

Barton Bugle



a publication of Clara Barton Open School
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<http://barton.mpls.k12.mn.us/>

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Our Lake Day Awards Program and All-School Picnic (grades 1-8) is scheduled for this Friday, June 5. Although the Lake Harriet bandshell seating area is not fully completed, we still plan to use the bandshell for the program with classrooms sitting on blankets if needed. Our schedule for the day will be as follows:

- 9:30 AM Hiking to the Lake Harriet Bandshell
- 10:00 AM** Awards Program at the Lake Harriet Bandshell
- 10:45 AM Picnic in the Lake Harriet park picnic area
- 11:15 AM Games and Activities in the picnic area
- 12:45 PM Return hike to Barton School

I also want to remind everyone that parents are invited to attend our last all-school morning meeting of the school year on Friday at 7:35 AM in the Commons. We will sing together, set the expectations for a successful Lake Day experience, and then recognize and celebrate the wonderful parent involvement we have at Barton Open School. Please join us if your schedules permit.

--Steven R. DeLapp, Principal (email address steven.delapp@mpls.k12.mn.us)

Back to School Potluck Picnic Planning

Our all school Family Potluck is scheduled for Thursday, August 27 at Beard's Plaisance, from 5-7 PM following the Meet Your Teacher session from 3-4 PM held at school. The picnic event is an opportunity for parents to connect with other families that will be in the same classrooms, and for your kids to renew their friendships before school begins. Teacher attendance is optional at the Potluck, and many do participate. There are 600 or more family members who attend each year, and we need to gather a group of volunteers to shop for a few supplies, set up the space, organize the refilling of lemonade jugs, and oversee cleanup.

Please send an email to pclarkschool@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with this event. We will schedule a planning meeting for late June, after we all have time to catch our collective breath.
--Peggy Clark

Welcome to New Leadership Council Members

Thank you to the Barton parent community for the strong participation in our parent Council member endorsement process. We welcome four new parents to the 2009-2010 Leadership Council: Kate Krueger, Sarah Lahm, Glen Larson and Brenda Zehnder. We also extend our deepest appreciation to Julie Ristau for seven years of Council participation. She is

Calendar 2009

June

- 4 Uppers Exhibition of Portfolios 2-5 PM
- 5 All School Morning Meeting 7:35 AM
- 5 Lake Day Awards Program 10 AM
All School Picnic/Activities 10:40 AM
- 8 Eighth Grade Graduation Program 4 PM
- 9 Last Day for Students K-8
- 10 Last Day for Teaching Staff

July

- 7 First Week Summer School Classes (T-F)
- 13 Second Week Summer School (M-Th)
- 20 Third Week Summer School (M-Th)
- 27 Fourth Week Summer School (M-Th)
- 30 Last Day of Summer School Classes

August

- 24 First Day for Barton Teaching Staff
- 27 Meet Your Teacher Social 3-4 PM
- 27 All-School Picnic at Beard's Plaisance,
west side of Lake Harriet 5-7 PM

September

- 1 School Begins for Grades 1-8
- 3 First Day for Kindergartners
- 7 No Classes K-8: Labor Day

October

- 1 No Classes AM/PM Kindergarten
- 2 No Classes K-8: Conference Day
- 15 No Classes K-8: Professional Day
- 16 No Classes K-8: Professional Day
- 21 School Picture Day

November

- 6 No Classes K-8: Record Keeping Day
- 26 No Classes K-8: Thanksgiving
- 27 No Classes K-8

December

- 21 Winter break begins

January

The *Barton Bugle* is published weekly and distributed on Wednesdays. Articles should be submitted to the office on the preceding Friday of each week to be considered for publication.

To view the newsletter online, visit the school website at barton.mpls.k12.mn.us and look under "Barton Bugle Archives." To receive weekly notification of new information, submit your e-mail address under "E-Mail Updates."

now "retiring" from the Council as her 8th grade son moves on to high school. Thank you, Julie!

Summer Golf Club

Dear Barton Parents,

My name is Glen Shackelford and I am the Youth Development Specialist at Barton. This is my 12th year at Barton. Like most staff members, I wear more than one hat. I am also the school's Athletic Director. We have girls and boys basketball, girls volleyball, girls softball and boys baseball teams, all running well. We started a summer golf club for our 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders last year and are looking forward to another season this summer. The program is in place and ready to go. We will have two sessions this summer starting June 15 and ending June 30. The second session will start July 6 and end July 22 with the 22nd being the play day. The lessons will be from 7:30 to 8:30 AM Mondays and Wednesdays for three weeks with the last Wednesday being a play day. The fee to play is \$100 which pays for instructor, practice range balls and a round of golf. All lessons will be held at Hiawatha Golf Course. Play days will be at Fort Snelling golf course. For more information please contact me at 612-730-9789. Thank you.
--Glen Shackelford

Parents of 6th Graders-- Immunizations

Forms have now been sent home with all 6th grade students noting either that they are up-to-date with immunizations OR that they need specific shots before school starts next fall. If you have not seen the form ask your child about it, so that if shots are needed you can take care of it early in the summer. Do not wait until August because you might have difficulty getting an appointment at that late date. If you have questions call Jennie Smith, Health Assistant at 612-668-3580 between 7:30 and 1:30 M-F. Karen Ward, the school nurse is at Barton on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The "My Dad's Got a Barn" Theatre

Summer Musical Comedy Camp 2009

Presents: "GUYS AND DOLLS"

The camp continues... the cheapest (and the best) drama camp in the twin cities! Join director Grant Richey and vocal director Dawn Allan and orchestra director Tom Wells for another summer of musical comedy hilarity and tragedy... hopefully, not that much tragedy... we've had enough! Join us for all the fun. Also, spread the word.

Rehearsal dates: June 15 – 26

Final Performance: June 26 @ 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Age requirements: 11-17 years old (if younger contact me)

Cost: \$200

Camp Times: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Ramsey School (50th & Nicollet)

If interested contact Grant @ 612-721-6046 or grantrichey@comcast.net

Sarah's Nature Notes

By Sarah Pogany

Dandelion season has begun. Get your weeding tools and your hands ready for a dandelion hunt!

Students talkin' trash in morning meeting

Science Specialist, Sue Buettgen approved it. Elena Dooley, Harry Hagedorn, Shamy Ford, Emma Richman and Blake Shaw performed it. Your kids heard it.

Trash talk (or rather a talk about how to give trash the heave-ho). The short play explained Organic Composting, which is coming to Barton.

Starting this fall, students will separate lunch leftovers into new bins and: **Compost things that rot** – like apple cores, banana peels, milk cartons, paper towels, tissues

Recycle even more – like those little foil lids from yogurt

Eliminate as much trash as possible from their lunches by using reusable containers

Rev up by packing more litter-free lunches this spring. Make your own individual-serving sizes from:

-- Family-sized bags of chips, pretzels and crackers

-- Box of instant pudding (re-use those old lidded yogurt containers)

-- Pitcher of iced tea or lemonade

Room 206 Writing Awards

Every year the Southwest Senior Citizen Center at 36th and Bryant sponsors an essay contest for room 206. The 5th and 6th grade students write about a relationship they have with a senior citizen, their very best older friend. After the essays are completed, the center staff and volunteer senior citizens read the essays and choose six winners: three boys and three girls. Our class walked down to the center last Thursday and in a lovely ceremony, several students received their awards. Laye Kwamina and Carly Eckstrom received honorable mentions. Michael Radecki and Aisha Isse were third place winners and Seth Koepcke and Maria Emerson were second place winners. Olivia Katz and Henrik Curle received first place. Congratulations to all of them! The entire class received participation awards. Several students volunteered to read their essays to the audience of senior citizens. After the ceremony, our students joined several seniors for cookies and conversation.

Thanks to our whole class for graciously engaging members of our elder community and for working so hard through the entire writing process.

--Mary Austin

Dear Barton Families:

We had a well-attended parent meeting last Wednesday evening to discuss the Changing School Options process and implications for Barton Open School. A “question and answer” handout was provided that addressed some of the history and current issues in this process. We also passed out a one-page handout that spoke succinctly to some of the shortcomings of the F2 dual campus proposal that is currently under study. Action groups were formed around school board communication, messages and marketing, event planning and school communication. I encourage you to review both of the handouts if you were not able to attend the Wednesday meeting because they provide important background knowledge for the issues I am addressing in this letter. The documents are available online at the www.bartonopen.org website.

Our Leadership Council conversations concerning the best way to address our school concerns to both the School Board and the central administration have been difficult ones. And the Council discussions are certainly mirrored in the kind of feedback we have received from the larger Barton community (i.e., we don’t have enough information, we should be sharpening our message, we should be using the media, we should be gathering data on each scenario, we’re not doing enough, what we’re doing is just right, etc., etc.).

Although I acknowledge that this process is full of uncertainty no matter how one might view what the best actions are, I want to share a couple perspectives concerning how I think we should handle ourselves as a school community during the next few months. It’s important to me that our messages to the school board reflect our understanding of the larger issues the district is addressing and that our desire to remain at our current site is not rooted in simple entitlement. I also want our messages to the school board to be positive ones for Barton Open and speak to the fact that our current work is addressing the educational agenda of our district’s strategic plan.

The central administration is currently studying the educational impact of a variety of proposed scenarios, some from community groups, some from board members, some from the administration itself. The feasibility analysis will look at the academic implications of each plan along with impact statements that address economic, cultural and diversity issues for the district. The educational consequences of each scenario under discussion will be presented to the board members in July. We will have an opportunity to see this comprehensive analysis of the proposed school changes on students, families and the academic agenda.

I want to make it perfectly clear that I don’t think it’s a very intelligent idea to move us, nor do I think there’s any interest from our central administration in doing so. Although the work they are engaged in will be a thorough study of the educational impact of such a move, I’m pretty confident that the feasibility studies are going to speak for themselves. Moving Barton to Ramsey to create a dual Lyndale-Barton K-8 campus for the F2 area would be unnecessarily disruptive and costly, economically and educationally, to three separate school communities when there are other, more reasonable solutions to finding a community school for F2 families.

For those of you who are willing, I encourage you to communicate directly with school board members about these concerns. I have listed some basic talking points that reflect a thoughtful position from our community and respectful attention to the larger district issues underlying this process:

- There are more effective ways to create a community school for the F2 area than to put the Barton and Lyndale programs at risk in the dual campus plan.
- The dual campus plan is needlessly disruptive to families in three separate school communities (Ramsey, Lyndale and Barton).
- The dual campus plan is excessive given the projected enrollment needs in this area; therefore it will not be a cost effective solution for the district.
- We believe that the educational impact studies being conducted by the administration will bear out these perspectives and will support why the administration’s original proposal included no such recommendation.
- School size matters. The Barton Open program is as large as it should be if it is to continue to meet its academic goals and retain its philosophical program integrity.

- Barton's initial response to the Changing School Options process in February was to propose enrollment strategies for increasing our ELL population and for increasing our economic and racial diversity. We stand strongly behind our original proposals.

An external Quality Review Study conducted by Cambridge Education this year included the following summary statements about Barton Open in its Final Report to the district:

- The school provides students with a nurturing, stimulating and safe environment in which to grow and thrive academically, socially, emotionally and personally.
- All students make good progress in a wide range of subjects, topics and activities with year on year MCA scores significantly above the district averages and above state scores for nearly all students.
- The school improvement plans identify clear goals that are relevant and measurable. The goals are known to the staff and drive the professional development and action that are effective in raising students' academic, personal and social development.
- There is a strong emphasis on students' learning and growing personally, socially, emotionally and academically because there is an agreed and shared educational philosophy, supported by teachers who are enthusiastic, committed and imaginative in their teaching.
- Teaching is effective, differentiated and successfully promotes students' learning through strong levels of collaboration, accountable talk, developing their critical thinking skills and their active use and transferability of knowledge.
- The curriculum is broad, balanced and includes a wide range of extra curriculum activities to support student academic achievement, social and cultural development. All staff have high expectations and are successful and effective in creating opportunities for students to show initiative and take responsibility.
- The principal has a clear vision for the school and works tirelessly to ensure that the climate is right for continuous improvement to occur along the lines of the philosophy of an open magnet school.
- Parents are well informed about the personal, social, emotional and academic achievements and progress of their children at school. There are many events arranged which ensure that parents have opportunities to witness and discuss their child's achievements and progress.

The statements above speak strongly to the integrity of our educational program and our continuing commitment to serve the district's educational agenda, i.e., serving all students well. What we ask from all Board members at the end of this Changing School Options process is that they have looked critically at the educational impact studies of each and every scenario presented to them this summer and then have weighed-in to support those options that will offer the most Minneapolis families the kinds of programs they deserve. Before Barton is moved to another site, there should be compelling evidence for us that the move is in the interest of a broader vision for how our district will better serve Minneapolis families. Nothing has emerged yet in these conversations to convince me that moving us would be educationally sound for the district as a whole or for our program.

Let's keep our continuing messages to the Board of Education focused on the fact that we are serving the district strategic plan very well at our present site and that there are less disruptive options available to address the community school needs of the F2 families. Our school community voice can be strong for what's best for the district's academic agenda and, at the same time, what's best for open education as an essential choice for Minneapolis families. I'm confident that this is the right approach for us because it's economically sound, not reliant upon emotional or political arguments, and is grounded as closely as possible to the district's academic goals. My thanks to Barton families for your commitment to an academically strong school district and a vibrant open school program at Barton.

--Steven R. DeLapp (steven.delapp@mpls.k12.mn.us)