



CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Seth Kennard, Principal
Nancy Ritter, Assistant Principal

June 22, 2016

The "Buzz"

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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.....

Summer Greetings!

Thank you for another wonderful school year. We are truly fortunate to have such amazing students, families and staff at Charles Barrett. I am deeply grateful for all the hard work that everyone has done to give our students such a quality educational experience this year.

We end every school year by saying goodbye to our 5th graders as they head off to middle school, and also to a few staff members who also move on from CB. This year we sadly say farewell to two teachers, Ms. Bogasky and Ms. Bates. Both are moving out of the area to be closer to family as they raise their children. Ms. Bates has been out on maternity leave since having twins earlier this year, and Ms. Bogasky is due with her first child this summer. We wish them well and thank them for their commitment to our school.



We have the good fortune of welcoming three new teachers to our school next year. Ms. Jennifer Yeager will be joining our special education team this fall. She is currently a special education teacher in Philadelphia, PA and will be relocating her with her husband and nine month-old son, Wesley. "I am very excited to work at Barrett because it will give me the opportunity to explore new challenges, meet new people and make a difference in the lives of my future students."



Ms. Michelle Hart will also be joining us from Penn State, as a second grade teacher. Ms. Hart is extremely passionate about literacy and arts integration. "I love teaching because I not only can make an impact in a child's life, but I can also be a learner each day to get better and better at what I do."

Ms. Stephanie Scherder will be joining our third grade team as a first-year teacher from Penn State. We are excited to have her for her passion, creative lesson plans and ability to connect with kids. "I am excited to work at Charles Barrett to be a part of a unified team who is dedicated to help students grow and be their personal best with the support of a close knit community of learners."



In addition to these new teachers, we do have some current teachers taking on new roles within our building next year. Ms. Jennifer Gant will be moving from third grade to our pre-school classroom. Ms. Kari Vega will be moving from second grade to teach fourth grade. Finally, Ms. Catherine Clinger will be moving from special education to fourth grade.

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful year and for all of your support of our school. We will miss you over the summer and look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.



Important Dates:

JUNE

22nd-23rd-5th Grade Promotion Events

23rd-24th: Early Release 12:35PM

24th-Last day of School

Awards Ceremony

1st & 2nd grades 9am

3rd & 4th grades 9:45am

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

And just like that, in the blink of an eye, we're at the end of another school year!

I'd like to thank everyone – parents, students and teachers – for a fantastic year! It was a busy one, but we accomplished a lot and had a bit of fun. "If you serve ice cream, they will come" – our first event, the ice cream social is always a big hit. Throughout the year, families continued to have fun together at the parent social, dessert social and our restaurant nights. Again, the Fall Appeal exceeded our goal, as did spirit wear sales. Our Reflections program continues to grow and we introduced Odyssey of the Mind. We had another beautifully decorated school for Gallery Night. The kids participated in the Holiday Shop and our Heritage Night. They gave amazing performances in the school play! We hosted two farm-to-table events and highlighted Earth Day with several great activities around the school grounds. Many students participated in the SCA-sponsored Jump for Jack and the Marine Corps Marathon Fun Run. They went on more field trips than I can count! The PTA funded technology, music, art and sports and helped set-up 4 new classrooms. We funded silly PBIS incentives (remember the Panda costumes?) and we bought the duct tape that held our principal to the wall! We showered our teachers with goodies last month (it makes a difference, check out what 100% of our staff said on the [Tell ACPS survey](#), specifically Q4.1.e). We funded school extras such as the geography bee, math night, garden education and after-school enrichment. We created a directory, 18 newsletters, and a yearbook. Finally, we encouraged our children to think about others through the Giving Tree, Carpenter's Shelter and Adopt-A-Gym. No wonder we were so busy all year!

Participation comes in many different ways. Maybe you volunteered in school or at events. Maybe you coordinated programs from your laptop. Maybe you encouraged your child to participate in PTA events. Or maybe you contributed financially. It all affected our PTA's bottom line – we made great things happen at our school! THANK YOU! I'd especially like to thank our committee chairs who are either graduating out of Charles Barrett or moving away. You all will be missed for sure! Ashley Seeger, Chalin Smith, Cinnamon Rogers, Deb Riley, John & Linda Haukedahl, Lauren Sigler, Lesli Creedon, Melody Hooker, Susanna Carey, Tammy Adams, & Tracie Jurgensen.

Thank you to Lindsay Bower and Sabrina Reilly for organizing Field Day; Jolyn Green for coordinating our Dessert Social; the Yearbook committee (Tammy Adams, Susanna Carey, Kelly Daschle, and Tracie Jurgensen) for documenting memories in our school yearbook; and the Fifth Grade Promotion Committee (Susanna Carey, Linda Haukedahl, Erica Jones, Chris Rossi and Jerica Webber).

An of course, many thanks to the outgoing executive committee – Michelle Brayman, Nancy Butler, and Suzanne McGovern. You all did a fantastic job and it was my pleasure working with you this past year.

Finally, welcome to the incoming executive committee!

Kristen Weber – president (cbptapresident@gmail.com)

Ronké Hughes – president-elect (rhh001@gmail.com)

Becky Kotuby – vice president (cbptavp@gmail.com)

Sabrina Reilly – secretary (cbptasecretary@gmail.com)

Patrick McNabb – treasurer (cbptatreasurer@gmail.com)

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Anna Jaeger, PTA President

ajaeger@axcedesolutions.com

703-568-1203

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 Sabrina Reilly (cbptasecretary@gmail.com)

Please note that the list serve is an unmoderated, public forum and is not officially affiliated with Charles Barrett Elementary School or ACPS.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

Are you interested in getting more involved next year? We have the following positions to fill. There are positions to fit your schedule. Some are one time-events. Others run over a longer period of time. Some can be done entirely by one person, via phone/email on evenings and weekends. Others are a team effort and require more time in school. Whatever your preference, we have something for you. Please contact Kristen Weber if you're interested or have questions (cbptapresident@gmail.com or 917-693-6744).



Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Barrett Carnival (3 people)
Committee Chair Potluck
Fifth Grade Promotion
Fundraising
Grocery Card Program
GW Middle School Liaison
J-H Middle School Liaison
Junior Great Books
Talent Show
New Family Liaisons

Parent Social
Reflections (1-2 people)
Restaurant Night Fundraisers
Room Parent Coordinator
School Appreciation Week
Student Directory
Walk to School Days
Yearbook (3-4 people)

ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS

Don't forget that your purchases can earn money for Charles Barrett PTA. It's as simple as shopping through this link - <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1265923>. Bookmark it, set it as your home page, use it at home, and use it at work. Don't leave money behind!



Charles Barrett PTA is on Facebook!

The Facebook group provides an additional avenue of communication for members of the school community. In the interests of safety and personal privacy, the group is private.

To join, please send an email to Suzanne McGovern at cbptasecretary@gmail.com. You will then receive an email invitation to the group.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

This program is ending. Please submit all labels before school ends.

If you have questions, please contact Betsy Shanks, elizashanks@aol.com.



KEEP CLIPPING!

Congratulations to Ms. Smith's first grade class! They collected the most Box Tops over the school year, with a total of 1,328! The children have chosen extra recess as their prize.

Thank you to all the Barrett families, teachers, and staff for supporting the Box Tops for Education program. Keep clipping over the summer! Looking forward to seeing the big jar in the lobby full in September.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Take care of your 2016-2017 school supplies now! The PTA partners with SchoolKidz to offer school supply kits tailored for each grade, which include all of the teacher-selected items that will be included on the school supply lists for next year. Prices for the school supply kits vary by grade but are equivalent to in-store costs. Kits will be delivered directly to the school and available in your child's classroom the first day of school - no hassle to you!



Order forms for grade-specific kits will be coming home in your child's folder this week. Online ordering is available now at www.shoptkits.com. Enter school account number 96842 to access the CBES order page. Online ordering is available through June 24. Orders cannot be accepted after these deadlines, so don't wait!

I'm happy to help with any questions you might have about the kits.

Jen Pulliam

jenpulliam@yahoo.com

DIFFERING CULTURES, BACKGROUNDS, & SENSITIVITIES

On May 24th the PTA held a meeting to discuss how we can work within our differences and how to have productive discussions about sensitive issues. Approximately 16 parents attended the meeting. We discussed our goals for the meeting and reviewed what we agreed upon. In relation to the school play, we agreed that:

- parents, students and teachers were very proud of the performance that the kids put on
- it was a great community-building event for the children
- the casting was inclusive and parents were involved
- the emails afterwards gave us the opportunity to reflect and discuss

We agreed that since our community is made of up many diverse families, we will stumble again in the future. The challenge that we need to address now is how and where will we have those discussions? How can we have productive discussion about issues that are hard to talk about? The majority of us agreed that the listserv was not the best place for this discussion but we did not have enough time to work through the specifics of another forum for this type of conversation.

This will be an ongoing discussion that will continue next year. Please feel free to submit comments or concerns to the PTA President at cbptapresident@gmail.com.

June 23rd: 9am is our **5th grade Promotion Ceremony** & early release (12:35)



June 24th: 9am Awards Ceremony for 1st & 2nd grades

-9:45am Awards Ceremony for 3rd & 4th grades

-Last day of school, early release (12:35)

END OF YEAR LUNCH FOR TEACHERS – Volunteers needed

Hello from the PTA Hospitality Committee and congratulations on successfully navigating a full year of homework, early mornings, sports, staff appreciation week, holiday gifts, the Bazaar, Holiday Shop, summer camp sign ups, PTA Meetings, and lunch boxes! You have made it. And our fabulous teachers have somehow taught, cajoled, nurtured, pushed, and lead our kids through this grade. And nothing says "thank you" like a free lunch!

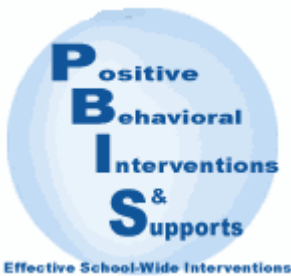
We are planning lunch for the teachers on the last Thursday of school (Thursday, June 23rd, at 12:30) and we need your help! Please sign-up to bring an item (made or purchased) to thank our wonderful teachers. Online sign up is located at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4eafad2f4-teacher1>.

All items need to be in the staff lounge by 12-noon on Thursday. There is a refrigerator in the lounge if you need to drop-off perishable items early.

All Serving dishes will be cleaned and ready for pick up on Friday. Please use disposable dishes if possible.

Thanks in advance for your help and generosity!

Lynne Boyle, Ashley Seeger, and future Hospitality Chair, Alexandria Coughlin



Dear Charles Barrett Families,

Our last Puzzle Challenge of the year is wrapping up!! For the last four weeks, classes have been earning panda paws in order to 'buy' their puzzle piece. The last day for purchasing puzzle pieces is June 17th. Ask your child if their class has earned their puzzle piece yet. The prize is extra recess and with music.

As we are winding down the school year, remember to enforce the school expectations at home. Listening, Using Kind Actions and Words, and Taking Care of Our School can all be applied at home! This will help with the transition back in the fall.
Your PBIS Team



Kindergarteners and second graders used a CETA technique this year in Music class to help expand their understanding of the curriculum in both music and reading. This strategy is called *Sing Me A Story, Play Me A Book*. It integrates vocal music and stories for all learners, building connections to both the memory of the book through close reading and the music making itself, so that every student is actively engaged in the learning process.

In the book *The Very Quiet Cricket* by Eric Carle, we focused on the reading vocabulary of Character, Setting, Details, and Sequence. Specific music vocabulary included Call and Response, Pitch, Dynamics, Timbre, Ensemble, Rest, and Beat. First, the teacher read the story and students identified the characters and the setting. Next, the class examined the artistic illustrations of each insect, and analyzed details about each one. Finally, the class listed each character in the order they occurred in the story.

For the second lesson, the teacher read the story again and students learned a call and response part which was spoken after each character was added to the story. Next, the teacher taught the class a song to sing after each call and response, complete with movements about "rubbing its' wings together" as a cricket would when making a chirping sound. In the final lesson, we put it all together and students gave each character its' very own "voice" in the story by choosing different instrument sounds to play as that insect's part was read in the story.



“I’M BORED! WHAT CAN I DO?”

Here are your suggestions of ways to curb summer boredom

<p>Driver’s Licenses will be here in the blink of an eye. Get your child road-ready. If during your travels, you’re “lucky” enough to stumble into this learning experience, let your child help you change a flat tire. By help, I don’t mean have them jack up the car on the side of 495! You can talk to younger kids about safety and older kids can read instructions to you from the manual. Or, just make sure they know the number for road-side-assistance!</p>	<p>On a hot day, we visit the air-conditioned comfort of any of the free museums in DC. See http://dc.about.com/od/touristattractions/tp/FreeDCAttractions.htm for other free DC attractions.</p>
<p>1) Put the kids, dog and car in the backyard. 2) Turn on the hose. *Add soap and something might end up clean.</p>	
<p>My kids enjoy putting together a "taste test" for each other. This might consist of cereal, ketchup, chocolate chip, cinnamon, and a pickle slice! The eater is blindfolded and has to guess what the food is. (Please make sure your kids “like” each other that day. And hide the hot sauce!)</p>	
<p>Visit the New Dollhouse exhibit at National Bldg Museum. 401 F Street NW (Judiciary Square and Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro), 202.272.2448. Monday–Saturday 10 am–5 pm, Sunday: 11 am–5 pm http://www.nbm.org/exhibitions-collections/exhibitions/small-stories.html</p>	<p>Annemarie Sculpture Garden www.annmariegarden.org</p> <p>13480 Dowell Rd, Dowell, MD 20629, 410-326-4640</p> <p>Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center is located in scenic Solomons, MD, where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay. The sculpture garden features a 1/4 mile walking path that meanders through the woods past permanent and loaned sculpture, including over thirty works on loan from the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art. Fairies in the Garden: Explore the nooks and crannies of the sculpture garden and try to find all 45 fabulous fairy houses and gnome homes. Tree Pops: Annmarie offers a unique scavenger hunt for snippets of recreated masterworks hidden within the tree knots throughout the forest. Grab a guide and see if you can identify the art!</p>
<p>And if you’ve traveled all the way down to Southern MD to visit Annmarie Garden, be sure not to miss the Calvert Marine Museum (www.calvertmarinemuseum.com, admission fee, Sharkfest is July 9th), Flag Pond (www.calvertparks.org/fpp.html, \$6/vehicle, you’ll find fossilized shark teeth), Stoney’s Seafood House on Broome’s Island (www.stoneysseafoodhouse.com/broomesisland), and The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum (www.paxmuseum.com, admission fees, kids LOVE the parking lot full of jets).</p>	
<p>From a favorite Mom advice gal, Jen Hatmaker (http://jenhatmaker.com/blog/2015/05/21/our-parenting-yess-and-nos):</p>	
<p>We make a list at the beginning of summer of possible things to do. It is long and outrageous. We put every possible idea on the list: make a film on iMovie, organize bike races with your friends, bake cupcakes, plan a neighborhood yard party and make invitations, read, practice your typing skills, visit the craft closet, whatever. “Consult the list” is my summer mantra.</p>	<p>Turn couches into a fort. Drape sheets over your dining room table with a messy picnic underneath. Construct a Lego City in your living room. Let your kids play outside/ride bikes/climb trees/catch fireflies/skateboard/fish/go to the park. Make your peace with skinned knees, bike wrecks, and splinters – this is the substance of childhood. Your house will be a hot mess. Your children will always smell like dirty gym socks. Their shorts will be chronically torn. They will break some dishes.</p>
<p>Being a kid should be fun, and not from ten developmentally correct boutique activities but because this is when they are supposed to be free with abandon and without fear or – let’s be honest – much responsibility. Which means my house and yard look like crap and I go through a lot of bandaids.</p>	

Thank you to all of our SPONSORS who have generously supported THE BUZZ during the 2015-16 school year:

Alexandria Pet Care

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