

# Barretts PTO Newsletter

JANUARY 2010

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**On the Web: <http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/barretts>**

**Your name here: Please Join us as VP or BOD**

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I remember it like it was yesterday. A newsletter like this one went out with a small blurb that Barretts was looking for a new Vice President. It didn't register at first as something I was going to do. It just cracked open the door.

I slept on it.

I knew I was well organized, computer literate, and had a tremendous respect for the school. I guess what really sealed my fate was I thought about how much I personally enjoyed collaborating with the administration and the current board members. It was in the spirit of those relationships that I finally picked up the phone and expressed my desire to serve.

At the time I was sitting on a professional board of directors of a national organization and was receiving many perks for my participation. That said—I never looked back and was instantly supported in the decision by family members, Barretts staff, and most of all parents just like you.

Since that time I have had the honor of working with many new faces, greeting eager new

parents, and helping steward many thousands of your donated dollars for the betterment of the school. In short it has been a wonderful experience and one I will never forget.

Why am I sharing all of this?

I am hoping one of you will read this.

You will say, "my kids are benefiting from a tremendous education, I respect the teachers and staff, and I love working with others to improve the lives of the children at Barretts."

You will realize you are an excellent candidate for the Board of Directors (B.O.D.) and/or VP and although you are not quite sure how you will squeeze it in—you know you can do it because it is one of the most important volunteer jobs you can ever do.

Please—feel free to call or write with any questions you have as I would love to work with anyone interested in serving on the BOD or specifically as VP.

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314-662-2759

## 2008/2009 5th Grade Gift Complete / The Rock Wall is Coming!

The 5th grade class of 2008/09 donated two tetherball sets which are being enjoyed during recess on the Barretts playground. Tetherball was a part of many of our childhoods and now a new generation of kids can enjoy this fast paced and exciting sport!

As if that was not enough, many of the swings will get newly coated swing chains as well! Thank you 2008/09 fifth grade class!

As for the current 5th grade class—we

have put a rush/express order in for the Rock Wall for the Gym. The rock wall will be professionally installed by the same person/company that has done several other Parkway Elementary schools. The wall is restricted to about 6 feet high but the design allows for free climbing without an auto-belay system.

The rock wall is a small part of the (over) \$35,000 the BOD has committed to spend during the 2009—2010 school

year. The other items budgeted include:

- 1) Long Bench Tables for the Cafeteria
- 2) New tables for all lower grade classrooms that were not upgraded last year
- 3) Ice Machine (so the nurse's ice will be only used for the kids)
- 4) Smart board for the Library

Thank you again 5th graders and parents!

## Wanted—Photos for the yearbook (Holiday Parties, Trips,...)

Parents—we need your help! The yearbook committee is always looking for new pictures.

The yearbook is a lifetime of shared memories but starts with parents like you taking just a moment to email us your pictures.

We are especially looking for the following events:

- Winter Parties
- Book Fair
- Field Trips
- any in-class room pictures.

Please email them to Lynn Hogan at [lynn.hogan@charter.net](mailto:lynn.hogan@charter.net) or Donna Weber at [dweber02@charter.net](mailto:dweber02@charter.net).

Also, you may drop printed pictures



**We need your Barrett Pictures now and all through the year!**

or photo CDs off in the office or in the flowered box marked yearbook photos in the print room at Barretts.

## Government Relations 12/11 by Elizabeth Kayser

### District & Board Update:

- Parkway's gifted and elementary enrollment are up in 09.
- Student sick days have decreased and are about average.

· Parkway may partner with other MO schools to receive Race to the Top federal grant money (if MO plan is accepted). There is \$4.3 billion available to states via competitive grants to improve graduation rates and close achievement gaps.

· Parkway is asking legislators to fix the problem in the law whereby taxing jurisdictions must set their tax rate before the County Assessors office provides final assessed value figures. Parkway lost \$3.5 million in revenue this year.

· In budget preparation for 2010, Parkway is asking departments to reduce spending by 5%.

· Two positions (Dudley McCarter and Jay Davis) on the Board of Education will be up for election in April 2010. Candidate filing begins 12/15 and ends 1/19, 2010.

### Missouri Legislative Report:

Importance of parents and board members communicating with their legislators on: · State budget is going to have to be cut by 10%. Existing programs will have to fight for funding.

· Open enrollment: Hearings have been held around the state and is likely be pursued. No research was cited showing this type of program improves student achievement. As mentioned by CSD at the last meeting, questions that should be asked about any open enrollment proposal are:

- 1) Will it be positive for students who transfer?
- 2) Will it be positive for the students remaining in a district?
- 3) How will it affect the receiving district?

· Charter schools: The federal Race to the Top (RTTT) grants will give preference to states that don't limit have certain limitations on charter schools. In Missouri, charters are only permitted in St. Louis and Kansas City. It is anticipated there may be an attempt to expand charters. Public schools and supporters generally oppose charter schools as a drain on funding unless approved by local school boards and/or subject to the same accountability as other public schools.

· Insurance coverage for autism treatment: This proposal is expected to be strongly promoted to assist children and families.

· School start date: There may be another attempt to limit school calendars by the MO Association of Theme Parks.

## Sign board Volunteers Came Through—Thank you

Well—you all did it again! We sent out a request for sign board right before the holidays on the coldest day of the year. Basically asking people to take up their time and

fight the frozen temperatures while updating the sign board. Well guess what—the response was incredible and we are all set for the remainder of the year! On behalf of Jane Loosmore and myself—thank you!!!

## Spirit of Giving Alive and Well @ Barretts—Thank you

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Thank you goes out to Kelly Crupper, Sara Wade, and all the donors and volunteers involved in the “Spirit of Giving” campaign which helps local families in need during these difficult and cold winter times.

Thanks to your generous donations (many of which came from the Barretts children themselves!) we were able to

donate over \$180 AND a huge pile of toys and gifts to the Foster Care and Coalition.

Once again the Barretts community answered the bell and made Christmas a success for many families that might otherwise have had nothing this holiday season.

Thank you everyone!

## Landscaping Planning for Spring—Green Thumbs Wanted!

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In early December, Jane Sharp and her daughter were seen planting and mulching in the Barretts’ courtyard. Jane has done a fantastic job with the courtyard plantings and maintenance this past year. Thank you Jane!

While the landscape is sleeping for the winter, we need to start thinking about the next growing season. In early spring the landscape committee will be getting together to

take care of spring chores. In the meantime, scout leaders can offer badge opportunities to their kids if they are interested in helping. There will be plenty of planting, pruning, and cleaning up.

If you are interested, then please contact John O’Toole at 314-313-8910 or e-mail me at [john@otooledesign.com](mailto:john@otooledesign.com).

## Spotlight Night on Health and Fitness—2/16/2010

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Please join us fun filled exploration of Health and Fitness at this year’s Spotlight Night.

Explore healthier foods with a chef from Lecole Culinaire in the cafeteria.

Jump, run, play, and learn with Fitwize4Kids in the gym.

We will also have two mystery guests from our own Barretts staff somewhere in the school.

Spotlight Night on Health and Fitness runs from 6:30-8:30 pm, Tuesday, February 16 so save the date and get ready to have some fun!

## BoxTops Challenge Coming in February!

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**It’s on!**—please don’t forget to clip your boxtops as we have some exciting classroom contests and promotions coming up in February 2010!

BoxTops are the little coupons on the top of many of your favorite snacks and breakfast cereals and schools that collect them make “free” money!

To add some excitement to the campaign—we will once again be having classroom challenges among grades to see which class can collect the most box tops!

The winning classrooms will get a special announcement and a nice treat.

Everyone is a winner in this contest as

all the money collected goes to the PTO for our many outstanding programs and capital improvement projects.

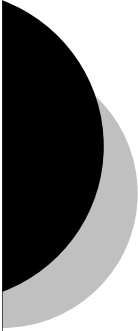
If you have any questions or suggestions for obtaining BoxTops—please contact Michelle Neely at [michcneely@yahoo.com](mailto:michcneely@yahoo.com).

## Trivia Night—Save the Date (3/5/2010) & Help Needed

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Trivia Night is an annual event of adult only fun and camaraderie and is not to be missed. All money collected will go towards a new electronic sign board in the future so save the date (3/5/2010)! Also—we have an

URGENT request for a volunteer coordinator for the Silent Auction part of the Trivia night (it’s easy and we have the lists of people who are HAPPY to donate). Please contact Lynn Hogan [[lynn.hogan@charter.net](mailto:lynn.hogan@charter.net)] if you can help!



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Bus: (314) 415-6000  
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**Our Barretts PTO Mission:**

- To promote the welfare of our children in home, school and community
- To provide assistance and support in achieving the education goals established by Barretts
- To integrate home and school so that parents and teachers may cooperate in the education of our children
- To develop between educators, families and the public united efforts that will secure for every child the highest advantages in mental, physical and social education

**Upcoming Events:**

- Jan 4 NO SCHOOL.....Professional Development
- Jan 5 School Resumes
- Jan 18 No School.....Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 26 Kindergarten Registration 9:00-11:00 and 1:00-3:00
- Feb 2 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Library
- Feb 12 No School.....Professional Development
- Feb 15 No School.....President’s Day
- Feb 16 Spotlight Night 6:30-8:30
- Mar 2 & 4 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Mar 5 Trivia Night
- Mar 12 No School
- Mar 15-19 No School.....SPRING BREAK
- Mar 22 School Resumes
- Apr 23 No School.....Professional Development
- Apr 29 Abilities Awareness Day

**Your 2009—2010 Barretts PTO BOD**

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