

# December 2011 BARRETTS PTO



## Fundraising survey

Thank you to everyone who participated in our online fundraising survey we had a great response. The majority of the participants of the survey feel neutral or less than neutral about the Innsbrook survey. Also 97% of the participants surveyed said they would be willing to donate to the Barretts PTO if there was no Innsbrook fundraiser. We received a lot of great comments and ideas about fundraisers. All this information will be very helpful in the board's decision for fundraising for the 2012-13 school year.

## Nutrition Task Force

Good news! The improved salad bar has been well-received by our students. As we have mentioned, our school is a pilot for the district, so this one success of the salad bar will be replicated in other schools this coming Spring! As we plan our Holiday parties, please keep in mind nutrition. We have seen some healthier treats at some of the Halloween parties and Read n Munches. These include snacks like Kettle Corn, yogurt bars, fresh fruit with dippers, etc... The children have enjoyed them! Lastly, we are working very hard on alternative menus. If you have any ideas, or would like to provide feedback on the ideas we're coming up with, please feel free to contact Kristin Fournier ([tkfournier@yahoo.com](mailto:tkfournier@yahoo.com)) or Claudia Walk ([athos1164@gmail.com](mailto:athos1164@gmail.com)).

## Book Fair Results

The Barretts Book Fair was a HUGE success thanks to so many of you that volunteered your time! We appreciate all of the parents that helped with set up, clean up, with Student Previews and while the book fair was open for business! Thank you to Stacey Ulz and Donna Weber for putting the Teacher Preview together and providing snacks for the staff to enjoy. We are grateful to Joey Wilmsen at Go Spa for donating several gift certificates that were used as drawing prizes for teachers and staff. Thank you to Claudia Walk for picking up our book orders daily from the Scholastic warehouse and to Paula Studt for scheduling all of the volunteers, a big thank you to Tina Berg-Gardner and Sherry Heyse. We couldn't have pulled off the book fair without the flexibility of the teachers, the behind-the-scenes help from Dr. Moreton, Jenn Dieken-Buchek, Terrie Winzen, Terry Seal and all of the custodians, plus the countless copies and laminating done by Kathy Ulmer. Thanks goes to everyone that donated to the Spare Change Project and to Becky Powell for running it...we raised over \$1,725 in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills! We used that money to purchase books for the Airport School library in North County! Last but not least, THANK YOU TO MRS. BERG-GARDNER for helping with every step of the Book Fair process, from beginning to end and everything in between!!!!

We sold over \$14,000 during the Scholastic Book Fair...UNBELIEVABLE! A final THANK YOU to the amazing Barretts parents, for supporting the Book Fair financially, too!!! We couldn't have done it without you! If there is a book that you wished you had gotten or you didn't have time to make it to the Book Fair in the library, please head to our Online Book Fair. The last day to shop is Friday, Dec 6th!

## Veteran's Day

Barretts PTO again honored our military veterans with a luncheon on Friday, November 11. Forty veterans, from WWII to active duty, along with the Barretts' students that invited them, had a catered lunch in the cafeteria. PTO volunteers assisted Dr. Moreton and Mrs. Dieken-Buchek to organize the event and provide the food. All in attendance enjoyed lunch while the microphone was passed so that each Veteran introduced themselves and shared when and where they served in the military along with introducing the child that had invited them. The entire school got involved in the parade of Veterans as the luncheon came to a close with our very own Veterans' Day parade through the hallways of Barretts. All classes lined the halls from the cafeteria to the Science Lab to thank the Veterans as they paraded through with patriotic music playing. As Dr. Moreton said at the luncheon, it was one of the best Social Studies lessons the kids could have. Thank you to all the PTO volunteers that helped to honor our Veterans and to Mrs. Seal for all her organizational help. Following is a link to the STL Today coverage of the event (the link takes you to one of the pictures, if you search for Barretts Veterans Day you can see several more), we were also featured in the November 12 Post-Dispatch, page 2, with a nice size picture.

## Boy Scouts

Anyone interested in serving as the Chartering Organization Representative for Boy Scouts, please contact volunteer coordinator, Krista Hale (314) 835-1514 or email haleo304@yahoo.com.

## Winter Parties Dec 22

Winter parties will be from 2:40p-3:40p Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. Details to follow!

## Ranking of Students being reconsidered

There have been a proposed change to the Parkway School District methodology for graduate distinction and class ranking system. Currently, the top ten students from each graduating class are recognized. The proposal is to move to a Latin cum laude system (utilized in most universities). There is an article which appeared in the *West Newsmagazine* which details the proposal sent home in the Thursday packets. Both Francis Howell and Rockwood are currently using Cum Laude system.

Rankings might be as follows:

- |             |               |              |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| • Summa     | 4.0 and above | Gold cords   |
| • Magna     | 3.75-3.99     | Silver cords |
| • Cum Laude | 3.50-3.74     | Orange cords |
| •           |               |              |

Should there be some further distinction for 4.3 and above? Proposal was presented to the Board with consideration for implementation in Class of 2017. Some concern was expressed that we would be recognizing “too many” – potentially 1/3 of the class vs. the top ten currently. Caution not to set our standards too low and to avoid the “everyone gets a trophy” approach. Contact Charlotte at cijei@parkwayschools.net or (314) 415-5061 with comments or questions regarding this proposal.

## Student Assessment

Julie Collins, Coordinator of Student Assessment, will be our guest speaker on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7p at the PTO General Meeting. Please mark your calendars. She will present the Parkway Dashboard with a power point presentation. Achievement data is consolidated into a database which teachers and administrators can use to direct their teaching efforts. A Public Dashboard, which will represent all 19 measurable objectives of the 5-year Strategic Plan, is planned to be available no later than August 2012. In districts with a graduating class size of 100 or more, Parkway has the highest percentage of graduates tested and the third highest percentage of students scoring at or above the national average. 98.9% of Parkway students take the ACT test with an average composite score of 22.9.

## Career day

Career Day will be held in March on a date to be determined. Please contact Jan at jan@parkwayalumni.org with potential career representatives who could participate.

## Girl Scouts

The Third Grade Girl Scout troop collected 537 pieces of clothing that will benefit the Children's Home Society. Thank You for making our clothing drive 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.

## Shop Online - eScrip

Shop Online through eScrip for the Holidays and Earn Money for Barretts. When shopping online go through the eScrip Online Mall and shop over 2000 merchants including Amazon (2.4%), Toy R Us

(1.2%), Best Buy (1.2%), Lands End (2.4%) and many more and Barretts will earn a percentage. To Enroll (1) visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) (2) click on the Online Mall (3) sign up and register your credit (s) you use to shop (4) shop at your favorite brand name stores. Share this link with your family and friends! Make your holiday shopping count for your group this year.

### 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 [president@barrettspto.org](mailto:president@barrettspto.org) . 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  
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Email: [president@barrettspto.org](mailto:president@barrettspto.org)

### PTO Executive Board Members for 2011-12

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