



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,
Principal

November 4, 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...



November Greetings! We are quickly approaching report card conferences, which will be held on November 16, 17, and 18th. These days will be early dismissal (12:35pm) for students.

As teachers prepare student work samples and work with your child for their role in these conferences, this is an excellent time for parents to gather questions they may want to discuss with their child's teacher. These conferences are an outstanding opportunity to clarify questions about homework, classroom routines or what can be worked on at home.

Here are some guiding questions that may assist you in preparing for report card conferences:

1. How is my child doing socially in class? Does s/he have close friends? Is s/he considered approachable by other students?
2. How does my child's performance in math/reading compare to other students at his/her grade level?
3. What can I do to best support the plan you have in place for my child in the classroom?
4. How can I best continue to communicate with you?
5. What standardized tests are my child going to take this year? What are the implications? How can we best prepare my child for them?
6. What has been my child's greatest achievement this quarter? What is his/her biggest challenge ahead?
7. When does my child seem most engaged? When does s/he truly shine in class?
8. (To ask your child) What work are you the most proud of? Why? Where are you going to be trying your best to improve? Why?

Important Dates:

NOVEMBER

7th: PTA Mtg. 7-8pm

11th: Teacher workday, NO SCHOOL

15th: Annual Fall Appeal Donation Deadline

16th-18th: Report Card Conferences, 12:35 Dismissal

23rd-25th: Thanksgiving Break

I do my best to attend as many report card conferences as possible, as I see these meetings as extremely important for your child's success. The partnership between home and school is essential. Please make every effort to attend a report card conference, and work with your child's teacher to reschedule if necessary.

Thank you for your support of your child and of our school. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can do anything to better support your child.

Art Blog

This week Kindergarten students continued their study of line type. They completed their line paintings this week that included straight lines, wavy lines, zig zag and curly lines. First and second graders focused on geometric and organic shapes. They enjoyed the CETA activity that we did to reinforce their knowledge. Third, Fourth and Fifth graders are continuing their Spanish Heritage Month projects. Some of the students focused on Frida Kahlo, while others focused on Diego Rivera. All of the projects will be on display next week, and I will also upload them to the blog when they are completed. The blog address is angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com. I hope that you will take a moment to check out the blog if you haven't had a chance to! You can view new posts as well as older posts.

Thanks,
Angela Lutzker



Play Dates & Bus Changes



If your child is not originally on the school bus list for drop off and he or she will have to ride the bus, our Transportation Department is requesting that parents submit a note prior to 12 noon the day of the change. If the note is not received before 12 noon your child will not be allowed to ride the bus for that day. Please note, that dismissal changes must come from the parent of the child. When sending in notes, please make sure that you put the child's first and last name and his or her teacher on each request. Thanks for your cooperation.

PTA NEWS

Dear Charles Barrett Families,

One of my duties as president is to represent our school on the city-wide PTA Committee, PTAC. This committee provides a forum for PTA leaders to discuss issues facing ACPS, individual schools, and our community. At the most recent meeting, Dr. Mort Sherman, superintendent of schools, described some of the challenges to our school system. Most pressing is the increasing number of students enrolling at our schools, and limited capacity within existing schools to meet demand. ACPS has several schools slated for renovation or expansion (including ours, with a second story addition to the first grade wing). Major renovations at Jefferson Houston will affect our side of the city, with the new Jeff Houston School scheduled to open for the 2014-15 school year serving preK-8th grade students.

Another concern for ACPS is the disparity of student racial/socio-economic profiles at elementary schools in the system. Some schools are very diverse, some are not. Stay tuned for ongoing discussions about this topic, about if/how we should address rebalancing schools at the elementary school level.

In terms of the school calendar, the superintendent **will NOT request a waiver from the state to start school before Labor Day for the 2012-13 school year**. Go ahead and sign up for camp/rec, make those beach house reservations, or lament one more week to entertain the children. :) The school and I will always keep you informed should changes to the calendar occur.

We had our own visit by Superintendent Sherman to Charles Barrett on Friday, Sept 21, along with a number of high-profile city leaders, including school board members and Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. The “big wigs” were at our school to observe a special science program provided by Discovery Channel entitled “Explore the Blue”. Third and Fifth Graders learned about water science, ecosystem preservation, and fisheries science, and all of our teachers received professional development experience through the program.

While he was here, Dr. Sherman helped 4 children cut the ribbon to officially open the new Book Room for our school. The PTA would like to thank Barrett teachers and staff and PTA volunteer Laurie Winakur for their dedication to setting up this resource. The Book Room contains sets of high-interest books, keyed by reading level, that teachers can check out for use in their classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Kennard, Ms. Keir, Ms. Brown, Ms. Whitlow, and Ms. Winakur for finding funding for the Book Room, selecting and acquiring books, and installing the organizational system.

Finally, if you have older kids in the school, I hope they came home to tell you about the fantastic assembly by some of our military parents, organized for the Charles Barrett Kids Care program’s Treats for Troops effort. My child came home and demonstrated push ups and shouted her best “Hoo-ah”, and it kick-started a conversation about service to your country. Thanks to Lorraine Friedman and her committee, Tram, Sabrina and Erica, for making this happen!

I hope to see you tonight at the parent party. As always, please contact me with any questions/ comments/concerns about our school or the PTA.

Sincerely,



Cindy Martinez
metzlinez@gmail.com
703-836-4357

PARENT PARTY TONIGHT!

We hope to see everyone at the Fall Appeal Parent Party tonight (Friday, 11/4) at Cafe Caturra (2931 S. Glebe Road, across from Gold’s Gym)! Please come starting from 5PM on and enjoy hors d’oeuvres provided by your PTA (ca\$h bar) and plan to stay and have dinner too!! Cafe Caturra is donating 15% of our dinners purchased tonight back to our school! So join us for the party and then stay for dinner! See everyone tonight!! Questions? Sarah Conrad (sbconrad28@gmail.com or 703-549-5533) and Melissa Schultz (melissandoug@yahoo.com or 703-838-8431).

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



The Kinders had a lesson with Ms. Sparrow in the senses garden. They did a great job and really used their senses. They also had a pansy pattern garden in the long box in our school yard habitat. It's great to work together as a K team and with Ms. Sparrow!

GROCERY STORE BONUSES

Please sign up your grocery store cards to help raise funds for our school. It's easy and it's FREE!!! If you have any problems or questions, please contact Daina Tums at Tums-dai@yahoo.com



Giant A+ BonusBucks

Visit www.giantfood.com/aplus/ and sign up today! Charles Barrett Elementary's ID# is 02234.



Harris Teeter "Together in Education"

Visit www.harristeeter.com and sign up today! Go to: *Community / Together in Education / link your school*. Charles Barrett Elementary's ID# is 4689.

Or, at any Harris Teeter store, give the cashier our school code, **4689**, and your VIC card when you check out and your card will be linked for the entire school year.



Safeway eScrip

Visit www.escrip.com and sign up today! Charles Barrett Elementary's ID# is 6472687. You can sign up your Safeway card as well as other drug store cards and/or credit cards.

There is still time to make your **tax-free donation** to the 2011 Fall Appeal. Your generous gift helps the PTA fund the following:

Direct Support of Teachers

- \$3,600 to help set up classrooms for the new school year
- \$3,500 for Teacher Education Grants for classroom resources
- \$1,000 for student incentive "Panda Paws"

Enrichment Programs

- \$5,000 for student field trips
- \$2,500 for school assemblies and special programs
- \$2,300 to support art, band/orchestra, Reading Buddies, music, science and the Geo Bee
- \$2,000 for library books and materials

Community Events

- \$1,000 for Field Day and the Fifth Grade Graduation ceremony and party
- \$1,000 to support the educational garden
- \$1,500 for Family Fun Nights (like October's awesome Heritage Night), the Back to School Ice Cream Social, and the end of year Picnic

Our goal is to raise at least \$18,000 by November 15, 2011. All donations of any amount are welcome and appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible and kept strictly confidential.

Letters were mailed to each family in our PTA directory the week of October 17th. If you've already sent a donation. Thank you! If not, you can return this form to the address below:

Yes! I want to contribute. Enclosed is my check (made payable to the "Charles Barrett PTA")

For: ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$150 ___\$200 ___\$300 ___\$500 ___other_____

Please remit to:

Charles Barrett Fall Appeal 2011

c/o Renee Berman

604 Tennessee Ave.

Alexandria, VA 22302

Any questions? Please contact Renee Berman (renee1jay@aol.com) or Karen McManis (karenmcm manis@aol.com), your Fall Appeal co-chairs.