



# CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,  
Principal

January 13, 2012

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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...



Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break and has started off 2012 rested and ready for a great year. We have wasted no time getting back into the swing of things here, and are so pleased at the level of energy and enthusiasm our students returned with.

I would like to congratulate our staff and students on their hard work which led to Charles Barrett recently being named a School of Excellence by the Commonwealth of Virginia School Board. I am very proud of their hard work and dedication that led to this distinguished recognition.

Another recent recognition that we have received is that of being named an Energy Star School for 2012. This award means that Charles Barrett ranks in the top 25% for energy efficient school buildings nation-wide, and consumes 35% less energy than the average elementary school. This award is particularly well-earned considering the majority of our facility was built in the 1940's. Our custodial staff and teachers work hard to ensure lights are off when rooms are not in use, and to limit air conditioning use in the summer (which is why Mr. Kennard is often seen in shorts in July!)

In addition to energy conservation, our students separate their trash into compostable materials (food, paper) and non-compost materials at lunch. Our participation rate in the compost program is also very high.

As we expand our building we have set a high standard for new construction materials and design. Our new first grade wing and kindergarten classes both meet LEED Gold standards, ranking them in the top 15% nation-wide for energy efficiency and use of materials. Plans for our additional construction also incorporate these same high standards.

For more information about our environmental program, please contact Art Teacher Angela Lutzker, who is serving as our environmental steward this school year.

Thank you for your support of our school. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to a spectacular 2012!

#### Important Dates:

#### JANUARY

16th-Martin Luther King Holiday-Schools are closed

18th-PTA After School Enrichment forms DUE!

20th-Family Fun Night (CB Rec. Center) 7pm-8:30pm

#### FEBRUARY

3-No School

8-9th: Student Led Conferences 12:35 Dismissal

10th-No School for students/Student Led Conferences in the afternoon

# Art Blog

I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful winter break! We jumped right into our art projects this week! We have many new postings on the Charles Barrett Art Blog and I invite you to log and take a look! The address is [angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com](http://angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com)  
If any of you are interested in signing your children up for after school art enrichment I will be teaching to eight week classes. One will be for grades K-2 and one for 3-5. Sign up information and details will be available soon. Happy New Year!

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## PTA NEWS

Dear Barrett Families,

Happy New Year! It's going to be another fantastic year at Charles Barrett Elementary School. Thanks to everyone who works so hard to make our school great! It's always nice to get recognition of a job well done, and so I want to add my congratulations to Mr. Kennard and the Charles Barrett Staff and students for earning a 2012 Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award.

We also give a big thanks to the Charles Barrett Kids Care team organizing the Giving Tree. Lorraine Friedman and crew, along with all the children and families who crafted beautiful leaves, made donations, and spread holiday cheer to all our Barrett Families.

Did you make a new year's resolution to volunteer for the PTA? We still have one Barrett Tradition in need of volunteers: the Barrett Bazaar! Our new Kindergarten Teacher, Tai Steeb, has offered to help organize the event, and we need a committee of parents willing to get involved to make this fun community event happen. Please contact me if you can help. I'd hate to see the Bazaar cancelled due to lack of volunteers.

Remember to turn in your After School Enrichment sign up forms by January 18<sup>th</sup>. Our new lottery system and enrollment/payment system should simplify the registration process. Let us know if you want to join the After School Programs Committee.

Wishing you a very happy and enriching 2012!

Sincerely,



-Cindy Martinez

## DRAGON TALE - SCHOOL MUSICAL

Rehearsals are already underway for "Dragon Tale," our school musical, which will be presented on March 2, 2012. The cast of 52 third, fourth, and fifth graders are enthusiastic and working hard to display their talents and provide top-quality entertainment for their school community. Another team of about 20 students and parents are signed up and ready to help with props, costumes, set, and backstage crew.

Please make sure that you read all communications that come home regarding your child's schedule and responsibilities. We have a lot to do in two months and desperately need every child to show up when scheduled – with their folder, pencil, and their most imaginative and attentive self. Students working "behind-the-scenes" will be contacted in the next few weeks. Their roles are very important, but some may not come into play until February.

As always, thanks to the wonderful Charles Barrett staff, parents, and children for their flexibility and support so far. We are looking forward to a fantastic show!

Jane Massant and Whitney Elliot

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## FAMILY FUN NIGHT - FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH

Please save the date for the next Family Fun Night on Friday, January 20th 7:00-8:30pm! Get ready to boogie away the winter blues at a summer theme dance at Charles Barrett Rec Center - break out your board shorts and



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## MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

An evening open house will be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Jan. 10, 2012, at the Hammond campus and on Jan. 11, 2012, at the George Washington campus. Both campuses will host Walk-Through Tuesday tours at 8:45 a.m. on Jan. 10, Feb. 7 and March 13. Walk-Through Tuesdays will provide prospective families with opportunities to visit classes and tour the buildings during normal school hours. For additional information regarding open house events and to RSVP for Walk Through Tuesdays, contact George Washington Director of School Counseling Dorothy McKenzie (703-706-4500) and Hammond Director of School Counseling Erica Daniels (703-461-4100).



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## REFLECTIONS ART FAIR

The local portion of the Reflections program concludes with the PTA Reflections Art Festival, sponsored by the Alexandria PTA Council on Sunday, Jan. 22, 3:00-5:00 p.m., in the T.C. Williams High School King Street Campus cafeteria.

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## SUMMER CAMP FAIR

The annual Summer Camp Fair, sponsored by the Alexandria PTA Council, will be held Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Details will follow when they become available.

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## 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.