



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,
Principal

September 23, 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, VA. 22311, 703-824-6946

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.

Principal's News...



September Greetings! As we finish up our third week of school, I would like to thank all the parents and families that attended this week's Back to School Night. Please take advantage of the contact information provided to you by your child's teacher and do not hesitate to contact them, or myself, with any questions, concerns or additional information about your child.

One of the most exciting changes to Charles Barrett this year is the addition of our preschool program. We are lucky to have two outstanding preschool teachers, Ms. Morgan and Ms. Chiles, in addition to their outstanding paraprofessional, Mr. Lipnick. This team serves up to 24 students in our preschool program each day.

The program serves 12 students in a morning session and 12 students in an afternoon session. The model used for each session is called a "six and six" model. This is where six students identified as having special education disabilities are taught with six typical peers. The typical peers serve as language and socialization models, while the other six students bring an array of gifts to the classroom. The result is a wonderful experience for all students, many of whom will become Barrett students after completing the preschool program.

For more information about this program, please feel free to contact any member of the preschool staff, or the division preschool coordinator, Ms. Jane Richardson. She may be reached at 703-824-6650.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their help getting our school year off to such a smooth start. Barrett is truly a special place, and I am extremely grateful to work with such a talented group of students, educators and parents. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Events at Glance:

SEPTEMBER

26th: Early Dismissal
(12:35pm)
-PTA Directory Deadline

OCTOBER

3rd: New Parents Reception 6:30-7pm
-PTA Meeting 7-8pm
-Ident-a-Kid Photo Cards 9:30am

5th: Walk to School Day

7th: Innesbrook Fundraiser is due!

21st: Heritage Night



Art Blog

I am so happy to see everyone back at school after a nice long summer break! I have lots of exciting art lessons in store for the students this year, and I will be updating the new art blog each week to let you know what is going on in the art room! The blog address is angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com Please log on and become a follower of the blog! I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Ms. Lutzker, Art Teacher



This past Saturday, September 17th, was the opening game for the Miracle League fall season. The Miracle League is a baseball team for kids with disabilities that was formed last spring. Games are played on Saturdays at 1:00 on the baseball field adjacent to the Nannie Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The season will run through October 29th. Please get the word out to any friends, neighbors or classmates that may be interested. Check out the Miracle League website:

www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com. You can register in person at the Nannie Lee Center, online at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation

or use the attached registration form. We look forward to a fun and rewarding season! Please contact Deb Riley if you have any questions: driley@recaptureconsulting.com or at **703-683-8893**. See details about registering online below.

To register online:

Go to www.alexandriava.gov/recreation, go to far right of page "Register for Programs and Activities and click "Register Online Now", (you will have to set up an account if you have not used this site before), in the middle of the screen it will say "information", below that "What would you like to do", Click on that and then click "view our program offerings", it will say "browse all activity types", scroll all the way down and click on Youth Sports

LEAGUES (not classes), you will find the Miracle League, section # 510306.



PTA REFLECTIONS

This year's PTA Reflections Program is underway. The 2011-2012 theme is "Diversity Means." Entries can be submitted in the following categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Literature, Film Production, Dance Choreography and Musical Composition. All entries this year will be displayed at the Alexandria Reflections Arts Festival on Sunday, January 22, 2012 from 3-5 pm in the TC Williams cafeteria. Entries must be turned in by Oct. 27, 2011. Many rules have changed this year so please review the complete rules online very carefully. Please call or email Anne Carroll, Reflections Chair (703-549-3365 or acar-roll3403@comcast.net), if you have any questions about rules, materials, access to the online entry forms, etc., and I will help you get what you need.

PTA NEWS

Dear Charles Barrett Community,

Now that the school year is up and running, it's time to think about the PTA. What does the PTA do? It supports the amazing teaching and learning going on at Barrett with direct financial and volunteer assistance, it hosts community-building events that bring us all together, and it promotes activism in school district and city policies that affect our children. These are important functions, and we need you to get involved to help!

Our first meeting will be Monday, October 3rd, from 7-8PM. Seth Kennard will be the featured speaker, and will give us an update that we've affectionately come to call his "State of the School Address". Babysitting is available at the meetings.

If you are a new family, we would especially like to welcome you to the PTA and help you understand how you can connect to Barrett. Please join us for a **New Parents reception from 6:30-7** before the main meeting on Monday, October 3.

We are always trying to improve our communication with families and the community to make sure you get important news and opportunities about the school. Our newsletters and list serve are great, but our Web site and online capabilities are sparse. We are looking for a few volunteers with Web design or content skills to help bring us into the 21st century! If you might be willing to help with the PTA web site, please contact our Vice President, Eric Chader (echader@gmail.com).

See you on October 3rd!

-Cindy Martinez

Charles Barrett PTA President 2011-2012

PS. It's fall Fundraiser Season to raise money for the year. Look for our Fall Product Sale, **Innesbrook** Wrapping paper and gifts catalogs, coming home in your child's backpack this week! Orders will be due October 7th.



WELCOME, NEW FAMILIES!

The Charles Barrett PTA would like to extend a warm welcome to all new families! Please join us at the New Parent Reception on Monday, October 3 at 6:30 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room in the library. Enjoy some light refreshments, ask questions, learn more about the PTA, and meet fellow parents. Free babysitting will be provided, starting at 6:30 pm.

The first PTA meeting of the year will take place immediately after the reception from 7:00 until 8:30 pm. PTA meetings are a great way to learn more about upcoming events, better understand issues facing our school and our school system, and meet other Barrett families. It is also a great way to support your kids and our school!

No RSVPs are necessary, but if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Julieanne Kito (julianne.kito@yahoo.com) or Dori Antonetti (dorianddavid@comcast.net).

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the Barrett community!

JOIN THE PTA

The PTA supports local, state and national efforts to ensure the educational success of all children. We urge everyone to join by filling out the information on the "Virginia PTA" envelope that was included in your back-to-school packages. Envelopes will be available at each PTA meeting. Include a check with the \$5.00 membership fee for each adult (if two parents/guardians join, submit just one check for \$10.00). Checks should be made payable to "Charles Barrett PTA." Please return the envelope to school in your child's green folder. Questions? Contact Delaine Jones (703-518-3086 or delainej@comcast.net).

LAST CHANCE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHARLES BARRETT COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

You've missed the deadline, but if you hurry we'll still get you in there ... Please return your yellow directory form from the back-to-school packet by Monday, September 26. For families new to the school, this directory is provided at no charge to every family at our school, and is an essential tool for getting in touch with other families and staff at school. It is not distributed to anyone else, and may not be used for business purposes. Need another form? Stop by the front office or send an email to Laurie Winakur at lwinakur@verizon.net. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their forms.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY AND "WALKTOBER"

Charles Barrett is participating in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Plan now to walk, bike or scooter to school that morning! In addition, every Wednesday in October, we will celebrate "Walktoberfest" by making a special effort to walk to school. Each child will receive a card to mark off which days he or she walked/biked/scootered to school. The class with the highest participation will win a class with Mr. Kennard! Questions? Contact "Walk to School" Committee Chairs Chalin Smith (703-549-1987 or chalinasmith@yahoo.com) and Suzanne Doggett (703-671-9187 or gmgds@aol.com).

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CHARLES BARRETT COMMUNITY EMAIL LIST SERVE

Send an email to: [CharlesBarrettCommunity-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:CharlesBarrettCommunity-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

You will receive a confirmation email. Click on the link and follow the directions. We are unlisted, so you won't find us in the Yahoo groups directory. Only those who have received an invitation or hear via word-of-mouth can participate. If you need assistance, contact Julie Coburn (juliekcoburn@me.com) Please note that the list serve is an unmoderated, public forum and is not officially affiliated with Charles Barrett Elementary School or ACPS.

ART TO REMEMBER

Charles Barrett's annual art keepsake program is coming! Affordable products featuring your child's artwork, delivered in time for winter holiday gift giving! Remember, your child will produce artwork in class, but additional and/or substitute art can be produced at home, and siblings are welcome to participate. Watch for packets in mid-October. Check out Art to Remember's website at www.arttoremember.com for great project ideas. Questions? Contact Barrett's ATR coordinators, Julie Coburn (703-549-3316 or juliekcoburn@me.com) and Erica Anaya (703-549-8008 or anaya@comcast.net).

SAVE THE DATE: HERITAGE NIGHT AT CHARLES BARRETT ON OCTOBER 21st!

We need volunteers to help make sure we represent the amazing diversity at our school. Please contact Cinnamon Rogers (cinnamon_rogers@discovery.com), Tram Rex (tram.rex@comcast.net), Rebecca Wentzel (mrwentzel@msn.com) or Karin Moore (karin_67@yahoo.com) to get involved. Thanks!



WANTED

CHARLES BARRETT ROOM PARENTS

Room parents are liaisons between teachers and parents who help coordinate special classroom activities throughout the school year. The benefits of being a room parent include getting to know your child's class and teacher, and contributing to the classroom without a huge time commitment.

Room Parent responsibilities include:

Getting the word out to parents in your child's class about various PTA activities;

Organizing the Harvest Celebration (around Halloween);

Organizing the End of the Year Celebration;

Coordinating classroom activities during Teacher Appreciation Week;

Helping to recruit parents to serve as chaperones for field trips and other events;

Organizing teacher gifts from the class for the holidays and the end of the year;

Collecting class donations for the Barrett Bazaar Class Basket; and

Coordinating fruit for your child's class for Field Day.

Room parents receive reminders of upcoming events, and they are encouraged to enlist the help of other parents. It's a great way to share the responsibilities and make friendships.

Please consider volunteering as a room parent. If interested, complete the form below and return it to school in your child's green folder or contact PTA Room Parent Coordinator Pam Jones (703-535-3388 or jonespaw@aol.com). Thank you!

 Yes, I'm interested in volunteering as a Charles Barrett Room Parent.
Please contact me!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Best way to contact me: _____

Best days/time(s) to reach me: _____

Classroom teacher(s): _____