



# CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,  
Principal

December 9, 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...



*Welcome to the world Ella!!*



We would like to congratulate Mr. Kennard and his family, on their new arrival. Ella Kate Kennard was born on November 23rd!! CONGRATULATIONS!!! Mr. Kennard will be out on leave until December 22nd.

### Important Dates:

#### DECEMBER

12th-No School for Students

16th-Giving Tree Donation  
Deadline

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

23rd-30th: Winter Break

#### JANUARY

2nd-School Resumes

9th-PTA Meeting 7pm with  
Guest Speaker Dr. Mort  
Sherman, Supt. Of Schools  
7pm

# Art Blog

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I wanted to let you know what each class has been working on in art for the past few weeks!

The kindergarteners and first graders have been working on primary and secondary colors. I also sent home the art work that the kindergarten and first grade classes have completed so far this school year, however some of the students have art work hanging in the school and it will be returned at a later day. All other grades will receive their art work in a few weeks. The second grade students began their paintings of bare trees. We focused on the shape of the trees and how they look when the leaves have all fallen. They will paint the background next week. Third and fourth grade students have been studying about value. We completed a value study and then each student applied their knowledge by sketching a ball with a light source, and then creating all of the components of a value sketch. Fifth graders have been studying about Modigliani and they each created a portrait using his style. They are all very interesting and have lots of personality! Just a reminder, I will be updating the art blog, the address is [angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com](http://angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com). If you become a follower you will receive email notifications every time it is updated!

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## PTA NEWS

Dear Charles Barrett Families,

Did you know that our PTA has 35 committees? Each committee does wonderful things for our school, from collecting box tops that raise money to organizing teacher mini-grants, or from offering after school programs to designing a yearbook of great memories. That's 35 committee chairs who each answer to the PTA president, and who the PTA president must organize, cheerlead and help problem solve. Each individual program is considered a committee, even if it is a committee of one.

I'd like to propose a change to the structure of our PTA that would group those 35 programs into five major standing committees. It turns out that our bylaws already call for the arrangement of such committees, so this is well within our existing governance plan. (bylaws can be found here: <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/barrett/pta-bylaws.pdf>)

The 5 main committees will be:

Fundraising, Enrichment, Events, Support and Communication

Each program will be sorted into one of those major committees, and the committee chairs can be chosen from within the programs, from the PTA Executive Committee, or from the PTA membership. We'll turn our monthly Executive Committee meeting into an Executive Board Meeting, as per our bylaws, and invite those committee chairs to attend and advise. This will allow us to distribute the burden of supporting program chairs and to ensure that nothing is falling through the cracks!

We will begin this structure in earnest for the 2012-13 school year, but if anyone would like to come forward to chair a committee this year, please let me know! How about volunteering for the Fundraising Committee, because we have already met our fundraising goals for the year?

That job will be a piece of cake!

People have a funny response when I tell them that I'm a PTA president. From most people, I get a look of horror and a comment that I must be crazy! I always respond that I have an army of fabulous and dedicated volunteers behind me. Thank you for having my back! I look forward to working with the executive board to make sure that our programs are running smoothly and that all have the support they need.

Sincerely,



Cindy Martinez

## ANNUAL FALL APPEAL

To a Wonderful and Supportive Community,

The Charles Barrett Fall Appeal 2011 raised an amazing total of **\$19,765**, surpassing our goal of \$18,000! Many thanks to all the Charles Barrett families who were so generous this year. There were **99 families** who donated this year, which is a fantastic turnout! Our students and teachers will be very grateful for your generous donations.

Please let us know if you have not received a thank you note by the end of November (which acts as your receipt for the 100% tax deduction). If there are any families who would still like to donate, you are certainly welcome to send a check made out to the Charles Barrett PTA to the home address below. Again, we are so grateful for all your support in making a positive difference in our children's school!

Renee Berman  
604 Tennessee Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22305

Renee Berman and Karen McManis  
Fall Appeal Co-chairs

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## JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS

Junior Great Books is a book club for 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders. Beginning in late January, groups will meet once a week for 10 weeks during the children's lunchtimes. Each week, the children read an assigned story at home to prepare for the lunchtime discussion. The stories take about 20 minutes to read. Discussions are led by parent volunteers. We need 1-2 parents to lead every group. To volunteer, contact Julie Coburn ([juliekcoburn@me.com](mailto:juliekcoburn@me.com)). Registration forms will be sent home soon.

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## THE GIVING TREE

With the season of giving upon us, the PTA invites you to join a cherished Barrett giving tradition. The Giving Tree enables our students, parents, and faculty to donate food, clothing and holiday gifts to our families in need. In each of the past six years, we have purchased \$3,000 worth of gift cards for children and families at our school who might not have had as bright a holiday without our help. Students decorate leaves that are added to the the Giving Tree display in the school foyer. Return the decorated leaf to school with a check made payable to Charles Barrett PTA (Giving Tree in the memo line). Please encourage your children to give their own money and talk with them about how important their gift is for the children in our school community who might otherwise not have presents, new clothes or a coat, or a nice meal this holiday season. Check backpacks for the information flier, which went home last week. The deadline for donations is Friday, December 16. If you have questions, please contact Lorraine Friedman ([rainey@dreamdog.org](mailto:rainey@dreamdog.org)), Tram Rex ([tram.rex@comcast.net](mailto:tram.rex@comcast.net)), Sabrina Reilly ([salreilly@gmail.com](mailto:salreilly@gmail.com)), or Erica Jones ([ericajones@comcast.net](mailto:ericajones@comcast.net)).

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## Charles Barrett Winter Concert!

The Winter Concert is on Monday December 19th at 1:15pm & 7:00pm. Performers will include the Bands, Orchestras, and the Fifth and Second grade singers. Plan now for your festive holiday enjoyment! Other upcoming concerts will be in March and June, featuring different grade levels.

## 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](mailto: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.

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## FALL CONFERENCE STAFF DINNER

We want to thank the following people who made the fall conference staff dinner such a success: Susanna Carey, Julie Coburn, Sharon Cohen, Sarah Conrad, Suzanne Doggett, Abena Durity, Nicole Durity-Thomas, Lorraine Friedman, Keri Henderson, Melody Hooker, Lisa Jacobson, Erica Jones, Pat Laane, Cindy Martinez, Nancy McKenna, Eliza Niemann, Sabrina Reilly, Deb Riley, Jennifer Roda, Kathy Stenzel, Christy Sweet, Joanna Szczerban, Christine Thayer, Lisa and Jim Warden, and Maureen Williams. We would like to pass on the many thanks we received on your behalf from the teachers and staff as well. What an incredible group of parents we have!

Sincerely,  
Monica Buek & Kathleen Hicks  
Hospitality Co-chairs

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## Barrett Volunteers:

As we head into the second quarter of school, teachers are making many requests for support of their students. That support often comes from our fabulous Barrett Volunteer Corps. If you are able, please consider volunteering once per week. We will do our best to match you with a student, teacher and need that matches your interest and availability. If you have previously signed up as a volunteer and are not currently receiving emails regarding the Volunteer Corps, please send your name and contact information to Meladie Gey-Burke, Volunteer Coordinator, at [mgeyburk@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:mgeyburk@acps.k12.va.us). Anyone who would like more information about the volunteer opportunities available may contact Ms. Gey-Burke at [703-824-8172](tel:703-824-8172) or [mgeyburk@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:mgeyburk@acps.k12.va.us). Thank you in advance for all of your hard work and dedication. We couldn't do all that we do without the support of our community.



# THE CHARLES BARRETT GIVING TREE

*For our Students and their Families*



With the season of giving right around the corner, the PTA would like to invite you all to be a part of a wonderful giving opportunity here at our school. This Barrett holiday tradition -- **THE CHARLES BARRETT GIVING TREE** -- enables our students, parents, and faculty to donate to our families in need for food, gifts and clothing for the holidays. The past six years, we were able to purchase \$3,000 worth of gift cards every year for children and families at our school that might not have had as bright a holiday without our help.

Here's how it works:

1. Have your child **decorate the leaf** (*in the attached envelope*) any way they want --glitter, sequins, paint, beads, markers, or crayons. Make it as unique and special as they are.
2. **Return the leaf to the school with a check made payable to the Charles Barrett PTA** (*Giving Tree in the memo line*). We encourage children to give from their piggy banks, too. This is an opportunity – a life lesson in giving. Please encourage them to give a few dollars of their own money and tell them how important their gift is for the children in our school community who might, otherwise, not have presents, new clothes or a coat, or a nice meal this holiday season.

The decorated leaves will be added to **THE CHARLES BARRETT GIVING TREE**, which will be on display near our auditorium. Each leaf will mean that we are supporting our families and making their holiday as beautiful and full as our giving tree. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to our own families and we hope you will consider being a part of this Barrett holiday tradition.

**Please help us make a difference this holiday season by giving generously to  
THE CHARLES BARRETT GIVING TREE.**

**Deadline for Donations: Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

If you have questions, please contact Lorraine Friedman at [rainey@dreamdog.org](mailto:rainey@dreamdog.org), Tram Rex at [tram.rex@comcast.net](mailto:tram.rex@comcast.net), Sabrina Reilly at [salreilly@gmail.com](mailto:salreilly@gmail.com), or Erica Jones at [ericajones@comcast.net](mailto:ericajones@comcast.net)



## Do you love a great story?

Kids, come have some lunchtime fun with your friends! Read great short stories each week and talk about what you've read while you enjoy lunch.

### Junior Great Books Begins in January!

Groups meet once a week for ten weeks. Each week, the kids read an assigned story to prepare for the lunch-time discussion. Each story takes about 20 minutes to read.

Discussions are led by **parent volunteers**. To be a parent leader, contact Julie Coburn (703-549-3316 or [juliekcoburn@me.com](mailto:juliekcoburn@me.com)).

These small, informal discussions help develop achievement in reading, critical thinking and communication skills.

Groups are organized by grade and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Space is limited to eight children per group. If more than eight children sign up in any grade, a second group may be formed.

Student books are \$16.95. Scholarships are available, and we have many used books to lend.

To purchase a book, enclose a check for \$16.95, payable to Charles Barrett PTA, with this form and return by 12/19.

To LEND or DONATE a book, sponsor a student, or to request a scholarship, contact Julie Coburn or school social worker, Ms. Bonilla ([abonilla@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:abonilla@acps.k12.va.us)).

### REGISTRATION

Return by Monday, December 19, 2011

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: 2nd( ) 3rd( ) 4th( )

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Student Commitment:

I agree to read the assigned selection before each session.

Student signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My child is ordering a book. My \$16.95 check, payable to Charles Barrett PTA, is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would love to lead or co-lead a book group!**

I can help: Weekly( ) Bi-weekly( )

Questions?

Contact Julie Coburn (703-549-3316 or [juliekcoburn@me.com](mailto:juliekcoburn@me.com))