



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,
Principal

October 7, 2011

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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...



October greetings! I would like to thank all of the parents who attended our PTA meeting last Monday at 7pm. It was an outstanding turn-out and truly exemplifies the level of support that our school receives from its community.

This week marked the halfway point in first our quarter. Interim reports were sent home for students who may require additional support. In another 5 weeks we will have our report card conferences on November 16th, 17th, and 18th. All families must attend a report card conference with their child's teacher for at least the first and second quarters.

For new families, our approach to report card conference is a bit different than you might have seen elsewhere. Instead of hosting "Parent-Teacher Conferences" that are used at many schools, our conferences are student-led. Because academic progress and areas for growth should not be a secret, we feel that involving students in the conversation, having them share their points of pride, and be involved in their own learning plans is essential for success. Of course, if any topics of a sensitive nature need to be discussed during these conferences, students may be excused to the hallway for this portion of the meeting.

At these meetings teachers will be sharing with you your child's guided reading level, and assist you in finding books and materials appropriate for your child at the library or bookstore. These conferences are also an excellent time to discuss any questions that you might have about the new curriculum. We look forward to these important meetings and continuing our partnership.

Finally, this week marked the full roll-out of the PTA after-school activities. I would like to thank our PTA president, Cindy Martinez, and her cadre of volunteers for taking on this enormous project. Our students have been thrilled with all of the exciting classes, and I am extremely grateful for the efforts that went into providing our kids with these unique opportunities.

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful fall, and I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support.

Events at Glance:

OCTOBER

10th: No School

14th: Innisbrook Fall Fund-raiser Deadline

19th: Art to Remember Orders due

21st: Heritage Night 6:30pm

PTA NEWS

BARRETT ANNUAL APPEAL

Our PTA sponsors many wonderful programs – student assemblies, teacher grants for supplemental educational materials, field trips, family fun nights, field day, and so much more. But we need your help to make these programs a reality.

Our Annual Appeal is the PTA's single largest fundraiser – accounting for more than 60 percent of our annual budget. Between October 15th and November 15th we'll be reaching out to ask for your help in meeting our goal. You'll receive more information by mail. In the meantime we ask that you consider how your family can help support this effort.

Each and every dollar you donate to the Annual Appeal goes directly to the PTA. And, your gift is 100% tax deductible. All donations are kept strictly confidential. And best of all, once you respond your work is done – you won't hear us begging for your help at Bake Sales, Silent Auctions or other more time-intensive events.

We realize that Fall is a busy time for fundraising. However, by raising this money now we can ensure that it will benefit our students and teachers this school year.

As our school grows so do the needs of our teachers and children. We would like all families to consider how they can help support our Annual Appeal – gifts of any amount are welcome and appreciated.

If you have questions please contact:

Karen McManis (703-549-7770 or Karenmcm manis@aol.com) or Renee Berman (703-548-5436 or renee1jay@aol.com). Thank you so much for all you do for our school.

PS – Stay tuned for details on our parent-only party being planned for later this Fall. A new Barrett “tradition” that began last year, the parent party delivers the fun, social atmosphere of a Silent Auction in a low key, relaxed environment (all of the fun, none of the work).



HERITAGE NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Charles Barrett is a wonderfully diverse school. We have the opportunity to learn about some of the cultures and countries that make our school so special during the upcoming Heritage Night, October 21st from 6:30–8:00pm. But we need your help! We plan to have several countries or regions represented with fun crafts and activities. We need your decorating ideas, and suggestions of crafts, activities, or games representing your country of origin. Please share your country with our school community!

We need volunteers to assist with the planning, set-up, food table, country tables and activities, and clean-up. Please contact contact Rebecca Holmes (mrwentzel@msn.com), Tram Rex (tram.rex@comcast.net), Cinnamon Rogers (cinnamon_rogers@discovery.com), or Karin Moore (karin_67@yahoo.com). Thank you for your support for our wonderful school!

INNISBROOK FALL FUNDRAISER

Parents and Students,

Thank you for your support and participation in the fall fundraiser! The deadline for submitting your orders has been extended to October 14. Please make sure that you print your receipt and send in your check for any orders that are being sent directly to the school. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Michelle Brayman (Michelle.brayman@comast.net) and

Corine Bradshaw (cxlwest@yahoo.com)

Innisbrook Fundraiser Co-Chairs

ART TO REMEMBER

Charles Barrett's annual art keepsake program is here! Beautiful and affordable products featuring your child's artwork, delivered in time for winter holiday gift giving! Your child has already produced artwork in class, but additional and/or substitute art can be produced at home, and siblings are welcome to participate. Your child's packet will be sent home this coming Tuesday, October 11th. Orders are due back to school by the following Wednesday, October 19th. 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 juliek-coburn@me.com) and Erica Anaya (703-549-8008 or anaya@comcast.net).



"4th grade students visited the Tall Ship God-speed this week on a field trip to Old Town. Students learned about the ships that carried colonists to the Virginia Colony."

BOX TOPS!!!



Keep collecting those pink squares o' money! We've challenged Maury and Lyles-Crouch to an October

Box Top Harvest!! Help Barrett reap the biggest pile of Box Tops and WIN the challenge! Deadline to turn in your box tops is Wed, Oct 26. Please turn in your family's box tops in a snack bag. Label with your child's name, grade, and # of box tops inside. Black sharpie on bag or note inside works great. We love bags of 25 or 50 but will take all amounts for the challenge. Your child should turn in to their teacher or put in the Box Tops container in their classroom. Remember, we collect and count year round, so you keep cutting and tell grandparents and neighbors and aunts in Des Moines, too, and we will keep you posted on whose class is bringing in the dollars for our school!!

October!

Challenge on!

Every Box Top counts!

Cheers, Diana Waller

(diana@chasingdragons.com) and Christine

Hollins (oz_donlon@hotmail.com)

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CHARLES BARRETT COMMUNITY EMAIL LIST SERVE

- Send an email to: 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.

WALKTOBERFEST

Did you enjoy International Walk to School Day? Let's keep going! Walk, bike (or otherwise self-propel) to school 1, 2 or all 3 of the remaining Wednesdays in October -- our very own "Walktoberfest!" We are not organizing an official "Walking School Bus" for these Wednesdays but encourage neighbors to create informal walking groups. The buses will let off the riders just beyond the intersection of Tennessee and Valley. Look for "Walking Wednesdays" cards in your child's green folder. Complete the card and return it to your child's teacher at the end of the month. The class with the highest participation will win a special class activity with Mr. Kennard! "Walk to School" Committee Chairs Chalin Smith (703-549-1987 or chalinasmith@yahoo.com) and Suzanne Doggett (703-671-9187 or gmgds@aol.com).

CARPENTERS SHELTER

The first PTA-sponsored Carpenters Shelter Dinner will be on Thursday, October 27th from 5:30pm until approximately 8:00pm. I will be looking for volunteers to help serve, contribute food and financial donations. As the menu is undecided, please be on the lookout for emails in the near future regarding what is needed. Everyone has always been very generous and it is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to a very worthy cause. If you have any questions about this committee or what is involved with contributing/serving, please do not hesitate to contact me at tuckenna@aol.com or 703-519-7856. Thank you in advance for your help!
Nancy McKenna

CBKC - CHARLES BARRETT KIDS CARE

A big THANK YOU to Tram Rex and Sabrina Reilly, who are joining 5th grade mom Lorraine Friedman ("Rainey") to lead our Charles Barrett Kids Care (CBKC) program this year. Tram and Sabrina will continue as co-chairs next year. This program provides our children and families with quarterly opportunities to give as a community, allowing us to make a bigger impact for those who need it the most.

We know our students will enjoy this year's mix of projects: "Treats for Troops" to honor brave men and women serving overseas; our annual "Giving Tree" to care for our own Barrett families in need; our annual Book Drive, and finally, an opportunity to give back to our older residents in need. Look for an information flyer on "Treats for Troops" in early October. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of our CBKC committee, please email rainey@dreamdog.org.

Thank you for being a part of our Community of Givers and for teaching this important life lesson to all our children!
~ Lorraine, Tram and Sabrina



Fall Appeal

Parent Party!!!

Friday, November 4th
5pm-7pm

In celebration of our annual Fall Appeal we will once again have a Parent Party, a meet 'n greet to see old faces and meet new friends! So get a sitter for Friday, November 4, 5PM-7PM. Come for Happy Hour (Cash Bar) and hors d'oeuvres provided by your PTA at the recently opened Cafe Caturra on Glebe Road in the Gold's Gym parking lot.

You'll have time to go out to dinner after or stay at the Cafe and dine at a discount!! More details to follow including an official invitation!

Hope to see everyone there!

Questions? Comments?

Contact Sarah Conrad at sbconrad28@gmail.com

(703)-549-5533

Contact Melissa Schultz at melissandoug@yahoo.com

(703) 838-8431

SAVE THE DATE

and

Come join us in a celebration of
Cultural Diversity at
Charles Barrett Elementary School's

HERITAGE NIGHT

October 21st
6:30pm-8:00pm

- Meet new friends and learn about some of the countries and cultures that make our school so special
- Have fun making crafts and playing fun games and activities
ex. Vietnamese Dragon Dance and much, much more
- Pizza and drinks available for sale

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Before the Event

- **Planning**
- **Decorating Ideas**
- **Craft Activities or Games that represent your country of origin**

During and After the Event

- **Set-up**
- **Food Table**
- **Country Tables**
- **Activities & Games**
- **Clean Up after the Event**

If you can help, please contact Rebecca Holmes at mrwentzel@msn.com, Tram Rex at tram.rex@comcast.net, Cinnamon Rogers at cinnamon_rogers@discovery.com, or Karin Moore at karin_67@yahoo.com