



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard,
Principal

January 27, 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...



It is hard to believe that we are about halfway through our school year already! Next week marks the end of our second quarter. Student-led report card conferences will take place over the coming weeks. If you have not yet scheduled a conference time for your child, please contact his/her teacher immediately.

During your report card conference, teachers will be sharing students' guided reading levels with parents again. This is information about your child's reading performance (rated A-Z) and will give you some great strategies to use at home when reading with your child. The teacher will also be able to tell you your child's performance in relation to expected performance at the mid-point of the school year. This will help determine if he/she is above/on/below grade level in reading so far this year.

Awards assemblies for the second quarter (we only do award assemblies quarters two and four) will take place on February 17th. There will be a 1:00pm assembly for students in grades 1 through 3, and a 1:45pm assembly for students in grades 4 and 5. Kindergarten students celebrate daily accomplishments in the classrooms and are not included during awards assemblies. Parents of students who will be receiving an award will be notified by their child's teacher at least a week in advance.

At the end of each quarter our 3rd through 5th graders are assessed using a division-wide assessment called the "CRTs" or Criterion Referenced Tests. These tests measure student performance on our new ACPS curriculum and help teachers modify their instruction to address any areas of need identified.

Finally, we are constantly improving on our methods of parent communication and have recently just added another tool to our toolbox. Barrett Elementary now Tweets! Please consider following us on Twitter, our username is: @BarrettElem. We will use this account to send out news, announcements and other fun information.

Thank you for your support of our school and of your child. We are most grateful for the opportunity to work with this special group of students each day, and we are looking forward to a great second half of the school year!

Important Dates:

FEBRUARY

1st-Yearbook cover art entries due

3-No School For Students

6th-PTA Meeting 7pm

7th-Hammond & GW Middle School walk-through
8:45am

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

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

17th-Awards Assembly

Grades:1-3 at 1:00pm
Grades: 4 & 5 at 1:45pm

22nd-2012 Summer Camp Fair 5:30-8:00pm. TC Williams Minnie Howard Campus Cafeteria.

Art Blog

Earth Day 2012! We are looking for recycled plastic bottle caps and plastic jar caps for our wonderful Earth Day project. If you have any extra plastic bottle caps or plastic caps from peanut butter jars, please send them to school with your child. There will be a collection box on the PTA table.

This month in the art room the students are working on many new projects! The fifth graders are studying the life and work of Jacob Lawrence, and they even got to view his original work on our field trip to The Phillip's Collection! Following the field trip the fifth graders are each creating a piece of Lawrence's Migration Series. The third and fourth grade students are finishing up a unit on Andy Warhol, and their Warhol inspired soup cans are amazing! The second graders are learning about warm and cool colors, and they created collages that demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of this concept. The first grade students completed their mixed media, Wayne Theibaud inspired desserts, and they will soon begin a clay project that celebrates the work of Thiebaud. The Kindergarten students just completed their Ukrainian mittens in which they were required to use the patterns found in traditional Ukrainian design to inform their design.

I hope all of you will take a look at the art blog to see the latest work. I just updated it and I will add a few more projects as the students finish them. The blog address is angelalutzkerandtheartroom.blogspot.com.

PTA NEWS

Dear Barrett Families,

After School programs will start on Monday, and I'd like to take a second to thank our amazing and dedicated committee of volunteers. Sharon Griffis, a kindergarten parent, chairs this committee and does an amazing job of setting up the exciting courses, overseeing registrations and keeping everyone on track. Alicia Basara is the data entry guru and carefully deciphers all of your handwriting! Lisa Warden and Purvi Sittner have joined the planning committee, and course logistics are handled by Christine Sherner, Erica Jones, Sarah Conrad, Abena Durity, Nicole Bush, Jerica Webber and Jill Canfield, and many other volunteers. It takes a lot of manpower to make these enrichment courses happen! We thank you and appreciate all of the time you give to these PTA programs.

Who is the PTA, anyway? It's all of us: Parents and teachers, and the entire the Barrett Community. Everything we do only happens because of the hard work of volunteers. Did you enjoy the School Dance? Sign your kid up for Cooking? Find contact info in the Barrett Directory to set up a playdate? All of these things are possible because of PTA volunteers. Let's all remember that our volunteers are doing their best, and can't anticipate or respond to every concern or request you might have. Join me in thanking our volunteers every chance you get. And please get involved! Have a new idea, or want to see things done a different way? Jump in and make it happen!

Our next PTA program will feature Charles Barrett staff, presenting programs that impact all of our kids. Mrs. Lorraine Keir and Mrs. Kelly Bucceri will discuss English Language Learning (ELL) and Inclusion programs at Charles Barrett. Ms. Meladie Gey-Burke and Ms. Tracie Logan will talk about our Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. Dr. Donna Brearly, ACPS's TAG Coordinator, and our own Ms. Tracie Logan will talk about our Talented and Gifted (TAG) program.

The meeting is February 6th from 7-8pm. Please join us!

Sincerely,

Cindy Martinez

Cindy Martinez

3rd ANNUAL YEARBOOK COVER ART CONTEST

Reminder to our creative 5th graders to turn in your yearbook cover art entries for "What Charles Barrett Means to You" by Wednesday, February 1st, to your homeroom teacher. The teachers and staff will vote on the winning submission to grace the cover of this year's yearbook! **Pre-sales of the yearbook will begin in March!** Please contact a member of the Yearbook Committee for further information or with any questions: Diana Waller (diana@chasingdragons.com), Kelly Daschle (kdaschle@ap.org), or Susanna Carey (susannacarey@comcast.net).



MIDDLE SCHOOL WALK-THROUGH TUESDAY TOURS

Both Frances Hammond and George Washington will host Walk-Through Tuesday tours at 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 7th and March 13th. Walk-Through Tuesdays will provide prospective families with opportunities to visit classes and tour the buildings during normal school hours. For additional information and to RSVP for Walk-Through Tuesdays, contact George Washington Director of School Counseling Dorothy McKenzie (703-706-4500) and/or Frances Hammond Director of School Counseling Erica Daniels (703-461-4100).

ALEXANDRIA PTA COUNCIL SUMMER CAMP FAIR

Families are invited to the 2012 Summer Camp Fair sponsored by the PTA Council of Alexandria. The **2012 Summer Camp Fair is Wednesday, February 22, from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria of TC Williams Minnie Howard Campus, at 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, 22302. Admission and parking are free. Pizza will be available for purchase. Printed directories will be available to the first 150 attendees. At least 50 exhibitors will represent a wide range of camps including day and overnight camps. Students of all grade levels (PreK-12) will find interesting opportunities including art, academics, adventure, drama, enrichment, music, sports, special needs, and more! For more information, contact Marianne Hetzer at alexptac-camp@comcast.net. Find us on Facebook at Alexandria PTAC Summer Camp Fair.

JR. GREAT BOOKS

This year's Jr. Great Books program is up and running, with forty students in six lunchtime groups. Thank you to the parents who are joining the kids for lunch each week and facilitating the group discussions: Kay Arndorfer, Renee Berman, Roger Conrad, Suzanne Doggett, Amy Goodrich, Pam Jones, Cindy Martinez, Karen McManis, Karen Meyers, and Chalin Smith.

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.

Charles Barrett is now on Twitter!

Please follow us, our username is: @BarrettElem
Sign up to receive news, announcements, and fun tidbits.



REFLECTIONS WINNERS

The Reflections program provides opportunities for students to receive recognition for their artistic efforts and expressions based on an annual theme. The 2011-12 theme was "Diversity means ..."

Congratulations to fifth-grader **Cameron Goldstein**, whose poem "Who You Are" won at the City level in the Literature category, and fourth-grader **Caroline Keir**, whose photograph "Sea Treasures" won at the City level in the Photography category. Cameron and Caroline will compete at the Northern Virginia District level. The District competition includes schools from ACPS, Fairfax and Arlington counties and the City of Falls Church.

Also to be congratulated are Kindergartener **Grace Metzler**, whose project "Working Together on Earth" received an Honorable Mention award in Visual Arts, and third-grader **Eva Balistreri**, whose project "Rainforest Diversity" also received an Honorable Mention award in Visual Arts.

In addition to the City level awards, Barrett recognized third-grader **Isabel Metzler** with a Visual Arts Award of Excellence and fourth-grader **Angelina Hunt** with a Literature Award of Excellence.

AWARDS ASSEMBLY

The Awards Assembly will be on Friday February 17th. Grades 1-3 at 1pm. Grades 4 and 5 at 1:45pm. Parents of students who will be receiving an award will be notified at least a week in advance by their child's teacher.

