

November 2011 BARRETTS PTO



Missouri History Day a Big Success ! By Nick Matteucci

On October 19th the entire 4th grade celebrated our state's official Missouri History Day. The children (and 28 parent volunteers) all dressed up in pioneer clothes and braved the elements in the morning to cook Johnny-cakes, churn butter, shuck corn, made crafts, tried out hand tools, weaved, and learned of the importance of the buffalo. In the afternoon we had history sessions including a Harry Truman re-enactor or, a civil war re-enactor, WWI, African Americans moving west, Native Americans life, and much more. Special thank you to the wonderful parent volunteers who worked so hard (and under freezing conditions) to make this day the huge success that it was. You should all feel very proud of what you accomplished. Also, thank you to classroom teachers for helping keep us organized, energized, and for allowing us to participate in such a fun day. Our efforts did not go unnoticed and we were published in the Suburban Journal (<http://tiny.cc/dxo3c>), the St. Louis Post Dispatch Pictures (<http://tiny.cc/4e2sb>), and the St. Louis Post Dispatch Multimedia sections (<http://tiny.cc/qfzwb>). If you missed it and couldn't see all the fun the kids were having - never fear! Nick Matteucci captured 359 pictures and uploaded them to Picasa (private and secure link) so you can download, watch a slide show, or upload your own pictures from the day (<http://tiny.cc/mioxz>).

Annual Veterans' Day Luncheon Fri, Nov 11th

Barretts will be hosting the Annual Veterans' Day Luncheon on Friday, November 11. We are looking for some help with hosting this event to help make it another great success to honor our Veterans' sacrifices. The event is being coordinated by Mrs. Dieken-Buchek and Mrs. Seal with the food and volunteers being coordinated by Christy Schindler. We are serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans from Young's Restaurant in Valley Park. Recruiting is underway . . . here's what we need . . .

2 people to man the Welcome Table, be sure the guests get a nametag and direct them to the luncheon, this duty would run from about 12:00-12:45. 2 people to help Ms. Bybee with taking pictures of the students with their Veteran guest - school cameras will be used; 12:00-1:00. 3 people to help in the lunchroom with food and drinks; 12:15-1:30. 6 salads (each serving about 10-12) for planning types of salads. 6 desserts (9x13 or 2 doz pieces, can be cut quite small). These can be dropped off at Christy Schindler's house the night before, morning of, or at school by 12:00 on that day. Together we'll make it another great celebration of our Veterans' gifts and sacrifices to our country. If you are interested in helping us host the day of the event or can provide a salad or dessert for the luncheon, please contact Christy Schindler at christine.a.schindler@gmail.com or (314)497-5412.

Nutrition Task Force

We need your help! As we identify meals to take off the lunch menu, we need to replace them with healthy foods that our children will eat. This is because Parkway Food Services does not receive funds from the District, so new foods have to have a high enough acceptance rate to break even.

Please ask your children what they would like to have for lunch, guiding them towards healthier choices. You can e-mail your ideas to Kristin Fournier at tkfournier@yahoo.com or Claudia Walk at athos1164@gmail.com. If you'd like some ideas of healthy lunch choices, you can visit some of the websites that we've found helpful:

- www.thelunchbox.org
- www.jamiesfoodrevolution.com (Jamie Oliver)
- www.yum-o.org (Rachel Ray)
- www.healthiergeneration.org/schols (Alliance for a Healthier Generation)
- www.revfoods.com

It's Time for the Book Fair!

We have books for all ages and stages, for preschoolers on up to adults!

Wednesday, November 16th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
Thursday, November 17th from 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. and
Monday, November 21st from 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Student Preview Days are Wednesday and Thursday, November 16th-17th. A schedule listing each class' day/time will come home in backpacks November 3rd.

If you would like to volunteer to help, email Paula Studt at pmstudt@me.com

NEW THIS YEAR: If students want to shop before school starts, they MUST go to their classroom first to get a Library Pass.

Students who wish to make a purchase should bring payment in a sealed envelope marked with their name and "Book Fair." There is an order form on the back of the Scholastic flyer that will come home in Thursday folders on November 10th. If you know what you want to purchase, complete and include the order form in the envelope. Checks should be made payable to Barretts PTO.

You must add Manchester sales tax (8.175%) to the prices quoted.

We accept cash, checks, debit and credit cards.

Visit our online Book Fair web page for more info:
<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/barretts>

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US IN THE LIBRARY DURING CONFERENCES ON THURSDAY AND MONDAY!

Parkway North Craft Fair (Parkway Alumni Association) This Saturday!

When: Sat, Nov. 5 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. AND Sun, Nov. 6 11a.m.– 4 p.m.

Where: Parkway North High School 12860 Fee Fee Rd St. Louis, MO 63146

Come by and do your holiday shopping! Strollers welcome! Lunch and snacks available. Free admission and parking. Are you interested in renting a booth? Download a crafter application online at www.parkwayalumni.org. Questions? Please contact: Cyndi Clamp - 314-963-7519 Netta Silverstein - 314-518-3090 E-mail: crafter@parkwayalumni.org Proceeds benefit the programs of the Parkway Alumni Association. To learn more about the PAA, visit www.ParkwayAlumni.org. Leah McCoy Communications and Development Specialist, 314.450.1790

Girl Scouts Clothing Drive at Barretts Nov 14-21

The 3rd grade Brownie Girl Scout Troop # 1493 is sponsoring a clothes drive for the Children's Home Society of Missouri. The Children's Home Society is a social services agency that provides long & short term care for children with developmental disabilities. A collection bin will be in the front lobby of the school for your donations of clean, gently used clothes. Clothes of any size (infant through Adult) are welcome. The drive will be held Nov 14th - 21st. These dates will cover Parent-Teacher conference nights, so you can drop off your donations at your conferences! Thank You for all your help in making this a successful Community Service Project !

Troop #1493: Mary Gordon, Kaitlyn Hoehne, Lauren Marcinkiewicz, Paige Patterson, Jenna Prince, Olivia Seidner, Elizabeth Simpson, Julia Watson, Nicole Wilson, Maddie Winters, Megan Wirth.

Government Relations Committee Notes Oct 7th (attended by Elizabeth Kayser & Jennifer McGillivery)

In attendance: MO Senator John Lamping; MO Representative Cole McNary; Creve Coeur City Councilwoman Charlotte D'Alfonso; Chesterfield City Councilman Matt Segal; Lou Aboussie with

Congressman Clay's office; Brendan Fahey with Senator McCaskill's office; and Teri Miller with MO Representative Jill Schupp's office.

1. District & Board Update: Dr. Marty, Superintendent; Beth Feldman, Helen Casteel, Dee Mogerma, Board of Ed. Boundary meetings on potential changes to attendance areas in 2012-13 have been well attended (the last meeting is at River Bend on 10/11); and he is enthusiastic about implementing the Project Parkway long-range strategic plan which was mailed to all parents in September. Board members reported that: several hundred people attended the 9/19 Project Parkway meeting and it was great to see Parkway parents who have experience in certain areas have joined advisory teams, such as the one focusing on science; Parkway's new "brand" reflects the positive energy and outlook for the future with our new mission, vision and long-range plan; several students were honored at the 10/5 board meeting for perfect ACT and SAT scores.

2. Turner v. Clayton Update: Tom Tueth, Attorney with Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt. P.C. *Turner v. Clayton* originated several years ago when the St. Louis City schools became unaccredited. Parents of students residing in St. Louis City but paying tuition and attending Clayton sued the School District of Clayton, alleging that current state law allows students in unaccredited districts to attend any accredited school in the same or an adjoining county at the expense of the unaccredited district. Due to the time it may take to resolve the lawsuit, most people believe it is important for the legislature to clarify and qualify current law, allowing receiving school districts a degree of control regarding the number of students accepted, which schools they would attend, ensuring adequate state funding, etc.

3. Legislative Update: Senator John Lamping

Senator Lamping represents Parkway schools primarily in the north area as well as Mason Ridge. He reported that SB 1, a "fix" to the law passed in May regarding teacher-student communications restrictions ("Facebook law") was passed and given to the governor for signature on 10/6. In addition, a bill creating roughly \$950 million in savings to the State passed the Senate and was sent to the House. The House took up the bill and passed an amended version last week. The bill will now head back to the Senate where leaders will decide how to proceed. While intended to reform existing tax credit programs and spur economic development, there are concerns about whether or not the bill will accomplish those ends. His sense for the upcoming legislative session in 2012 is that there will be three general areas of priority for education that will likely be tied together in order for any of them to pass:

- a) Changes to the school foundation formula;
- b) A "Turner fix"; and
- c) Public school reforms such as expansion of charter schools, teacher merit pay, vouchers, etc.

While his top priority is a solution to the Turner lawsuit, he also believes it is important to rewrite the foundation formula and make assessment practices consistent across the state to protect the interests of this region and hold harmless districts.

4. Cooperating School Districts (CSD) of St. Louis: Dr. Don Senti Dr. Senti presented a DRAFT of the combined St. Louis and Kansas City CSD 2012 legislative platform (attached). The top priority is to get legislation passed to address the *Turner v. Clayton* lawsuit, similar to the bill filed by Rep. Rick Stream in 2011. Without reasonable parameters such as allowing receiving districts to have discretion for capacity, class sizes, and ensuring state funding to support educational services and facilities required, the potential financial, educational and operational implications are staggering.

5. Missouri Veterans History Project - Teri Miller reported that Representative Jill Schupp has organized a group of volunteers to videotape veterans and capture their stories for family members, the MO Historical Society and the U.S. Library of Congress. It was a state program but funding was cut in 2010. They would love to get the word to veterans and to potential volunteers who could help out with their activities. Any veterans or volunteers are asked to please contact Teri Miller at tstm49@sbcglobal.net.

Reminders:

Monthly PTO Newsletters

This PTO newsletter is attached to the monthly Barretts principal's newsletter, which is sent home on the first Thursday of each month. Please email any information you would like included in the newsletter 10

days prior to the publication to attykayser@sbcglobal.net. If you have a flyer that you want attached to the newsletter, please have it approved by Dr. Kelli Moreton (via Terrie Winzen) and email to me when approved so that I can submit it along with the newsletter for final printing.

Folder Flyers

If your flyer misses the monthly newsletter or needs to go out at another time, it can be sent home via the weekly Thursday folders/backpacks if necessary, but please try to use the newsletter as much as possible.

See above.

Best Regards,

Elizabeth Kayser, PTO President

Phone: 636.220.2218

Email: attykayser@sbcglobal.net

YEARBOOK NEWS

We are pleased to introduce our new 5th grade student staff!

Natalie Neal and Sam Weber-Mrs. Bogosian's class
Paige Kuhnmuensch and Jacob Kasten - Mrs. Cannon's class
Ava Matteucci and Jake Rattan - Miss Harmon's class
Lindsey Ferrara and Jake Collins - Mrs. Winkelmann's class

These students will be working hard all year to create a yearbook that every one will enjoy!

The staff is asking for your photos of any school related events! Please look for information and instructions in Thursday folders about the new website that will allow parents to directly download pictures for yearbook use. You may also email pictures to yearbook@barrettspto.org

If you have any questions or comments regarding the yearbook, please contact the staff at yearbook@barrettspto.org

PTO Executive Board Members for 2011-12

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