
William H. Barkley MicroSociety Magnet School

Parent / Guardian Newsletter

Richard J. Capel

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Principal

BARKLEY BARKER

May 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Now that spring has officially arrived, and warmer weather is just around the corner, it is finally time to get rid of the winter coats and enjoy warmer temperatures. More than ever, student dress is an aspect of the school climate and deserves the full attention of educators and parents alike. Consequently, it is imperative that the school and home work together to ensure that a students' dress is appropriate for his/her age and developmental level.

The weather is getting nicer and the children will be going outside more now. Please make sure that they are dressed appropriately to go outdoors for play. Parents, we still have students coming into school with no sneakers on gym days; make sure children have sneakers on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays when they have physical education class.

Besides reading, one of the greatest gifts we can teach our children is ORGANIZATION. Our third, fourth, and fifth graders use agendas to keep track of homework and long-term assignments. Barkley parents have been involved and supportive in using this communication tool by reviewing their child's agenda to keep informed about daily assignments. Our Barkley family is a team, and teams do things together including learning. Working together we celebrate successes and reward achievements along the way. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Richard J. Capel

PROJECT FAIR:

This year's project fair was filled with many new ideas and was a great success. All grade levels participated and numerous projects were set up in the gym and displayed for viewing by students and parents. The aim of the project fair is to encourage and support student interest and creativity about a particular topic or science experiment and to have children gain in-depth knowledge or information related to the project. I certainly hope that everyone had a chance to check out the wonderful projects, collections, experiments and inventions. The children did an incredible job!

REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILD CARE:

It is not too late to sign up for Transportation for Child Care for the 2008-2009 school year. As per New York State Commissioner of Education Regulations, this form must be submitted to the Greater Amsterdam School District Transportation Department annually. The form is for transportation to a child-care setting (day care, babysitter, grandparent) within the child's home school boundary. Those students who are generally or normally issued bus passes do not need to fill these forms out as long as there is no change in the pickup/drop-off point.

Again, if your child will be bused to a day care, babysitter, etc, within your home school boundary, and the day care provider's address is eligible for transportation, you must fill out a form. The forms are available upon request in the main office.

TARDY POLICY:

The GASD attendance policy encourages students to be on time for school. The tardy policy is explained and the consequences are clearly stated. Please review with your family that our 1st bell rings at 8:40 a.m. and at 8:50 a.m. students are considered TARDY. Please assist us in helping your child to be here in school BEFORE 8:50 a.m.!

REQUEST FOR EARLY DISMISSAL:

If leaving school during the day for an appointment or other valid reason, students must have a written note signed by a parent/guardian. Bring this note to the nurse's office before 9:00 a.m. Medical appointments should be scheduled after school hours whenever possible.

HEALTH NOTES:

To help prevent the spread of disease, please have your children stay home from school if they have a fever of 100 or more or are suffering from vomiting or diarrhea. If children have been diagnosed with a strep infection, they must remain home for at least 24 hours after they have begun antibiotic therapy. Please notify the school if your child has been diagnosed with strep, “pink eye”, or other communicable diseases.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY:

Our last Staff Development Day is Friday, May 15th. Dismissal will be at 11:40 a.m. No lunches will be served.

MEMORIAL WEEKEND RECESS:

The Greater Amsterdam School District will be closed on Friday, May 22rd and Monday, May 25th for the Memorial Day Recess. School will re-open on Tuesday, May 26th.

SCHOOL STORE SCHEDULE:

The School Store is open every Wednesday morning from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. It is located in the front hallway. The supplies and their prices are listed below.

Washable markers	1.00	Pens	.50
Pencil box	1.00	Highlighters	.50
Scissors	1.00	Mechanical pencils	.50
Color pencils	1.00	Memo pads	.50
Crayons (16)	1.00	Glue sticks	.50
Composition notebook	1.00	Erasers	.25
Rulers	.50	Pencils	.25
Picture folders	.50	Plain folders	.25
Sharpeners	.50	Grippers	.25
Spiral notebook	.50		
Loose leaf paper	.50	Agenda Planners	2.00
		(grades 3, 4, 5)	

GRADE 1 NEWS: Mrs. Mastrocinque and Mrs. Mrozinski

The first graders have been working hard all year. We are very excited about our MicroSociety. The students work in one of three ventures.

In our performance venture with Mrs. Mrozinski, the 3 groups of students have now put on the show “Alvin and the Chipmunks Find a Family”. The groups not on stage are selling magnets, masks, or other items, or going out for discovery and shopping on the Discovery Days.

Post office – Our Post Office has been working hard. Students are busy delivering, picking up, sorting, and canceling mail. On Discovery Days, our Post Office gets pretty hectic. Students are busy selling postage stamps and other post office supplies. Students are excited to get an opportunity to earn their own money and spend it on Discovery Days.

Book Making – The first graders employed at Creative Picture Books have been working hard since January. The students create stories either by drawing pictures to tell their story or by telling a story with words and pictures. On Discovery Days our venture is filled with friends and siblings looking for books created by their favorite first grade author.

MICROSOCIETY NEWS: Nancy Rad, facilitator

MicroSociety has been running smoothly. The Leadership Team, comprised of teachers in the building, is busy planning a Student Celebration Day for the MicroSociety and a “Take Your Parent to Work Night”.

We have selected Tuesday, June 2, 2009 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Barkley School as our special night. The “Take Your Parent to Work Night” is being modeled after the “Take Your Child to Work Day” many businesses host. Any child who attends this evening must be accompanied by an adult. This adult can be any adult, relative or friend.

All students are divided into three teams for Discovery Day experiences. On this special evening, the adult visitor will be shadowing their child as they run through their MicroSociety job (venture). The evening will begin with all students and guests reporting to the child’s “job” where they will set up the Discover Day. Micro Money called “Bulldog Paws” will be given to the adults so they will be able to purchase items sold at various ventures.

Each Discovery group will be given time to shop for twenty minutes. We will follow the Red, White, and Blue format we use during Discovery Days. It is imperative that all children stay for the entire night so that we have children in each venture who are either working, shopping for busy in the production area. More information will be coming but SAVE the DATE for this fun filled night!

RESOURCE ROOM: Mrs. Flanagan

NYS Art & History

The 4th grade students from McNulty, Barkley, Curie, and Tecler will be featuring art work at the opening day at Old Fort Johnson on Sunday, May 17 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. The students are learning about New York State History in their Social Studies class. Their art work will reflect topics about NYS history including European explorers, Revolutionary War, Iroquois Indians, and Colonial life. Please come join us.

We are lucky to have so many exciting events happening in our area this spring and summer. New York State is celebrating the 400th anniversary (1609-2009) of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain exploring waterways that bear their names. Henry Hudson, an Englishman, led an expedition up the Hudson River for the Dutch. Soon after his exploration, the Dutch set up trading posts in Albany. Champlain explored the lake we now call Lake Champlain for the French. He helped set up the communities of Montreal and Quebec. It is also the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's journey up the Hudson River in a steamboat. His successful trip improved travel and commerce in New York State.

New York State has many events going on in the next six months to celebrate these anniversaries. Check your local newspaper or go on the web site: www.exploreny400.com. The Albany Institute of History and Art has an exhibition about the history of the Hudson River: 400 years. The NYS Museum in Albany has an exhibit about Henry Hudson's voyage. Enjoy our local historical events – many of them are free!

WM. H. BARKLEY MICROSOCIETY MAGNET SCHOOL - MAY 2009 CALENDAR

Fri., May 1	Mid-Morning Milk Collection - \$2.00 PTO Carnival – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Mon., May 4	PTO Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Tues., May 5	Grade 4 - Saratoga Battlefield – 9-2 p.m. Last Day of Religion Public Hearing – GASD Budget, 7 p.m. @ Central Administration Bldg.
Wed., May 6	Mother’s Day Sale
Thurs., May 7	Grade 5 – Schenectady Planetarium – 9:00-12:15 p.m.
Fri., May 8	Mid-Morning Milk Collection - \$2.00 Grade 2 – Schenectady Museum & Planarian – 9:00-2:00
May 4- May 9	Teacher Appreciation Week
Sun., May 10	Mother’s Day
Tues., May 12	Lifetouch Panoramic Picture & 5th grade class picture
Wed., May 13	Board of Education Meeting – CAB – 7:00 p.m.
Thurs., May 14	Grade 3H – Adopt-a-Grandparent (Wilkinson Center) 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Fri., May 15	Mid-Morning Milk Collection - \$1.60 Staff Development Day – Dismissal at 11:40 a.m.
Mon., May 18	Grade 5 – Environmental Field Day – 9:30-11:30 – Shuttleworth Park
Tues., May 19	Micro Training Board of Education Election / Budget Vote – 12 noon to 9 p.m.
Wed., May 20	Francisco’s and Fox’s classes - Saratoga Children’s Museum Regular Board of Education Meeting to Canvass Vote
Fri., May 22	Mid-Morning Milk Collection - \$1.60 4th Snow Day – NO SCHOOL
Mon., May 25	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
Tues., May 26	Grade 4 – Schoharie Crossing Outreach – 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Wed., May 27	Grade 4 – NYS Capitol – 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

CHARACTER EDUCATION: Our Character Education Theme for the month of May is *Fairness*. We're trying to incorporate the monthly theme into classroom daily lessons. You can join in at home with any activities that reinforce *Fairness*