



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,
Principal

November 18, 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...



Thanksgiving Greetings! At our school we work tirelessly with your children to instill character traits that help make our school and community a better place to learn and live. During this time of year, we often talk about being thankful. As your principal, I have many things to be thankful for. In no particular order, here they are:

1. I am thankful for our simply amazing students.
2. I am thankful for our professional, hard-working, and dedicated staff team.
3. I am thankful for those new families that have joined our school this year.
4. I am thankful for our new preschool and its wonderful students and staff.
5. I am thankful for our sincerely supportive and engaged parents.
6. I am thankful for our many parent and community volunteer tutors.
7. I am thankful for our incredibly supportive and generous PTA.
8. I am thankful for our brave and dedicated crossing guards.
9. I am thankful for our kind and patient cafeteria staff.
10. I am thankful for our devoted after-school tutoring and activity group teachers.
11. I am thankful for our dependable and positive bus drivers.
12. I am thankful for our supportive colleagues across ACPS.
13. I am thankful for our dedicated and responsive office staff and school custodians.
14. I am thankful for our reliable and responsive Alexandria Fire Fighters, Police Officers and EMT's.
15. I am thankful for the hard working members of the Charles Barrett Recreation Center.
16. I am thankful for our safety patrols, SCA members, and other student leaders.
17. I am thankful for all who continue to go above and beyond to ensure our students each receive the support, materials and guidance needed to make their time with us successful.

On behalf of all of us at Charles Barrett, I wish you a most Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy this time with family and friends, and don't forget to read some great books. As always, please contact me if there is anything that I can do to better support your children.

Seth

Important Dates:

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

23rd-25th: Thanksgiving Break!

DECEMBER: 5th: PTA Meeting 7pm

19th-Winter Concert 1:15 & 7pm.

Art Blog

November 15th was National Recycling Day! All of the students from Kindergarten through fifth grade participated in a National Recycling Day Poster contest, and a winner was selected from each grade. The winners are as follows: Kindergarten- Elida Abera. 1st Grade - Doxa Babatunde. 2nd Grade - Natalie Comeau. 3rd Grade - Caroline Winaker. 4th Grade -Yisak Tadesse. 5th Grade - Ana Sierra

Congratulations to all the winners as well as everyone who participated. The students worked very hard and the judges had a difficult time choosing just one winner from each grade!

Please continue to check the art blog (angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com) I will be updating it as the students complete their projects.

So many of you ordered items for Art To Remember, these orders should arrive within the next two weeks!

Thanks,

Angela Lutzker

National Geographic Bee

The National Geographic Bee is coming up in December!! Fourth and Fifth Grade homerooms will have classroom Bees on December 19th and 20th. The winners of the classroom Bee's will participate in a school wide Bee on January 6th.



PTA NEWS

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Dear Charles Barrett Parents,

If you were able to join us for the November PTA meeting, I hope you are as excited as I am about the new ACPS curriculum. I love the idea that our kids are thinking about the “Essential Questions” for a unit of learning, and that they are assessed through an engaging “Transfer Task” that taps their creativity, problem solving skills, and mastery of the material. If you missed our discussion, you can learn more about the new ACPS 21st Century Curriculum here: <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/curriculum/design/>

As excited as I am for the theory behind this curriculum, I can appreciate how much work our teachers are doing to implement it. The teachers are adjusting or creating new lesson plans and assessments that meet its goals. At the November meeting, we also had a plea for volunteer help from our guidance counselors, Meladie Gey-Burke and Anna Tush. Please consider contacting them about the many opportunities to help teachers and students at our school. Don't have time during the school day to tutor, read, or help in class? There are plenty of opportunities to complete projects at home, photocopy, or help after hours. Ms. Gey-Burke and Ms. Tush can be reached by phone or email: mgeyburk@acps.k12.va.us or anna.tush@acps.k12.va.us.

Besides volunteer time, the PTA also offers monetary support to our school, for example, providing set-up funds for staff at the beginning of the year, and offering Mini-grants to teachers who want to buy equipment and learning tools that will enhance their classrooms and-

Instruction. This year, we are helping teachers fund book collections, Smart Boards, and iPad computers for use with special needs students. And more! It's not too late to donate to the PTA's 2011-12 Annual Appeal to make these grants possible. More than a third of PTA money goes directly to support teaching and learning at Barrett. Your tax deductible donation will enable the PTA to help our teachers obtain cutting edge and modern learning resources that impact all of our children.

This is the time of year when we give thanks and reflect on our many blessings. I am thankful that we have so many wonderful students, staff and families at Charles Barrett Elementary School. My job would not be possible without all of the many volunteers who keep the PTA running smoothly. Thank you, and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sincerely,



Cindy Martinez

PARENT PARTY

A big thank you to Sarah Conrad and Melissa Schultz for planning our fabulous Parent Party, and gratitude to Cafe Caturra for hosting us and for donating 15% of our dinners that night, which netted us an additional \$100 for our Fall Appeal Fundraiser. Take a look at their website (www.cafecaturra.com) and please say thank you by dining there often!

ANNUAL FALL APPEAL

Charles Barrett Community,

Thanks to our generous donations, we've raised \$14,500 for our Fall Appeal. But we still have a ways to go to reach our goal of \$18,000. Please remember that this money goes directly to our teachers and kids this school year. The PTA has built its budget based on this target. Last year we raised over \$20,000 so we are confident we can achieve this amount.

We mailed the appeal letters to 300 families and have heard from only 65-last year 97 families participated. So we know there are more families out there who want to donate. By the time you read this, our November 15th deadline will have passed. However, we are still happy and willing to take your donations. You can mail your contribution to:

Renee Berman
604 Tennessee Avenue
Alexandria, VA. 22305

If you have already donated, please look for a thank you letter (which serves as your tax receipt for the IRS) by no later than the end of November. We appreciate your help and look forward to our next Buzz update being a triumphant announcement of success.

With appreciation,
Renee Berman and Karen McManis
Fall Appeal Co-Chairs

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

WALKTOBERFEST!

We had a great turn-out for our Walking Wednesdays -- even in the rain! Congratulations to Ms. Keith's Class who had the highest class participation and will now get to have lunch or a class with Mr. Kennard! Before you know it, it will be time for our March(ing) Madness! Walk to School Committee - Chalin Smith and Suzanne Doggett

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.

ANNOUNCING SCHOOL MUSICAL!

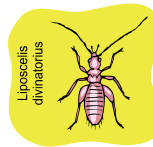
We are pleased to announce that this year's musical will be "Dragon Tale" by John Carter and Mary Kay Beall. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are invited to participate. Auditions will be held after school in the auditorium on Wednesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 1.

"Dragon Tale" will be performed during the school day and in the evening of March 2, 2012. Rehearsals will be held after school, Wednesdays and Fridays, beginning on December 7. There will be a separate, mandatory rehearsal on Saturday morning, February 25, 2012. All participating students will be asked to pay a small fee to help cover costs of scripts, rehearsal CD's, and costumes.

While there are not enough speaking parts for everyone, there are plenty of opportunities for participation in this year's story of wit and daring against an evil dragon. We especially need students to perform the songs and dances that enhance the plot. There is also a place for some who may have a special talent or skill such as juggling or gymnastics. A dependable crew of older students to work the curtains and assist backstage is essential.

All interested students will be invited to the auditorium at the end of the school day on Monday, November 21, where they will receive additional information to help them prepare for auditions and decide how and if they want to participate. A permission form which will be handed out at the meeting (also attached to the bottom portion of the attached flyer, page 6 of the newsletter) should be returned to school by Monday, November 28, 2011. A decision to participate should be based both on the student's interest and parent willingness to see that their child can attend rehearsals. Students who are not auditioning for a speaking or singing role will be contacted at a later date. For those who are---watch some musicals, tune up the vocal chords, and break-in those dancing shoes. We'll see you onstage!

Ms. Massant, Ms. Elliot, and Ms. Lutzker



Head Lice (Pediculosis)

It is our concern to promote quality health for the students in our school and to control and manage communicable diseases. Even though your child may not have lice, this information may decrease the risk of your child becoming infected with head lice.

Head lice are small, light to dark brown insects no larger than the size of sesame seeds. The female head louse lays eggs, called nits, on the hair shaft close to the scalp. The nits which look like tiny, whitish ovals are firmly glued to the hair shafts and usually hatch within two weeks. If you suspect head lice, check your child's head closely. Head lice may be hard to locate because they move to avoid light. Nits may be easier to find. If left untreated, head lice will quickly increase in number, so you have to be sure to treat head lice as soon as detected.

Although head lice do not jump, hop or fly, they can spread easily through close contact from one person to another. School age children (and their families) are one of many groups of likely candidates because of spread through close contact. Please tell your child that he/she should not share personal items, such as hats, combs, brushes, pillows, and bike helmets, as these items can be a method of transfer. Additionally you should be wary of sleepovers and other "close contact" get-together events.

At home, the best thing to do is to check your entire family for lice and nits regularly during routine hygiene care, especially after sleepovers. It's also important to be alert to intense head scratching. If you find lice or nits in your child's hair, it is beneficial to use olive oil or mayonnaise on the hair x 6-8 hours, then rinse the child's hair in vinegar and water (1:8) solution to loosen the nits, and comb out as many of the nits as possible. Then, use a special medicated shampoo like "Nix or Rid" and follow the manufacturer's instructions on the bottle. Medicated shampoos can be used again after one week, but should not be repeated more frequently than that without doctor's recommendation, as they contain strong pesticides.

In addition, it is also important to wash bedding, towels, clothes and coats in hot soapy water. Drying these items in a hot dryer is also recommended. Items which can not be washed should be sealed in a plastic bag for two weeks. Carpets, upholstery and car seats should be vacuumed.

Although head lice do not transmit any diseases to humans or lead to any other health problems, having head lice can be upsetting to many families, students and staff. Please know that we share your concern about head lice. Any time you find head lice or nits on your child, please seek treatment for your child promptly and please notify the school or me directly. Your cooperation and understanding will help successfully reduce the incidence of head lice. Thank you for your continued support of our school community.



AUDITIONS FOR A MUSICAL DRAGON TALE

A Beastly Delight

By

John Carter and Mary Kay Beall

Where: Charles Barrett Auditorium

When: Wednesday November 30 & Thursday, December 1

2:50 pm to 3:50 pm

Who: Any Charles Barrett 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader

Rehearsal Dates: Wednesday and Fridays, Beginning December 7

Evening Performance Date: Friday, March 2, 2012

Students and Parents interested in helping with set design and construction, props, stage crew, costumes, and make-up will be contacted at a later date.

To get a general idea of interest, please return this form to Mrs. Elliot by Monday, November 28.

Check all that apply:

Please Print Clearly

Student

Acting

Chorus

Set construction

Props

Special talent:

Name and grade: _____

Phone number (s): _____

E-mail address: _____

Parent

Make-up

Costumes

Set construction

Props

Supervision

Questions: Jane Massant, 703 241-7586

Whitney Elliot, 703 824-6960

My child, _____, has permission to audition for the school play on :

_____ Wednesday, November 30 or _____ Thursday, December 1 (Choose One)

After auditions he/she will:

_____ be picked up by _____ _____ walk home

_____ be dismissed to Rec _____ take activity bus

_____, Parent/Guardian