



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

A Message from the President

As the holiday season is in full swing and we mark the half-way point of the academic year, it is an opportunity for reflection and thanks.

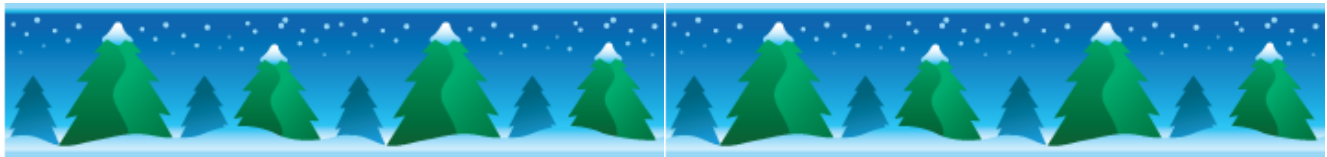
I want to thank all of the committee chairs for their efforts so far this year and ALL of the Barrington parents for their support of the PTO. Without your kind donations, both monetary and your time, the PTO would not be able to execute the programs and events that is it able to do. It is our children who benefit from your generosity.

I would also like to recognize the following individuals who have dedicated their time and energy to recent PTO activities:

- **Jenny Boyer and Kim Miller** for leading another successful Clown Around, raising funds for the PTO while providing a fun event for Barrington families.
- **Val Goettler and Amy Reed** for organizing the Clown Around games for the kids to enjoy.
- **Elisabeth Dilz** for heading up publicity and spreading the word about Clown Around.
- **Amber Kuehn and Sarah Borders** for picking out the Clown Around prizes our kids love.
- **Kari Rucker and Jenny McKenna** for coordinating the Clown Around ticket sale.
- **Carrie Reinke and Debbie Segor** for creating a festive atmosphere at Clown Around with signs and decorations.
- **Melissa Shanklin, Jennie Beal and Ellen Makris** for conducting a successful silent auction during Clown Around.
- **Jean Piper** for securing Clown Around corporate sponsors.
- **Amanda Layland and Billie Schantz** for recruiting and organizing the Clown Around volunteers, including students from Jones.
- **Denise Thompson** for coordinating the Clown Around community giving, which this year included both the coat and book drive to benefit those in need.
- **Catherine Whetzel** for managing the Clown Around café and providing yummy treats for us to eat.
- **Aimee Switzer** for coordinating the ever-popular inflatables.
- **Heather Evans and Shelly Krauss** for providing a delicious Staff Appreciation Luncheon before the Thanksgiving holiday.
- **Kim Young** and the Academic Enrichment Committee for coordinating the citizenship essay contest and the poetry page on the PTO web site, as well as the upcoming events this winter.
- **Tina Muldoon and Wendy Panero** and their committee for planning Walking Wednesdays this fall, which concluded with the world's largest buckeye necklace.

Wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season!

Sincerely,
Katie Ryan
PTO President



Academically Enriching Events Planned During Cold Winter Months

Harsh weather forces us indoors too often during the winter, so the Academic Enrichment Committee plans most of its activities to engage students during this time of year. Here's a look at what's coming up:

The 1st-3rd Grade Spelling Bee (1/10/2012) is not your parents' spelling bee. We've done our best to remove the frightening and/or awkward aspects of old-fashioned bees. In our format, participants are seated in a semi-circle facing a table of friendly announcers and judges, and facing away from the audience of parents, siblings and friends. Spelling words and example sentences are appropriate for this age group and the list has been scrubbed to remove homonyms. Words are available for practicing ahead of time. More details will be sent in December.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee for 4th & 5th Graders (1/18/2012) observes all of the official rules and regulations of the Scripps National Bee but our school employs the student-friendly format of the 1st-3rd Grade Bee to promote wide participation and eliminate as much intimidation as possible. The word list used at this Bee is appropriately challenging and a comparable list of words used during previous year's bees will be available for practicing. More information will be sent in December.

A Festival of Cultures will take place on February 7th. Families, or groups of friends, will sign up to represent a country of their choosing with a tri-fold display and a "20 second presentation". Displays will be set up with participants and visitors able to peruse each one and earn a stamp in their passport. Barrington has clever students and amazing artists so this event promises to be colorful and informative. Sign ups will take place in January, but *it's not too early to think about what country you'd like to represent and start learning more about it.*

Junior Great Books (K-3) / Classical Kids (4-5) (the six-week world literature/mythology program now in it's fifth year) is a great way to spend an indoor recess. With classes during lunchtime just once per week, students have the chance to discuss classic literature with their friends on Wednesdays*, and then socialize during lunch recess the rest of the week. Registration is well underway, so if you are interested, turn your form in soon. *Tuesday Classical Kids option is available for Wednesday 4th Grade Strings students.

If you are thinking of getting involved in any of these events, we could really use you! Please e-mail Academic.Enrichment@gmail.com or call Kim Young 487-1474.

Kim Young
Academic Enrichment Committee

Calendar of Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 12/1—Thurs. PTO Exec Board Mtg 8:30 am
- 12/2—Fri. Spirit Day
- 12/7—Wed. Early Dismissal 1:15 pm
- 12/9—Fri. Academic Enrichment Comm. Mtg 12:30 pm UAPL Mtg Room B
- 12/13—Tues. QSL Mtg 11:05 am
- 12/14—Wed. Jingle Bell Walk
- 12/16—Fri. Holiday Parties in Classrooms
- 12/19—Mon. Winter Break through 1/2/2012

JANUARY

- 1/4—Wed. Junior Great Books & Classical Kids Session 1
- 1/5—Thurs. PTO Exec Board Mtg 8:30 am
- 1/6—Fri. Spirit Day
- 1/10—Tues. K-3rd Grade Spelling Bee 3 pm Barrington Gym
- 1/11—Wed. Junior Great Books & Classical Kids Session 2
- 1/12—Thurs. PTO General Mtg 7 pm
- 1/13—Fri. QSL Mtg 11:05 am
- 1/16—Mon. No School
- 1/17—Tues. No School
- 1/18—Wed. Junior Great books & Classical Kids Session 3
- 4th & 5th Grade Spelling Bee 3 pm Barrington Gym
- 1/24—Tues. Academic Enrichment Comm. Mtg 12:30 pm UAPL Mtg Room B
- 1/25—Wed. Junior Great Books & Classical Kids Session 4
- 1/30—Mon. ASE Winter Session Begins

FEBRUARY

- 2/1—Wed. Ground Hog Day Walk
- Junior Great Books & Classical Kids Session 5
- 2/2—Thurs. AM Only; No Kindergarten
- 2/3—Fri. Spirit Day
- 2/7—Tues. Festival of Cultures
- 2/8—Wed. Early Dismissal 1:15 pm
- Junior Great books & Classical Kids Session 6 (last session)
- Kindergarten Information Night
- 2/9—Thurs. PTO Exec Board Mtg 8:30 am
- 2/10—Fri. QSL Mtg 11:05 am
- 2/14—Tues. Valentine's Day Parties in Classrooms
- 2/20—Mon. No School



Looking for Leaders

Do you have a flair for organization and want to get involved with the PTO?

We have just the job for you!! Recruit a friend and sign-up to become the Clown Around Chairs.

The job starts in the spring with a minimal time commitment. Then in the fall the committee swings into action with weekly meetings leading up to the event. Never fear...it is not all work. This group has a ton of fun, while raising funds for the PTO.

If you are interested or just want to learn more about it, please contact PTO President Katie Ryan at 488-6947 or kkryan@sbcglobal.net



**We know that you are clever
But did you think you'd ever
Get to see a poem you've written on line?**

**Well, go ahead, get writing
Be it funny, deep, exciting
And we'll post your haiku, limerick or rhyme.**

**Before you get much older
Place your poem in the folder
in the office. And please add your name and grade.**

**Whether you write it at home
or for school, please share your poem
on the PTO web site Poetry Page.**

Students, don't forget to turn in your original poems to the Poetry Page folder in the office. Student work is identified by first name and grade only.

Poems are added to the site once per month. Visit <http://barringtonpto.com/poetry/> to read the work of Bobcat poets.

Kim Young
Academic Enrichment Committee

Walk and Bike Committee Update

The Fall Walking Wednesdays were a huge success! We had at least 437 students walk on eight or more Wednesdays this fall!

If you didn't turn in your passport, it is not too late. Drop your passport with your name on the back in the PTO mailbox in the office.



Congratulations to all students at Barrington for helping create the world's largest buckeye necklace! We collected 585 buckeyes on the last Walking Wednesday of the fall in the pouring rain, which was close to beating last year's Beat Michigan Walk.

The PTO purchased a buckeye for each classroom to be a part of this endeavor. To read more about 100,000 Buckeyes for a Cure please visit www.buckeyesforacure.com

Walking Doesn't Stop This Winter

Walk or bike home from school and receive a backpack charm.

- **December 14:** Jingle Bell Walk, snowflake charm
- **February 1:** Ground Hog Day Walk, ground hog charm
- **March 14:** St Patrick's Day Walk, St. Patrick's Day charm

January Is Carpool Month

Are you missing "the pool"? Watch for signs encouraging carpooling during the cold weather!

Consider carpooling with a neighbor or friend to help relieve traffic congestion around the school. This makes the trip to and from school safer for everyone!

Thanks for all you do to make your child's trip to school active and safe!

A huge thank you to all of the Walk and Bike Committee volunteers for all of the hours they have put in to make Walking Wednesdays possible!

Tina Muldoon and Wendy Panero
Walk and Bike Committee Chairs

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

Expressing Gratitude to Staff at Luncheon

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon Committee hosted its first of two annual luncheons on Thursday, November 17. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we were able to share our gratitude with the outstanding Barrington staff members.

Staff members enjoyed delicious pasta and salad from Moretti's of Arlington, and a scrumptious selection of baked goodies prepared by Barrington parents.

Many thanks to our committee members who helped in making the luncheon a success. Whether donating supplies or baked goods, volunteering for playground duty, or assisting with set-up/clean-up, we are so grateful for your help! Happy Holidays!

Heather Evans and Shelly Krauss
Staff Appreciation Luncheon Chairs

Come Learn about the Future of Math in Upper Arlington Schools

Please join us for a presentation by Neal Bluel, Teacher Leader in Math and Science, at our next PTO General Membership meeting on **Thursday, January 12 at 7 pm.**

Bluel will present on Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and ST Math, a supplemental computer program we are currently piloting.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the future of math in the Upper Arlington Schools. We hope you will attend!

No Excuses UA

Co-ed Early Morning Strength & Conditioning

Barrington Elementary Playground
(inside Barrington gym when needed)

Mention Barrington PTO when registering to earn your PTO a referral bonus!

Mon – Thursday 5:30 am
Nov. 14 – Dec. 16

Join ACE certified Personal Trainer for a simple, high-intensity group exercise class that caters to all fitness levels. You'll experience high-energy sports training moves for cardiovascular fitness along with upper and lower body & core conditioning.

Session 1 Pricing:

\$180- 4 days per week – 19 day session
\$145 for 3 days per week – 15 days per session
\$100 for 2 days per week – 10 days per session

Equipment Needed: Yoga mat, or towel, dumbbells (5, 8 lb).
Class format will vary– stations, circuits.

*Refunds are not given for missed classes.
Guests are encouraged.*

Please register by email
Noexcusesua@gmail.com

(This is not sponsored by the Barrington PTO.)