



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,
Principal

October 21, 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...



As we begin to wrap-up October and head into November, I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the programs that we have in place to ensure that all of our students are reading at high levels.

For those of you with students in First through Fifth grade that are new to Charles Barrett, you already know that we perform an extensive reading assessment on all our new students. This assessment is used to identify students who may require additional assistance in reading, and allows us to best group our students for instructional needs and provide instructional interventions.

We formally assess all students' reading each September, January and May. Additionally, all students classroom reading performance levels are collected each month. This data is compiled in my office and allows me to track individual student progress, in addition to our progress as a building. I can alter resources and advocate for additional support in areas where needed. Students reading on, above or below level are individually tracked to make sure significant progress is made each month, quarter and semester.

Students requiring additional support in reading may receive reading services through a reading specialist, help from a school tutor, after-school tutoring, or other interventions. All students are grouped in reading groups that ensure they are challenged, and their progress is continually monitored to ensure growth.

We focus on individual student needs at Barrett, and I encourage you to discuss with your child's teacher how s/he is performing in class. During our report card conferences, your child's reading level will be a main point of discussion.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any concerns regarding reading, or any other subject area. Thank you for your support of your child and of our school.

Important Dates:

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

21st: Heritage Night 6:30pm

26th: Walking Wednesdays
Ends

-Box Tops Deadline

27th: Carpenters Shelter Dinner 5:30-8pm

28th: Treats for Troops Deadline

NOVEMBER

7th: PTA Mtg. 7-8pm

11th: Teacher workday, NO SCHOOL

15th: Annual Fall Appeal Donation Deadline

Art Blog

I wanted to let everyone know that I have updated the art blog with the activities that the students have been working on in art. The site address is angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com Please visit the blog and become a follower so that you can receive email updates when there are new postings. There are many new art displays around the building so be sure to come by and take a look when you get a chance!

Also, please be sure to order your items for Art To Remember!

Thanks,
Angela Lutzker



From Ms. Bonilla, School Social Worker:

Parents, please keep in mind that morning time is not the best time to meet with your children's teacher. This time is used to check in with their students and to get them started and focus for learning. Also, when sending in dismissal changes, please put the child's full name and the teacher's name on the note. Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

PTA NEWS

Dear Families,

We've made it to October! The school year is in full swing and the students and teachers at Barrett are fully engaged in the year's learning. The PTA is fully engaged, too. We are in the middle of our very popular after school activities, our Teacher Mini-Grant proposals, and our first Family Fun Night, Heritage Night, is tonight, Friday, Oct 21!

None of these programs, nor all the other activities the PTA sponsors, are possible without funding. Our school has grown, and so have our expenses. Please consider participating in one of our Fall Fundraisers! The Annual Appeal letters have been sent, and gifts of any size are gratefully accepted. We hope you ordered wrapping paper from Innisbrook, and personalized products from Art to Remember. Please register your grocery store rewards cards and clip those Box Tops so that Barrett earns cash from these programs. I hope we can earn all the money we need for our budget in the Fall, and we can put our all of our energy into learning, enrichment and community activities for the rest of the year.

I would like to say a big thank you to the After School Activities Committee, who have made the incredible array of after school enrichment offerings possible: Sharon Griffis, Alicia Basara, Erica Jones, -

Christine Sherner, Sarah Conrad, Lisa Warden, Abena Durity-Black, Diana Waller, Karin Moore, Jill Canfield, and Jerica Webber. Also, thanks to the many volunteers at pick-up who make sure that dismissals run smoothly. The committee will gather comments and suggestions, and will re-group for courses offered in the winter/spring, please contact Sharon Griffis, SGriffis@colormarketing.org, if you are interested in helping out.

It truly “takes a village” to organize and manage all of the PTA programs that add to the wonderful experience at Charles Barrett. I’d like to thank each of you for your donations of time and money, and for your support of our students.

Sincerely,



Cindy Martinez
PTA President

PS

Please join us at the next PTA meeting, November 7, 2011, from 7-8pm.
Babysitting and Translation provided!

TONIGHT IS HERITAGE NIGHT!

Join us from 6:30–8:00pm for fun crafts and activities! Thank you to Family Fun Night committee chairs Rebecca Holmes, Tram Rex, Cinnamon Rogers and Karin Moore for planning this festive evening.



ANNUAL FALL APPEAL

We are sure our Fall Appeal will be big success! We are impressed with the initial outpouring of support for our school and our community. We look forward to hearing from many more families.

To the many families who have already supported the Charles Barrett PTA – thank you, thank you! Our students and teachers thank you! If you have not already received a thank you note (which acts as your receipt for the 100% tax deduction), please look for it within the next two weeks. Again, we are so grateful for all your support in making a positive difference in our children’s school!

Every donation is important regardless of the amount. Every family, every child and every program helps support the wonderful academic success at Charles Barrett Elementary School. If you haven’t contributed yet, there is still time, the deadline is November 15, 2011.

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.

ART TO REMEMBER

Charles Barrett's annual art keepsake program blew in and blew out like an autumn wind! Thank you to Ms. Lutzker for helping your children produce lovely projects in art class, and thank you, Panda parents, for your prompt and generous response. Your finished products will arrive in time for winter holiday gift giving! 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).

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)

WALKTOBERFEST

Walking Wednesdays ends on Wednesday, October 26! Be sure to join us in walking to school this last Wednesday in October. Make sure to bring in your completed walking card to help your class win a class event with Mr. Kennard!

"Walk to School" Committee Chairs Chalin Smith

(chalinasmith@yahoo.com) and Suzanne Doggett

(gmgds@aol.com)

CBKC (CHARLES BARRETT KIDS CARE) "TREATS FOR TROOPS"

Treats for Troops is the newest CBCK activity, providing a way to honor our brave men and women serving in the Armed Forces overseas by donating items that they need and want.

Students and their families are asked to fill a plastic or paper grocery bag with a minimum of five of the requested items. (A list is on the flier sent home last week, or go to www.Give2theTroops.com.) Make a card of thanks to someone serving. Please list only the student's first name on the thank you card and do not list personal information, such as your address. Bring your bag of treats and thank you card back to school by Friday, October 28th. There will be a box in the main lobby near the auditorium to drop your donation. All donations will be sent to Give2TheTroops, the nonprofit organization that will make sure our treats reach our troops serving overseas. For more information about Treats for Troops, contact Lorraine Friedman (rainey@dreamdog.org), Sabrina Reilly (salreilly@gmail.com), or Tram Rex (tram.rex@comcast.net).

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.

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

GARDEN COMMITTEE

Maintaining the Barrett gardens is a never-ending effort and a fun way to get involved and contribute. The Garden Committee would like to create a volunteer roster to call on from time to time throughout the year. Volunteers would assist committee chairs with regular "housekeeping" chores -- weeding, watering, etc. -- as well as special events (Earth Day festivities, planting, classroom activities). If you are interested in maintaining and improving the Barrett Gardens this year, please email Susanna Carey (susannacarey@comcast.net) or Karen McManis (karenmcm manis@aol.com). Thank you!



REFLECTIONS

This year's PTA Reflections Program is underway. The 2011-2012 theme is "Diversity Means." This is an excellent opportunity to talk with your child about the many possible interpretations of diversity. 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, 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, if you have any questions about rules, materials, access to the online entry forms, etc and I will help you get what you need.
Anne Carroll, 703-549-33565 or acarroll3403@comcast.net