

Barton Bugle



a publication of Clara Barton Open School
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www.bartonopen.org

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Two years ago the Barton teaching staff engaged in a series of reflective conversations around Alfie Kohn's book *The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing*. We used the book as a starting point for asking tough questions about the role of homework in our own school program. The importance of building homework practices that are purposeful, learning-oriented and respectful of family needs still guide our thinking today.

I have referenced the staff reading of two years ago because we are engaged in a similar process this year reading and discussing Richard Louv's very thoughtful book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. Louv's basic thesis is that "direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults." He presents the compelling argument that in today's society we are seeing fewer and fewer opportunities for children to have this kind of direct experience with nature.

The teaching staff has met on three occasions to discuss Parts I, II and III of the text. This week at our Leadership Council meeting we will be expanding the conversation to include staff and parents. Although we have no extra copies for loaning out, parents are invited to join the council conversation and/or email Council parent co-chair Megan Cummings Krueger (at mckmpls@msn.com) if you are interested in participating in a *Last Child in the Woods* book group. Louv raises perspectives that are challenging for both educators and parents as we consider, together, the opportunities we should be providing for our children to explore and learn outdoors.

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

Silent Auction Items Needed

Deadline for Donations

Monday, December 1, 2008

Can you provide *one item* to donate to the Barton Bazaar: Silent Auction? Do you paint, knit, or bake? Do you have a favorite business you frequent? Do you have a special skill? Then you can make a contribution!

The process is easy:

1. Pick up the [Bazaar Solicitation Letter](#), [Donation Receipt](#) and [Donation Item Form](#) in the school office or

download from the Barton website www.bartonopen.org.

2. Secure your auction donation using the Solicitation Letter; complete and issue the Donation Receipt to the donor.

3. Fill out the Donation Item form and return, with the donated item, to Karla Hill-Donisch by calling 612-823-7841 or e-mailing hillco@natn.net.

All donations are tax-deductible and every dollar raised goes to support ongoing and special programs at Barton.

Calendar 2008-2009

November

- 19 North Open House 6:30 PM
- 20 Leadership Council Meeting 6-8 PM
- 20 Roosevelt Open House 6:30 PM
- 24-25 Homeroom/Class Picture Days
- 26 No Classes K-8: Professional Day
- 27-28 No Classes K-8: Thanksgiving Break

December

- 2 South Open House 6:30 PM
- 3 Southwest Open House 6:30 PM
- 4 Washburn Open House 6:30 PM
- 10 Last Day for Fall Options Classes
- 11 Silent Auction/Marketplace & Family Theme Night 5:00-8:00 PM
- 22 Winter Break Begins

January

- 5 Classes Resume Following Break
- 10 K-8 School Information Fair at the Hyatt Regency 9 AM-2 PM
- 15 Leadership Council 4:30-6:30 PM
- 19 No Classes K-8: Martin Luther King Day
- 23 No Classes K-8: Record Keeping Day
- 26 Uppers Exhibition Night 5:30-7:30 PM
- 29 Leadership Council Meeting 6-8 PM
- 31 High School Choice Deadline

February

- 5 Barton Family Roller Skating 6-8 PM
- 9 National African American Parent Involvement Day
- 16 No Classes K-8: Presidents' Day
- 19 Leadership Council 4:30-6:30 PM
- 27 No Classes K-8: Staff Development Day
- 28 K-8 School Choice Deadline

March

- 6 No Classes K-8: Staff Development Day
- 19 Leadership Council Meeting 6-8 PM



DECEMBER 11, 2008 • 5-8 PM



The Barton Open School Green Corner

Hello Barton, we are the new green corner authors. We are here to give you and your family helpful and interesting ways to take care of the environment. This week we will be sharing how to cut back on plastic bag usage. When shopping, always try to remember to bring your Barton tote bag (or any other bag) to cut back on the number of paper/plastic bags wasted. We know it can be difficult to remember to bring your tote bag with you every time you go to the store, so leave it in your car (or on your bike) so you'll have it every time. Did you know:

- Over 380 billion plastic bags are used per year in America
 - Making a paper bag emits 70% more global warming gasses than making a plastic bag
 - Paper bags do not biodegrade in landfills because there is no oxygen
 - Cities spend 17 cents per bag in disposal costs
 - 14 plastic bags have enough petroleum to drive a car a mile
- Haley Richter & April Prinsen

Sarah's Nature Notes

By Sarah Pogany

Even though it is supposed to get colder, try to have some fun outside. Look for the last flocks of geese and ducks on the lakes and breathe in some fresh air! Did you know that sometimes the air outside is more healthy for us than the air in our homes?

Attendance Matters!
Be on time, ready to learn,
every day.

Homeroom/Group Picture Days

Group photos will be taken on November 24 and 25. The cost is \$10.00. These photographs are different from the class/composite that each family, who ordered individual portraits, will receive. Your child's classroom teacher will announce which day their class will be photographed. Purchase forms will be distributed this week.

Thanksgiving Hip Hop Workshop with Miss Aneka

Join Aneka McMullen and Young Dance during Thanksgiving week for a 3-day workshop in Hip Hop. Explore the West African roots and the evolution of Hip Hop as a culture and a dance form. Miss Aneka is a founding member of the Hip Hop Dance company, Epitome-No Question, and a celebrated performer and teacher in the Twin Cities. She is also a Young Dance alum and we are excited to bring her back! The 3-day workshop cost is \$40. To register, or for more information, call 612-423-3064, or go to www.youngdance.org. Scholarships are available. Sabathani Community Center
310 East 38th Street
Monday, November 24, 6-7:30 pm
Tuesday, November 25, 6-7:30 pm
Wednesday, November 26, 6-7:30 pm

Girl Scout Troop Info

A daisy Girl Scout troop for first graders is forming and we'd love to have you join the fun! We plan to meet once a month as a troop and go to occasional larger-group activities. Our meetings are 6-7 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, 2020 W. Lake of the Isles Parkway in Minneapolis. Please contact Rebecca Benz at 612-991-1864 or

Rebecca.A.Benz@gmail.com or Nanette Geroux at 612-872-1606 or nbgeroux@gmail.com for more information.

There is also a Girl Scout Daisy troop starting for kindergartners that will be meeting at Kenwood Park. If interested contact Melissa Anderson at 612-940-5480.

Box Tops for Education

The second and third grade students in Penny's room (209) are learning about big numbers while counting Box Tops for Education. Visit during the morning arrival time and you will see an assembly line of students counting and grouping box tops by landmark numbers: 10s, 50s, 100s, and 1,000s.

This experience provides opportunities to read and write big numbers, learn expanded notation, estimate and round, and develop mental math strategies. The class is pretty sure that it is unlikely they will reach one million box tops, but ten thousand is so close! The count is stalled at 9,677! So, room 209 is asking the Barton community to help them reach this numerical landmark. Check your cereal and tissue boxes. Are there any box tops in a drawer just waiting to come to school? They can be delivered directly to room 209. Your support will be appreciated.

The next step will be to figure out the value of all of these box tops and follow the process of determining how the "money" will be spent for the school.

Improv After School Class

Community Education offers a new after school class with Parker Genne Anderson...Improv! Wednesday, 1:45 – 3:30. Grades 4-6. December 3, 10 and 17. Cost \$15. Call the Community Education office to register 668-3585 or cindysmedberg@mpls.k12.mn.us.