some suggestions for parents may include:

- Small goodie bags filled with non-food novelties
- Balloon bouquet for student
- Provide a disposable crown for the day
- Donation of a book to the school library

Welcome back to school! I would like to extend my warm welcome to our new students and their families, and welcome back all of our returning students for another great year. We are most excited about beginning another wonderful school year here at Charles Barrett.

It has been an exciting summer here. In August we hosted a two-week Kindergarten Prep program and a summer learning program for students in grades one through five. Both programs were well-attended, and the staff and students enjoyed the jumpstart on our school year.

Over the summer we created a new kindergarten classroom in addition to four new first grade classrooms. We also renovated the cafeteria, expanded the nurse's office and modified some spaces on the second floor to hold two additional classrooms. Additionally, we have modified the kindergarten entrance and upgraded the fire alarm system. We have been busy!

In addition to these wonderful changes to our building, we also had several very talented educators join our staff this school year. We are looking forward to having you meet all of our new staff during our Back to School Night on September 20th from 7pm-8:30pm.

In kindergarten, we are pleased to welcome Ms. Taisia Steeb. In first grade we are pleased to welcome Alicia Block and previous third grade teacher Amelia Abd. In second grade we welcome Alison Hutzell.

Our third grade team now includes Tod Frank, Graeham Dodd and Whitney Elliot. Our fourth grade team welcomes Katy Pattarini. Our fifth grade team welcomes Elyse Post and Liz Stanczyk.

We also welcome our new special educator Kelly Bucceri. Sarah Whitlow now serves as a full time reading specialist. David Lewis, Jr. is our new part-time PE teacher.

Joining our office team as our new school bookkeeper is Yarazet Franklin. Yarazet comes to us from Tucker Elementary, where I had the pleasure of working with her as an assistant principal.

Finally, I am pleased to introduce our new part-time administrative intern, Tracie Logan. Tracie is joining us from Patrick Henry Elementary where she served as a teacher and summer school coordinator. Ms. Logan is a fully endorsed elementary school administrator, and she will split between Barrett and Maury Elementary.

As always, I encourage you to contact your child's teachers with any questions or concerns throughout the school year. Each teacher will be providing their contact information to you, and may be contacted via phone or e-mail daily. I firmly believe that constant and effective communication is essential for student success, and I welcome appointments with parents, as well.

I appreciate your patience with the traffic during arrival and dismissal on these rainy first days of school. We are constantly making adjustments to our dismissal routine and the Kiss and Ride lot in an effort to more efficiently dismiss our students. Please remember to always send a note to the office if you plan to change your child's dismissal plan. All questions regarding bus transportation may be directed to our Transportation Department at 703-461-4169. Please read over the dismissal reminders in this newsletter.

Thank you for your support of your child and of our school. I am looking forward to a productive, exciting and challenging year for all of our students. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need support in any way. Welcome back!

Bi-Weekly Events



September

12th-PTA Ice Cream Social, 6-7pm

20th-Back-to-School Night, 7-8:30pm



Important Dismissal Reminders

Student Dismissal Reminders:

Parents, please keep in mind the following for daily dismissal of students.

Student dismissal begins at 2:35pm each day. Students are dismissed in the following order: 1) Kiss and Ride (side parking lot), 2) Buses, 3) Walkers (Front Door) and 4) Recreation Center.

Kindergarten: Students who are dismissed to their parents are dismissed by teachers outside of the kindergarten entrance. They will not be left unattended, so please try to meet teachers as close to 2:35pm as possible. If you are unable to meet your child at the door, please consider using Kiss and Ride.

Kiss and Ride (Side Entrance): Students are walked to the side parking lot area by designated staff members. Parents pull through the parking lot loop and students are released to your vehicle. Please remember to pull your car as far forward as possible in the loop, and to not leave it unattended (parked) at any time in the loop area. One parked car can quickly disrupt the entire loading/unloading process. If this method is not convenient for you, we encourage you to park in a legal spot and meet your child at the front entrance with walkers.

Walkers (Front Entrance): Walkers are released daily out of the main entrance after buses have been loaded. Parents who choose to meet their children at this entrance are encouraged to have their children wait on the steps with staff members until they find their parent. Staff members and safety patrols are available to assist with walkers during dismissal.

Please utilize courtesy and legal practices when dropping off and picking up children from our school. Only park your car in legal spaces, and please follow the direction of our crossing guard staff. Do not unload children from the 'street side' of your car, and look carefully when pulling back out into traffic. If you find that the area at the front of the school is too crowded during arrival time, please come a few minutes earlier.



From our Social Worker...

In addition to academics, Charles Barrett is also promoting character traits such as [Punctuality](#), by arriving on time to school; [Responsibility](#), by bringing notes to school when absent; and [Respect](#) for others, by not interrupting other's education. Please help us foster these character traits by sending notes for absences and arriving to school on time by [8:00 a.m.](#) If your child was ill or has another legitimate reason please provide a written note. Students may bring the note to the main office. If you email the teacher, please also send a copy to Kellye Thompson, Registrar at kellye.thompson@acps.k12.va.us. Long-term absences lasting more than 3 days require a note from the your child's doctor. Family trips must be approved by the Principal. If the trip is over 10 consecutive days, the child will be dropped from Charles Barrett class list and will have to re-register. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me 703-824-6960 ext. 112.



FAMILY MEAL APPLICATIONS

Applications were sent home on the first day of school. Completed applications should be sent to the school office as soon as possible to be forwarded to Food and Nutrition Services. Parents will be notified of their family eligibility by Food and Nutrition Service by mail. The last day for any carryover of last year's meal eligibility is Friday September 30th. To meet this carryover date, we must have your applications A.S.A.P.

PTA NEWS

Dear Charles Barrett Families,

We are looking forward to a great year at Charles Barrett Elementary School. If you are new to our school, welcome! We are excited to have you join our community. If you're returning, be sure to tour the school to see all the changes and renovations.

PTA volunteers have already been hard at work supporting the Barrett teachers and staff with set-up grants and student materials, and getting the year's events organized. Thanks to Kathleen Hicks and Monica Buek of the Hospitality Committee for hosting two excellent back to school events for staff and new families. Thanks also to Jill Canfield, Matthew Lustig, Suzanne Doggett, George Guessford, and Brownie Troop 4557 for assembling your Green Folders, and thanks to the PTA Executive Committee for planning and preparing an exciting line-up of PTA activities this year.

It's going to be a busy one! We will be offering After School Enrichment classes, including Karate, Creative Kids, Yoga, French, Hip Hop Dance, Chess, Science and Computers (Video Game Design). The After School Enrichment registration forms will go home in the second week of school, and courses will begin September 29. Scholarships are available. We need several volunteers to help the afterschool programs run smoothly; please contact me if you can help. Also, we are seeking a new Spanish language teacher or program, so contact me if you have any leads.

Join us for the Back-To-School Ice Cream social, Monday, September 12 from 6-7. Bring the whole family to the playground to mingle and celebrate the year.

The first PTA meeting will be held October 3. New Families, please join us at 6:30 for a welcome reception. The main meeting will be from 7-8, babysitting and translation services will be provided. At the meeting, Seth Kennard, our principal, will give a presentation on the state of our school, and we will introduce you to PTA programs and events for the year.

The PTA's activities and programs support learning and teaching at our school, but we could not do anything without money. It's everyone's favorite topic: Fundraisers! Here's what you can expect for the 2011-2012 school year:

- Barrett's Annual PTA Appeal: A mail campaign for donations to the PTA (Fall)
- Art to Remember: Gift items emblazoned with your child's artwork (Fall)
- Innesbrook: Wrapping Paper and Product Sales (Fall)
- Box Tops and Labels for Education (Ongoing)

Grocery store and online rewards programs (Ongoing)

Remember these activities as you plan holiday and birthday shopping, and your charitable donations for 2011. Thank you in advance for your participation in these important fundraisers!

Check the buzz and the listserv for PTA information throughout the year. Please contact me or any member of the PTA Executive Committee if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas! We're always looking for volunteers for events and programs.

Thank you!

-Cindy Martinez

Charles Barrett PTA President 2011-2012

PTA Executive Committee 2011-2012

President	Cindy Martinez	703-836-4357	metzlinez@gmail.com
Vice President	Eric Chader	703-836-8832	echader@gmail.com
President-Elect	Nicole Maaia	703-671-1612	nicole@maaia.com
Vice President-Elect	Terry Androus	703-684-5588	tkandrous@gmail.com
Faculty Representative	Lorraine Keir	703-824-6960	lorraine.keir@acps.k12.va.us
Treasurer	Chalin Smith	703-549-1987	chalinasmith@yahoo.com
Secretary	Julie Coburn	703-549-3316	juliekcoburn@me.com

PTA Volunteers Needed ASAP!

- After School Programs Committee
- Barrett Bazaar Planning Committee
- Webmaster for the PTA's online presence

Grocery Store rewards fundraiser coordinator

Attention New Families:

Let us help you get into the groove of school and join the Charles Barrett Community. Please don't hesitate to call upon us to answer your questions. If we don't know the answer, we will try to point you in the direction of someone who does.

New parent liaisons:

Dori Antonetti DoriandDavid@comcast.net Home # 703-892-6634
 Julie Anne Kito julianne.kito@yahoo.com Home # 571-970-6099



PARENTS: We will begin sending out The Buzz electronically with our next issue. If you are interested and haven't signed up yet, please e-mail Kellye Thompson at kellye.thompson@acps.k12.va.us

Thank you for helping us save paper (and trees)!

Don't forget....



Ice Cream Social on Monday
September 12th from 6-7pm. Rain date, to be
determined.